

Vaughan Trophy — July 13th 2008

In a thrilling four boat team race, in which the final victory was decided in the last few yards of the last race, the MYC Juniors bested the MYC Seniors, racing in 420s on a blustery Sunday afternoon.

The Senior team consisted of Commodore & Mrs. Creighton, Marc Poirier & John Bradley, David & Will McCue, and Casey & Charlie Thomas. The Junior team was made up of Sam Creighton & Tucker Evans, Connor Winn & Will Kiley, Andy Creighton & Brady Winn, and Mimi & Tony Leggett. (In order to make the numbers even, the senior Leggett was allowed to skipper the boat, yet qualify as a Junior).



The first and last race of the four race series went to the Seniors, due to their age, wisdom and weight, but the two middle races were won by the Juniors, paced by Connor Winn, who displayed excellent boat speed and team racing skills. Two of the Junior boats were skippered by Sam and Andy Creighton, who have emerged from the Opti Race Team to begin racing 420s. Despite the light weight of the Juniors, a distinct disadvantage in the strong breeze, the Juniors probably won these races due to their greater familiarity with team racing techniques, such as taking a competitor away from a rounding mark, allowing a team-mate to catch up. Another factor was the many Seniors did not realize the Leggett boat was actually a disguised Junior boat until it was too late, after valuable positions had been given up.

In the thrilling final race, with only a few boat lengths remaining, Leggett and Winn discussed their team racing options to try to gain position against the winning Seniors. Commenting after the race, Senior racer Marc Poirier said that he realized at this point with some sense of foreboding, that Leggett's hail to Winn "Should we do it now?" indicated some imminent tactical confrontation with one of the Juniors. Indeed the "it" that was being referred to was an audacious leeward boat attack, indeed directed at Poirier. This ploy managed to advance a Junior boat one critical place ahead, although the best efforts of the Juniors at this time still resulted in the loss of the race to the Seniors. Nevertheless, on total points, as decided by the Race Committee, George Putnam and Carl Doane, the Juniors won the series overall, by a score of $82\frac{3}{4}$ points to 81.

