



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PORT OF LOS ANGELES HARBOR CUP UP FOR GRABS, AFTER DAY ONE OF RACING



MARCH 9, 2018 LOS ANGELES, CA - - Steady southwesterly breezes welcomed the fleet of 11th Port of Los Angeles Harbor Cup regatta; but results were anything but steady – with everybody getting a piece of the action on day one of this prestigious intercollegiate regatta.

Bullets went to Cork Institute of Technology, University of South Florida and University of California Santa Barbara, respectively, in Friday's races. Santa Barbara's Gauchos stands in first place, with six points; followed closely by US Naval Academy with nine points and CIT close astern, with 10.

Race organizers had endeavored four races, due to a questionable weather forecast for tomorrow – but one race was ultimately thrown out.

The PoLA Harbor Cup is sponsored by the Port of LA, and hosted by Los Angeles Yacht Club. Ten teams from across the nation, and Ireland, are competing in this international invitational competition, which is presented by California Maritime Academy.

Cal Maritime has long dominated the event, with six victories in the past 10 years. They were ranked fourth at the end of today's races – but no one is ruling them out.

“We've prepared pretty well over this last year and are feeling confident with the boat handling,” said Keelhauler skipper Johannes McElvain, despite a mixed

bag of new and returning sailors. "We've got two freshman, who are doing excellent, and have shifted a lot of positions, so everyone is in a new spot," added McElvain, who was boosted from trimmer to helmsman.

But does the team's lofty past record weigh heavily on their shoulders? Not at all, says McElvain. "We're really confident with what we're doing on the boat. Everybody's got a pretty mellow attitude coming into this, so I think we should be good."

UCSB skipper Christopher Weis said, "Coming into the regatta we knew there was going to be a lot of tight competition, and every team was going to bring their A game. So we wanted to make sure we did too!"

Although they won the final match of the day, Weis admitted, "We had a kind of tough race. We were leading at the first weather mark, but weren't going to make it to the layline, so decided to be conservative and tack out. We rounded the weather mark in seventh place, but had a great downwind." He attributed the win to, "good boat speed and clever tactics by Sterling Henken. The team came through, and did a great job. We will just try to keep it going."

"It's a very long regatta," concurred Teddy Papenthien, skipper for the Midshipmen, "We just take one race at a time."

Currently in second, Papenthien credited his crew's focus and skill. "Wind conditions started out light, but then it shifted right to the standard sea breeze. It was great to see the crew eyes-up, looking for wind. That was really helpful."

Looking ahead to the weekend, he said their goal is to, "stay clean, stay out of the way, and keep doing our thing."

Captain Jim Morgan, founder and Chairman Emeritus of the PoLA Harbor Cup, had welcomed the sailors at a 10AM skipper's meeting, and thanked the Port of LA for their sponsorship, and LAYC for hosting the event.

Morgan also showed off a new take-home trophy donated by Catalina Yachts, who specially designed and produced the Long Beach Sailing Foundation's fleet of Catalina 37s; the boats the racers compete in. The half-model of the

custom keelboat complements the impressive meter-high sterling silver perpetual trophy deeded by the Port of LA to encourage young men and women to enjoy the benefits of competitive sailing, and promote Corinthian values of sportsmanship, fairness, courtesy and grace in both victory and defeat.

PoLA Harbor Cup racing continues in Pacific waters outside Angels Gate lighthouse, Saturday and Sunday March 10 and 11, beginning at 11:30AM. Evening programs include a hosted dinner Saturday with a presentation by Terry Hutchinson – CEO/Skipper of the Bella Mente Quantum Racing syndicate, New York Yacht Club's America's Cup 36 challenge. Hutchinson was a four-time All-American and two-time collegiate sailor of the year at alma mater Old Dominion University, and has logged scores of championship and other world titles since that time.

Spectator boats are available, to watch the races. Or follow the action on Facebook at @LAYCHarborCup - Twitter @layc1901 - Instagram #HC2018 #layc1901

For more information please visit www.layc.org.

ABOUT THE PORT OF LA HARBOR CUP

The Harbor Cup was founded in 2008 by the Port of Los Angeles and Los Angeles Yacht Club (LAYC) and is hosted by California Maritime Academy. Invitations to the event are highly coveted, attracting top-level college sailors vying for a chance to win the Port of Los Angeles Harbor Cup perpetual trophy; deeded to encourage young men and women to enjoy the benefits of big boat, offshore competitive sailing.

Co-ed teams race aboard a fleet of matched Catalina 37 foot sailboats, maintained to identical standards by the Long Beach Sailing Foundation, to promote the fairest possible racing. Race orgainzers plan to run 10 windward-leeward races over the course of three days, in the open waters outside Los Angeles Harbor.

Students are hosted by LAYC, which provides all meals and hospitality for visiting teams.

RESULTS PENDING PROTEST

UC SANTA BARBARA	6
US NAVAL ACADEMY	9
CORK INSTITUTE OF TECH	10
CAL MARITIME	14
UNIV OF SOUTH FLORIDA	16
UNIV OF SOUTHERN CAL	17
COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON	19
MASS MARITIME ACADEMY	19
MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY	25
UNIV OF HAWAII	30

For full results go to: <http://scores.collegesailing.org/s18/port-los-angeles-harbor-cup/full-scores/>

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Photos available upon request

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