

# Up & Coming Programs

These four college teams aren't winning national championships just yet, but each has the potential to become a contender over the next few years.

## University of South Florida

**Location:** St. Petersburg, Fla.

**Enrollment:** 24,870 undergrads (36,000 total)

**Sailing site:** Tampa Bay

**Coaching:** Full-time women's team coach, Stephanie Doyle, part-time coed team coach, Perry Kaly.

**Boats/facilities:** 17 Flying Juniors—12 of which are new—3 Lasers, 8 Snipes, 12 various sloops.

**Facilities:** Brand new, two-story waterfront building that houses all equipment and includes a classroom. Floating docks for Flying Juniors, metal docks for sloops. Site is a fully-staffed waterfront facility which also supports recreational instruction in sailing, kayaking, and canoeing.

**Funding:** Generously funded by the university. The women's team is a varsity sport, sponsored by the athletic department. The coed team is sponsored as a club sport.

**Program profile:** The USF team started as a club sport on the Tampa campus in the late '80s. The team stayed small and informal until the mid-'90s when the St. Pete campus offered the club a beautiful

site across the bay and the team started to gain momentum. Spring '00 was their first season with varsity status for the women's team and last fall they qualified for the coed Atlantic Coast Dinghy Championships and the Women's Single-handed Championships. Aside from perennial SAISA power College of Charleston, most teams in the South Atlantic district struggle for consistency. Having varsity status, solid funding, and a stable coaching staff will be an asset to USF as it attempts to establish itself as a contender in both regional and inter-sectional regattas.

**Did you know?** In 1961, a year after the school opened, USF students staged their first protest. They demonstrated against a ban on wearing Bermuda shorts.

—ELIZABETH CARROLL

## University of Maryland at Baltimore County

**Location:** Baltimore

**Enrollment:** 9,100 undergrads (10,800 total)

**Sailing site:** Baltimore Harbor

**Coaching:** Student-coached

**Boats/facilities:** Five new Flying Juniors, two International 420s, donated by a former team advisor. Facilities, shared with Loyola College, are situated at the

Baltimore Marine Center and include a clubhouse, coach boat, and docks.

**Funding:** Although university administration has shown support and interest in the team, current economic conditions have pared the budget significantly. Some grassroots fundraising has helped keep the team going. This fall they hosted a faculty-student regatta, which even the UMBC President attended. It's not uncommon to see faculty and administrative higher-ups at practice, and many have made out-of-pocket donations. Their location in the heart of the Middle Atlantic district saves money on travel. Baltimore is home to many talented sailors, and volunteer coaches have a way of popping up for UMBC.

**Program profile:** UMBC shocked the cutthroat Middle Atlantic district by breaking into its top 10 in their first semester of competition. The team opened for business in the fall of '99, and qualified that same fall for the prestigious War Memorial Regatta, beating many established squads. "Other teams were getting yelled at by their coaches," recalls team captain Jeff Janos, a junior majoring in mechanical engineering. "I guess nobody expected us to do so well." Though UMBC will have a tough time upsetting varsity squads like St. Mary's and Old Dominion on a regular basis, the team continues to perform well. UMBC closed out the fall season with a sixth at an inter-sectional at the College of Charleston—one point behind Old Dominion—and a 12th at the legendary Timme Angsten Regatta in Chicago.

**Did you know?** UMBC has the nation's top-ranked collegiate chess team.

—ELIZABETH CARROLL

## University of California, San Diego

**Enrollment:** 16,500 undergrads (20,200 total)

**Sailing site:** Mission Bay

**Coaching:** Student-coached

**Boats/facilities:** 6 FJs, 1 Laser, use of Mission Bay YC

**Funding:** Team gets a little money from the university and has recently received a few private donations. A pending restructuring of the school's funding policy for club teams could give the squad a significant, and much needed, financial boost.

**Program profile:** Given the quality of the high school sailing in San Diego, it's downright strange that UCSD doesn't have a top-shelf program. But most of

the homegrown talent leaves town to attend college. "We're not a prestigious well-funded program," says captain Kim Leung. "The high school sailing here is pretty intense; we just don't have the same kind of program going." At least not yet, but the building blocks are in place. Currently UCSD has a solid core of sailors—two dozen on the active roster and up to 20 turning out for the thrice-weekly practices—a cooperative host in Mission Bay YC, a great place to



A new fleet of Larks has helped Bowdoin College become a factor in the competitive NEISA district.

sail, and weather that only a polar bear could dislike. "We sail in shorts all year round," says Leung. In addition, UCSD is one of the top public schools in the country. The Pacific Coast Intercollegiate Yacht Racing Association is a large district and travel can be time consuming and expensive. Within the PCIRYA there are a few strong, well-funded teams and qualifying for nationals will always be a challenge for smaller, student-coached teams. But it's not impossible. Last fall the UCSD sloop team won two of six races at the district sloop championships and finished third, 3 points out of first.

**Did you know?** In the eucalyptus grove next to the Geisel Library in the center of campus there's a fake tree equipped with a public address system. On a random schedule the tree will spout poetry, classic tunes, or quotes from famous books.

—STUART STREULI

## Bowdoin College

**Location:** Brunswick, Maine

**Enrollment:** 1,600 undergrads

**Sailing site:** Quahog Bay in Bethel Point, Maine, an Atlantic inlet 15 minutes from campus.

**Coaching:** Tom Sitzmann, a one-time assistant at Tufts and the Naval Academy, splits his time between the team and the local Quantum Sails loft.

**Boats/facilities:** A new fleet of 18 Larks, plus 2 FJs and 3 Lasers. There is a small wooden boathouse with heat, water, and electricity and a storage shed. Boats are stored on the docks.

**Funding:** The Bowdoin team is well funded by the school's athletic department.

**Program profile:** Having acquired a top coach, a new fleet of boats, and the support of the athletic director, all within the last few years, the Bowdoin sailing

squad is quickly making the transition from struggling and underfunded to nationally recognized. This fall the team reached two important milestones: the women's squad qualified for the school's first trip to an Atlantic Coast Championship, and the school hosted its first major regatta, the New England Intercollegiate Sailing Association's Freshman Championships.

Sitzmann, a Maine native, is a dedicated coach who is working hard to elevate Bowdoin to the top of the competitive NEISA district; the 30-person team practices four or five times a week and gathers for a team dinner on Tuesdays. "A plus about this team is the cohesion and the atmosphere," says junior Melanie Keene. "We're all friends."

Bowdoin is two hours from Boston, and even further from other schools in the district, but the opportunity to practice every day on the Maine coast more than makes up for the added driving time, say team members.

**Did you know?** Famous Bowdoin alumni from the 19th century include Nathaniel Hawthorne, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, North Pole explorer Robert Peary, and Civil War hero Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, who received the formal surrender of General Lee's army at Appomattox, Va.

—VIRGINIA THOMSON

Simon Day analyzes some tactical choices during the Tom Curtis Memorial Regatta at Georgetown. Day and Lisa Semanick sail for Washington College, which was profiled as an Up & Coming program in the 2001 College Guide.



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