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## **SARASOTA CREW HOSTS US Junior Men's National Sweep Team for High Performance Camp Weekend**

### *Sweep Team Preparing for 2010 Junior World Championships*

**Sarasota, Florida / December 8, 2009** – December 4 through 6, Sarasota Crew hosted the 2009 US Junior Men's National Sweep Team at its Bay Preserve training facility for a "high performance camp" weekend of intense rowing. Twenty team members from schools and clubs across the country converged in Sarasota late Friday afternoon for a 4 p.m., practice session, led by US Rowing Junior National Team Men's Head Coach Colin Campbell and Assistant Coach Nick Haley. Team members were training to compete in and earn a spot on the team that will travel next year to the Junior World Championships in Racice, Czech Republic. While in Sarasota, Sweep Team members and their coaches had access to Sarasota Crew's equipment, and Crew team members and their families provided overnight accommodations and meals.

Jason Read, a 2004 Olympic Champion, 2008 Olympian, and ten-time member of the US National rowing team, commented on the weekend's event, saying, "The US Junior National team is an essential development component for Team USA's success at future Olympic Games. These young men and women are training to compete in the 2010 FISA Junior World Championships scheduled to be held in historic Racice, Czech Republic. Some of these young men will compete in the Olympics one day. Prior to that, however, many will earn scholarships and compete for top-ranked universities across the country. Rowing is the number one emerging sport in the NCAA 1; it also has experienced the strongest scholastic growth in the State of Florida. Many area residents may not realize that the race course being installed at the Benderson Park (as part of the Cattlemen Road project) is an ideal location to host an international event like the Junior World Championships. This weekend's training camp [at Bay Preserve] should be a great opportunity for rowers from all over the country to experience the great training environment of Sarasota-Manatee County."

Coach Campbell described high performance camps as integral "to the development of the rowing and to the understanding of the demands involved in making the team competitive at the international level. We are very fortunate this year to have access to Sarasota and their resources. I suspect this year's camp will be even more important to establishing a core group that will help set the standard at the Selection Camp in June." Assistant Coach Haley described Sarasota Crew's Bay Preserve training grounds as "a great facility for distance rowing venue. There are all the components for what it needs to be to be top class in the country."

Every year, the Sweep Team searches the country for the best facilities for its high performance camps held during the winter months. These winter camps, says Sarasota Crew President John Leeming, “are selected based on access to the necessary equipment, access to water, and hospitality – we were able to provide all three at our rowing facility at Bay Preserve in Osprey.” Sarasota Crew holds its own practices throughout the year at Bay Preserve.

Despite the heavy rains, the Sweep Team practices continued Saturday with a practice schedule running from 6:30 a.m., to 6 p.m., and a final practice session held Sunday morning.

Sarasota Crew is a non profit youth rowing club founded in 2002 and practices at Bay Preserve in Osprey, FL. The 130 plus rowers that comprise the team funnel in from thirteen middle schools and high schools across Sarasota County. Since its inception the team has flourished and enjoyed successes at all levels of competition. For further information, call Liza Dickson at 966-9791, or visit [www.Sarasotacrew.com](http://www.Sarasotacrew.com).

Bay Preserve is owned by the Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast. The Foundation works with landowners, businesses, and government to protect and preserve the beauty and natural integrity of the bays, beaches, and barrier islands that make the Gulf Coast special. The Foundation purchases natural areas, holds conservation easements, and educates for responsible stewardship. The Foundation also serves as the land acquisition agent for Sarasota County’s acclaimed environmentally sensitive lands program, their neighborhood parks program, and is a partner in efforts to preserve Florida’s natural heritage. For more information, visit [www.conservationfoundation.com](http://www.conservationfoundation.com). /end



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[www.sarasotacrew.com](http://www.sarasotacrew.com)

[www.USrowing.com](http://www.USrowing.com)

[www.usrowing.org/Junior\\_NationalTeam/index.aspx](http://www.usrowing.org/Junior_NationalTeam/index.aspx)