

St. Mary's Rowers Regain Hebda Cup

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Orchard Lake St. Mary's crew team earned the state high school rowing championship, the annual Hebda Cup Regatta, in Wyandotte on April 28 under sunny skies, and on calm water.

The Eaglets, who've won 13 of the past 14 Hebda regattas, regained the state title after losing to Forrest Hills Central last season. St. Mary's also rebounded from a tough dual meet defeat against Cleveland St. Ignatius the previous Saturday.

St. Mary's qualified at least one, and in some cases two boats in every final race Saturday. The Eaglets then scored four victories, in the novice 4, the 150-pound 8, the junior 4, and the junior 8.

"Four wins in eight races is pretty good in this business, and in all events we finished no lower than third," said St. Mary's Coach John Ray. "That doesn't just look good for this year; it is a good sign for our future."

St. Mary's placed a boat in the points in each of the eight races. The Eaglets had four first-place finishes, three second-place boats, and three third-place finishes. In the men's lightweight 8, St. Mary's boats finished first and third.

"It was a great team effort," said Ray. "We were able to gain points in every event, every part of our program; novices, 150-pounders, and the heavyweights brought in points and had at least one victory."

St. Mary's is currently preparing for next week's Wi-Hi Regatta in Wyandotte. The Eaglets will then move on to the Midwest Regional's in Cincinnati, Ohio the following week. Then it's on to Nationals for those that qualify.



Orchard Lake St. Mary's crew team celebrates after winning the Hebda Cup, symbolic of Michigan's state rowing championship, on April 28. The Eaglets have won the trophy 13 times in the past 14 years.