



September 23 - October 1, 2017

2017 World Rowing Championships

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2017 World Rowing Championships Launch Club Fundraiser

SARASOTA-BRADENTON, Fla.—Youth rowers from around the United States have an opportunity to raise some significant cash for their club teams, just by selling tickets to the 2017 World Rowing Championships in Sarasota-Bradenton, Florida.

Through a new fundraising campaign, club members will sell tickets to the international regatta, which will take place September 23-October 1 at Nathan Benderson Park. From those ticket purchases, 10% of each sale will go back to the club team. The top two dozen individual sellers will have the honor of being medal carriers at the Championships, while the number one top national seller will receive a complimentary night's stay during the final weekend.

"This is truly a win-win," said Meredith Scerba, the executive director of the 2017 World Rowing Championships. "This is our way of helping the teams while they are helping us."

So how does it work, you ask? Each club team will need to register online, during which time a unique promo code will be assigned for sales tracking purpose. Club members will need to provide their specific promo code to ticket purchasers, as teams only will benefit from sales for which a dedicated fundraising promo code has been applied. Those interested in participating for individual prizes also will need to request a personal code. Individual participation will not take away from team fundraising.

For more information, visit: <http://wrch2017.com/club-fundraiser/>

Team of the Month: Norway

Alf and Frank Hansen are the original stand-out names in Norwegian rowing. The brothers took gold in double sculls at the 1976 Montreal Olympic Games, as well as earned three World Championship titles in the discipline.. Alf was the first recipient of the Thomas Keller medal for his contribution to rowing and is a recognized public figure in the country. Like many top Norwegian rowers, the Hansen brothers were also adept cross-country skiers.

Norway's most successful rower, Olaf Tufte, is still active. At the 2000 Olympic Games, Tufte and Frederik Bekken took silver in the men's double sculls. Tufte then changed to the men's single sculls and went on to win gold at the 2004 and 2008 Olympic Games. In 2016, he partnered with Kjetil Borch at the Rio Olympic Games and won a bronze medal in the double sculls.

Borch took gold at the 2013 World Rowing Championships with Nils Jakob Hoff. Also at the 2013 World Rowing Championships, Kristoffer Brun and Are Strandli won gold in the lightweight men's double sculls. Those 2013 World Championships, in fact, were the most successful ever for the nation.

In para-rowing, Birgit Skarstein regularly wins medals in the para women's single sculls.



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Update on Finish Tower at Nathan Benderson Park

The five-story finish tower at Nathan Benderson Park soon will be opening its doors for the first time. Designed by architects, Guy Peterson and Fawley-Bryant, the all glass structure will serve as a multipurpose venue, with offices and rooms for meetings and receptions.

We spoke with Robert Sullivan, CFE, the President and CEO of Suncoast Aquatic Nature Center Associates (SAN-CA), the non-profit organization that manages Nathan Benderson Park, for his take on the one-of-a-kind building.

What's the status on the completion of the Nathan Benderson Park finish tower?

Sullivan: We are getting very close to being done with this magnificent facility. It will be a state-of-the-art finish tower that will be an icon for many years to come for the community. This is one of only three in the United States, and we think it's going to be the best because of its design and functionality.

How do you think the rowers and spectators coming to the 2017 World Rowing Championships will react to the structure?

I think they are going to be in awe. They look at Nathan Benderson Park, the rowing facility and Sarasota. This is going to be the icing on top of the cake. Architecturally, it's a very unique structure, and it goes with the feel we have created here. Once it's complete with stucco and the glass on, people will be amazed at what we have created here.

Had there not been a finish tower, the World Rowing Championships would not have come to Sarasota-Bradenton, correct?

This was the important element in order to host the World Rowing Championships. For the World Rowing Championships, the structure had to be here. By having the tower here, it puts us in the ballpark for all of the other events that we are going to go after in the future.

What, in your mind, will be the best feature of the finish tower?

The view is spectacular. I don't think you have this view anywhere in the entire region. More than anything, the facility will sell itself for receptions and meetings. We are very excited about the future.