



PHOTO BY KARENA DIXON

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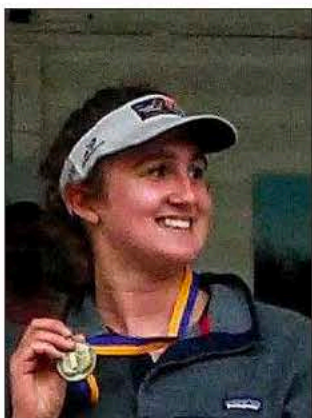
Freedom Rowers celebrate a successful season

EASTON — Easton's Freedom Rowers experienced both record growth and competitive success during the 2018 spring season, according to Chris Gill, the team's executive director and coach.

The 38 student athletes who make up the team competed in regattas in Baltimore, New Jersey, Pennsylvania as well as on the Eastern Shore at Gunston Day School.

"Much of our spring season was plagued with unusually cold and wet weather, but it did not deter our kids at all," Gill said. "They've developed such a passion for rowing, they wanted to be out there on the river practicing their skills every day."

Those days on the river paid off. The season started with the Gunston Invitational attended by nine Maryland and Washington, D.C. crews in which both Freedom Rowers Girls and Boys



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Easton High School student Suzi Bruce shows off her gold medal after winning the women's singles sculling event in mid-May when Freedom Rowers raced in the 53rd Annual Upper Merion Regatta on the Schuylkill River in Bridgeport, Pa.

JV 8's took first place.

In Baltimore, all boats placed in the top three of their heats, with the Boys JV



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The Freedom Rowers Men's JV 8+ receive their gold medals at the Upper Merion Regatta in Bridgeport, Pa. From left, Seth Feldman, James Parkinson, Coxswain Sophie Molloy, Jack Martell, Colbey Bryan, Von Burgstahler, Gio Redondo, Nathan Lovell and team captain Ian Mann.

8 taking their second gold of the season.

In mid-May the team traveled to Bridgeport, Pa., to

race in the 53rd Annual Upper Merion Regatta on the Schuylkill River where Easton High's Suzi Bruce

placed first in her single shell.

Gill said Bruce was invited last fall to go to the Youth

Nationals in Sarasota, Fla. "It's a big deal," he said. "She's definitely going places."

The Boys JV 8 again placed first in the Pennsylvania regatta with a winning time of 5:04.34 in their 2,000 meter race, 34 seconds ahead of second place.

The Girls JV 8 placed second, missing first by just 44/100th of a second. "Without a doubt, the most exciting race of the season," Head Coach Alex Greenlee said.

"The end of the season is always thrilling to watch as our rowers skills have improved tremendously over the course of the previous months," Greenlee said. "Most of our team members will be returning for the fall season and we look forward to the longer distances rowed in the upcoming 'head races' while building on the success we experienced this spring."