

Athletes Reflect on the Canadian Henley Experience

Jackie Qin, the cox for Women's U19 8+:

We went into the race not knowing at all how we would place, having only practiced in our final lineup twice and with a lot of unfamiliar competition. Because of that, we knew that we had to trust our fitness, really lay everything out on the water, and see how hard we could push ourselves. We started off the line towards the back of the pack, but with a very strong middle 1k, just the right moves, and a lot of grit, our boat was able to chip away at the other teams, leaving us with a strong second-place finish in the A Final. It was rewarding to finally have competitive side-by-side racing at the end of the season, and everyone in the boat definitely fed off of that excitement. We are all really proud of all our crews' performances because it was a great culmination of all the hard work we had put in over the summer, and it really showed everyone what our team is capable of! Overall, this trip was a great unique racing experience for all of us and a fun way to get to know some new teammates. There's still a lot of work ahead of us, but this is a great starting point, and I can't wait to see where our grit, hard work, and determination will take us in the fall.

Swathi Bodduluri on the Henley experience:

Canadian Henley was a shaping experience for me as a rower. As someone who is still pretty new to rowing the opportunity to compete at such a high level and interact with rowers from all over was truly amazing. Aside from the racing, the biggest highlight was the team bonding that occurred. In addition to all of that, my favorite part of the trip was the racing; we saw a lot of success as a team but even where we didn't exactly win there was a lot to learn and was overall a fantastic experience. All in all, I can confidently say that I created memories that will last a lifetime and that I look forward to the next one!

Hun rower Rory Shore on his Henley experience:

Mercer summer was a challenging yet competitive experience. We started off the summer in the blazing heat. As the summer progressed we worked our way into a variety of boats including 8+s, 4+/4- and 2-'s. Our first race of the season was the Philly Youth Regatta. While we didn't collect as many medals as we would have liked, the U17B 8+ dominated their flight getting first and the U17 8+, 2 U19 4+'s, the U19 8+, and all three 2-'s put up a very good showing but got second place in their respective flights. After Philly Youth we traveled to Henley. The course and conditions were beautiful, the Canadian weather was a nice break from the extreme heat of New Jersey. The U17 8+ and 4+ swept their competition away coming first in both events! In addition the U19 8+ finished 5th after facing a competitive field in the final. In addition to the U17s and the U19 8+A we also sent an additional U19 8+ and raced some U19 4+'s and 2-'s. Henley was a great way to close the season which couldn't have been possible without the help of our coaches; Jamie, Anna, Brian, Al, and Andrew and our parent chaperones. I'm excited to return to the boathouse for the head racing season starting in fall!