

Rustlers Crew first “home game” a great success!!!

On Saturday, October 3 the Lakeland College Rustlers rowing team hosted approximately 90 rowers from Vermilion and Edmonton for their first ever regatta on home water in the Vermilion provincial park. The day was cloudy and cool with a slight breeze and a sprinkling of rain near the end of the last race but it was typical fall weather and nothing that the crews could not deal with.

The College rowing team put four boats on the water for each of the two launches in the day's events. The big victories came from the novice women's eight and the open women's quad. The women's eight defended their victory over the University of Alberta and University of Calgary last week in Edmonton to claim gold in this event again. The quad corrected some directional challenges in the first race on Saturday to claim the gold with a much better row in the second race.

The men's crew put together some respectable races but were not able to make that golden effort and they came up short behind the University of Alberta novice men's eight.

The few brave fans that did venture down to the park to watch the races were treated to some very high caliber rowing as the University of Alberta senior women's eight and senior men's eight put on quite a show. The men's eight posted the fastest time of the day and they were the only boat to go under twelve minutes over the three and a half kilometer course while the women's eight posted the fourth fastest time of the day only two seconds behind two other men's crews. Both of these crews are headed for the Canadian University Rowing Championships in Montreal at the end of October so it was a real treat to have them rowing on our water.

The Rustler rowing team would like to thank all those who helped out with this very successful regatta especially our volunteer timing official's instructor Al Motley and students Jesse Nelson Carrie Fischer and Tania DenBraber our volunteer candid photographer. These people, with no previous connection to the rowing program at the college, braved the chilly weather to make sure that the results were accurate and we had a great pictorial record of this inaugural event. Jesse was so motivated by the rowers that she thought she might even join them in the water but forgot for a moment that she didn't have a boat!! Also a big thank you to our sturdy fans for their great encouragement and support from the shoreline!!!

Coaches Peter Walsh and Todd Ree received many favorable comments regarding the event, our facilities and our ability to host these types of races. Everybody, competitors and coaches alike, saw no reason why they wouldn't come back to Vermilion again for our races. It was even spoken that they did not know why we were not running an event in the summertime!!! Special

mention was made of the hot lunch provided as a fundraiser by the adventure tourism students organized by Sheri Heller as well as the quality of our facilities and the ease of getting to them.

The rowing team gets a bit of a break from competitions with Thanksgiving weekend coming up but we will be back in action Saturday October 17 in Calgary and coaches Walsh and Ree are still assessing crews with the possibility of getting to the races in Victoria British Columbia October 24 and 25.