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One Last Chance for Glory

Posted April 26, 2013 at 9:11 am by [Abigail Featherstone '13](#)



Photo by Thomas Hamby

It has been difficult lately trying to focus on school. Whether I'm in the library or class, and when I'm doing homework or studying, I can't stop thinking about the same thing — We HAVE to qualify for Women's Nationals!

I have been training for the past four years and now that I'm a senior it seems even more important that the our women's team qualifies for the [2013 ICSA Nationals](#). Also, did I forget to mention that we are hosting it?

Yeah, it will be my last nationals AND it's on my home waters. I've never wanted to sail so badly. There is only one problem... only TWO teams from our conference (SAISA) can qualify.

This weekend the USF womens team will be competing in the SAISA Womens Champs in the hope of earning a spot to nationals in May. The qualifier will be held at the [Magnuson Hotel Marina Cove](#), which will be the official venue for ICSA Nationals. Five teams are expected to participate in the event:

- College of Charleston

- Eckerd College
- University of Florida
- University of Miami
- University of South Florida

Although it's hard to predict the outcome of any regatta, there are three teams that have been sailing exceptionally well this year. The College of Charleston womens team is currently ranked 7th in the country while Eckerd College is ranked 10th. Although USF is only ranked 14th, we believe that rankings don't predict results. Last year, the points were very close at the nationals qualifier and USF won by only four points over Eckerd College.

On the bright side, even if we don't qualify we still get to enjoy participating in the action this summer. The three biggest events for college sailors are crammed into 10 days, they are:

[Sperry Top-Sider Women's Championship](#) - May 21-24

[APS Team Race Championship](#) - May 25-27

[Gill Coed Dinghy Championship](#) - May 28-30

These championships will bring in more than 400 people from all over the country, including students, coaches, and parents that will be in the St. Petersburg area.

There will be 27 teams at womens nationals and semi-finals, 14 teams for team racing, and 18 teams for co-ed.

It's been very exciting behind the scenes as we are getting ready for nationals. From setting up a website to arranging dinner banquets, many hours have been dedicated to preparing for the regattas.

Everyone's support has been invaluable, and we hope that the help continues up until the last day of the regatta.

It's important to have as many USF supporters on shore to show other teams what UNITY really means.

Although the pressure is on and our chances of qualifying are unknown, the Lady Bulls have been able to pull it together before, and we are known to put up a fight under the toughest situations.

*"No excuses. Blame no one. Do something."
- Head football Coach Willie Taggart*

About the blogger



I'm majoring in Mass Communications. I'm from Sarasota, FL and I'm on the sailing team. I've sailed college women's double-handed nationals in 2011 and 2012 and finished 5th in A-division at 2011 women's nationals.