

A Fall Reflection with The Captains

Captains Korina Hendricks and Tate Castro just finished their first season as captains, and with their leadership, the team was organized, welcoming, and efficient. The Wisco Sailor sat down with them, and talked with them about how they think the season went, as well as new goals for the spring. Hendricks reflected on the fall season, saying “it was a lot busier than I expected but I think it went pretty smoothly.” And busy it was: the team sent sailors to 18 regattas this fall, as well as qualified for both SingleHanded and Match Race Nationals. With this many regattas, many new sailors were able to gain experience in the MCSA and ICSA - this is probably a big reason the retention rate was so high this fall. We finished the season with over 60 active team members, and according to Hendricks, “this shows incredible growth, and sets the team up well for future success because it’s in the hands of a group that is passionate about the sport of sailing!” Of course, despite successes in the fall season, there’s always something to improve upon. Something the captains think could have gone better was our In-Conference events - we didn’t place as well as we have done in the past at many of our local regattas, but this also means that the MCSA is improving as a conference, and both Hendricks and Castro are glad to see this happening - “it’s a step in the right direction,” said Tate. Looking forward, Hendricks and Castro share many of the same goals as the team moves into the spring season. First, they want to make sure everyone is physically and mentally prepared for the intensity of Spring Break, and they hope to accomplish this by running successful winter workouts and keeping the level of physical activity high in the winter months. Second, through chalk talks during the off-season, they would like to see everyone’s team racing knowledge improve. “Many good team racers have graduated in the past few years and I feel we’re in a rebuilding stage but the current team has a lot of potential,” says Hendricks. Their third goal is just to keep the level of psych high for every team member - Castro says “we really just want to see everyone stay excited about the team and have motivation to get better, so when the spring season rolls around we can have productive practices and hopefully qualify for Nationals again.”



A day at practice this fall

Getting a Fresh Perspective

Every fall, newcomers swarm the Mendota Lodge on the first day of practice. Some are there to learn what the team is about, some are already committed to sailing all four years of college, and some just heard the Wisconsin Sailing Team is a fun time and wanted to check it out. Usually, many people don’t stick around for longer than a few weeks, and only the dedicated people truly join the team. This year, however, literally all the freshmen and new sailors who showed up the first day saw the season to its completion, and are committed to the team for the future. “We were fortunate to have retained 24 new members throughout the course of the season. They brought in a variety of previous sailing experiences and from all over the country, so I’m proud that Wisco sailing attracts people from all over,” says captain Korina Hendricks. The Wisco Sailor Newsletter talked with two of the new members, Olivia Staruck and Charlie Childs, to find out a little more about how their experience on the team is going so far. Olivia is a freshman from White Bear Lake, MN, and “So far [she] love[s] being on the sailing team because it’s a great way to make friends and [she] has the greatest support system on campus.” She was a competitive high school sailor before she came to college, and when asked how High School Sailing and College Sailing differ, she responded with, “College sailing differs in intensity and travel. In high school you attend a lot of regattas close to home, but in college you’re traveling hundreds of miles away to compete against very good teams. In my opinion, you also form closer bonds with the people on your team because you’re together way more than you were as a high school team.” These bonds are definitely a key part of what it is to be on the team, and both Olivia and sophomore Charlie Childs (also a new sailor) said their favorite part of the team so far has been getting to know everyone on it. Charlie quit the rowing team this year and decided to give sailing a try, and despite not knowing much about racing, she said “Everyone was so nice and welcoming the second I joined. I was kind of lost in the beginning, but everyone was super understanding, helpful and supportive.” This feeling of camaraderie and companionship, along with the noticeable competitive nature of the team, has inspired new goals in both Charlie and Olivia. They each want to improve their skills on the Spring Break training trip and work hard to be sent to more ICSA regattas this spring. Olivia reflected, saying “going to events on the East Coast this fall, I feel like we’re seen as little fish in a big pond most of the time, but I feel like my class and the current team has a lot of potential to build on the successes of the upperclassmen and do big things in the future. I’m excited for what’s to come!” With these women, and the rest of their class, the future is bright for this team.



A few of this years freshmen

Singlehandedly Taking on Nationals

This year, Charlie Kutschenreuter and Korbin Kierstead battled through a tough qualifier at Northwestern, succeeded in qualifying for Singlehanded Nationals, and on November 4th, boarded a plane to sunny Galveston, TX to compete at the event. It was both Wisco sailors' first time at a collegiate national championship. Going into the event, Kierstead said his main goals were to "observe, learn, then apply." He was excited to see the specific boat handling and tactical maneuvers the top Laser sailors in the country were pulling off, and to learn from those to implement changes in his sailing over the course of the event. At the venue, both Kutschenreuter and Kierstead said the vibe was extremely competitive, focused, and quiet while the actual racing was happening - "it was unlike any other event that I have attended," said Charlie, "every competitor was incredibly focused on sailing and little else until after the completion of the regatta." The racing itself was very tough, according to both competitors, and they said that it was clear that every sailor was giving each race, maneuver, and decision 100%. By the last few races, however, Charlie and Korbin used the lessons they learned from the event so far and were able to hang with the top half of the fleet to get some better race results. "I'm excited to take what I learned at this event home to Madison, gain some new skills, and hopefully do better next year," says Kutschenreuter. Good job guys! Wisco Sailing is lucky to have you two be such positive representations of the team at competitive events.



Meeting Our Match

Charles Bocklet, Indigo Leslie, Cabell Sitter, and Ben Witman represented this past weekend at Match Race Nationals in San Diego. It wasn't an easy road to get there though - they conquered a competitive and breezy qualifier on the Detroit River, edging out Michigan State to take the gold. Then cursed by the unfortunate Wisconsin weather, they weren't able to practice as much as they'd like on Mendota. Fortunately however, Coach Dave Elsmo talked them through a plethora of match racing scenarios, and sat the sailors down to watch match racing videos to prepare them for the event. At the actual venue, the regatta got off to a slow start with extremely light breeze on Friday, and Wisco was pitched against some super tough teams to kick off the regatta. Their spirits weren't dampened, however, and going into Saturday morale was high and the sailors were ready to show the ICSA their skills. Bocklet, Leslie, Sitter, and Witman sailed their way to the knock-out series, and ended the regatta in 8th. "Once we adjusted to the J22 and found our speed, we underwent massive improvements throughout the event and were able to play with the top teams," says Bocklet, who was skippering. The Wisco sailors even had a chance to go for a spin with Sally Barkow on an M32! Overall, the regatta was a great experience for our team, and they had fun mixing it up with other teams in the ICSA.



Photo Credit: Bronny Daniels

Q & A With November Sailor of the Month: Katy Zimmerman

Wisco Sailor Newsletter: What is your role on the team?

Katy Zimmerman: Skipper

WSN: How long have you been on the team?

KZ: Since I was a freshman, so two and a half years.

WSN: Word on the street is that you're going to Melges 24 Worlds. That's pretty cool! Did you have to qualify for the event?

KZ: Nope! We just decided to go since it is in the US this year and the boat has been sailing fast so we thought why not.

WSN: How do you balance college sailing with the other sailing you do as well as being a student?

KZ: I figure out what events I would like to attend at the beginning of the season and then sort of work around that. There are certain weekends I know I would like to be at college regattas, and other weekends like Melges 24 Nationals in Lake Geneva... it was so close, I had to go! But I also try to stay as far ahead in classes as possible so that I can leave on the weekends and not be drowning in schoolwork when I get back.

WSN: What are your goals for the spring season of college sailing?

KZ: Next semester I'm really looking forward to Spring Break training and pushing for nationals, as well as hopefully traveling to the East Coast for a regatta or two.

WSN: What's your favorite part of being on the team?

KZ: Everything - I just can't decide on any one aspect that I like more than the other! Between practice, car rides, regattas, game night, and people randomly showing up at my house, we always have so much fun together.

WSN: What is your favorite team memory?

KZ: Pere Marquette was really fun this year. Liz [Ciborowski] and I threw some sick "roll tacks for the boys" and the wind conditions were challenging, but the competition was tight between all three Wisco teams. Not to mention, after a long day of sailing we had a cuddle puddle with Korina's dog.



Congrats Katy!