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NAVY CLINCHES PORT OF LOS ANGELES HARBOR CUP TITLE FOR FIRST TIME, AFTER THREE-DAY BATTLE



MARCH 12, 2018 LOS ANGELES, CA - - The US Naval Academy Midshipmen clinched the prestigious Port of Los Angeles Harbor Cup trophy after three days of racing that tested both the skill, and endurance, of competitors from across the US and Ireland.

The regatta, sponsored by the Port of LA and hosted by Los Angeles Yacht Club, delivered a mix of weather conditions that were a distinct contrast to the warm LAYC hospitality. Light, shifty breezes; fog, rain and sloppy seas challenged the sailors from the ten invited universities and academies.

But the LAYC Race Committee succeeded in pulling off the 10-race series; and the sailors stepped up to the plate.

On Day One bullets went to each Cork Institute of Technology, University of South Florida and University of California Santa Barbara; with Santa Barbara's Gauchos taking first place. Although denied a bullet, the Midshipmen were close astern on the leaderboard, thanks to consistent top-five finishes.

But Saturday, California Maritime Academy showed up on the podium – sitting in second place at the end of five dreary, drizzly races. Cal Maritime has long dominated the Port of LA Harbor Cup event, with six victories in the past 10 years. Although Navy logged an impressive 1-1-4-1-6 on Saturday, the Keelhaulers' pedigree had rivals wondering if once again, they would rally to victory.

Despite what Los Angelinos considered inclement weather, many of the visitors delighted in the conditions. For visiting teams from Cork Institute of Technology, Maine Maritime

Academy, Massachusetts Maritime Academy, and the like, above-freezing temps and the absence of snow were treasured. Plus, the co-eds were enthusiastically hosted by LAYC members, with all accommodations, meals and programs provided. And Saturday night, they were regaled with a presentation by sailing rock star, Terry Hutchinson, on the Bella Mente Quantum Racing New York Yacht Club America's Cup 36 challenge.

Sunday dawned sunny and clear, at last. Just two races would determine the championship ... but after the penultimate race, it was decided. Navy's second place finish in that match clinched their Port of LA Harbor Cup title: the first in the history of the event. Navy reined in their effort and took an easy victory lap in the final race, as the remaining nine teams battled for silver and bronze.

Acing that last contest, the Gauchos seized second place; edging out third place USF by just two points. USF was also recognized with the Best Kept Boat Award.

"We've been here since the beginning (2008) and it's the first time Navy has won it," said Midshipmen skipper Teddy Papenthien. "It's just awesome for the program, just huge."

"This is, for all of us, our last intercollegiate race; and for most of us probably our last regatta for a long time," Papenthien continued. "We've got two Surface Warfare Officers, three Marines, and two Navy pilots, going off to try some different things."

"I'm very pleased and very proud: our crew did awesome. This is a huge win for the whole program." In addition to the Port of LA Harbor Cup perpetual trophy, the Midshipmen received a take-home half-model of the Catalina 37; and a cash prize from sponsor Community Bank.

The PoLA Harbor Cup international invitational intercollegiate one-design competition is presented by California Maritime Academy and raced in an equalized fleet of Catalina 37 sloops, managed by the Long Beach Sailing Foundation.

The event was created to encourage young men and women to enjoy the benefits of competitive big boat sailing. College level regattas are typically sailed in small one or two-person dinghies in protected waters. But the Port of LA Harbor Cup provides a rare opportunity for big boat, offshore racing, with large competitive co-ed teams; making it a perennial favorite of these sailors.

"It's awesome, flying out here, having a lot of fun," said Gunnar Hough, Navy bowman and Executive Officer. "Having all the boats lined up in front of the club, it feels very professional."

"A shout out to the club for putting on this amazing regatta," added Papenthien. "Of all the ones we've done, every one agrees this is their favorite. LAYC rolls out the red carpet for us. Everyone is so nice, and the boats we get to stay on are great. You couldn't dream it up if you tried; it's so nice – we're so lucky to be here. A huge thank you to the organizers and sponsors."

For complete information on the Port of LA Harbor Cup and complete results please visit www.layc.org.

FINAL RESULTS

US NAVAL ACADEMY	33
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SANTA BARBARA	39
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA	41
CALIFORNIA MARITIME ACADEMY	44
COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON	50
CORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY	61
MASS MARITIME ACADEMY	62
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA	68
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII	69
MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY	84

Photos available upon request

Media Contacts:

Betsy Crowfoot - Harbor Cup 2018 Press Officer Los Angeles Yacht Club 285 Whalers Walk, San Pedro, CA 90731 Tel: 805-729-6850 email: betsycrowfoot@gmail.com	Phillip Sanfield – Media Relations Director Port of Los Angeles 425 South Palos Verdes Street, San Pedro, CA 90733 Tel: 310-732-3568 email: psanfield@portla.org
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