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Scott Armstrong
Communications Director
St. Francis Yacht Club
415-820-3706
sarmstrong@stfyc.com

Stanford Varsity, Four Cal Alumni Squads Win 16th Edition of The Big Sail



At the docks of St. Francis Yacht Club, four members of the Stanford University varsity sailing team pose prior to their victory at the 16th annual Big Sail. From left: Jack Parkin (skipper), Wiley Rogers (tactician/trimmer), Jacob Rosenberg (trimmer), Victoria Thompson (bow). (Photo credit © Chris Ray/St. Francis Yacht Club)

At St. Francis Yacht Club, the Stanford varsity captured The Big Sail title for the 15th consecutive year, while crews representing Cal won the other four fleets. With the two schools' marching bands and cheer teams duking it out on the Race Deck, the Bay cooperated with conditions beckoning the best from these highly experienced sailors.

Stanford's winning varsity squad consisted of Jack Parkin, Wiley Rogers, Jacob Rosenberg and Victoria Thompson. For the Cardinal, this Big Sail victory capped off a notable November that

included a ICSA Match Race National Championship at Marblehead and a second-place finish at the Fall Pacific Coast Championship in Santa Barbara.

All five slalom fleets competed in a best-of-three format, and remarkably, not a single one of the fleets reached a third race. The Cardinal incumbents and the four winning Bear squads all prevailed two races to none, meaning everyone got to enjoy lunch a little early.

In the Young Alumni fleet for athletes under 40, three-time Berkeley graduate Lance Kim led a crew of Vincent Todosiev, Nicolai Sponholtz and Alexandre Mutricy. Melinda Erkelens skippered Cal alums Vicki Sodaro, Stephanie Wondolleck and Manon Baze to victory in the Women fleet.

Cal's winning foursome in the Masters division (40 and up) featured skipper Jon Perkins, Seadon Wijssen and Bryan McDonald. And in the Grand Masters competition for sailors 60 and up, Tad Lacey headed up the victorious Bear squad with crew Craig Healy, Mickey Caldwell and Eric Gray.

Of the 39 competitors listed on the Big Sail program, 19 are StFYC members, including Sponholtz, Mutricy, Baze, Perkins, Wijssen, Lacey, Healy and Gray.

About St. Francis Yacht Club

St. Francis Yacht Club was founded in 1927 and has been host to many of the most prestigious national and international championships in sailing. With over 40 regattas on its calendar annually, StFYC is widely regarded as having one of the top racing and race management programs in the country. In addition to enjoying a worldwide reputation for on-water excellence, Platinum Clubs of the World named the St. Francis Yacht Club the Number One Yacht Club in the United States in 2012, 2014, 2016, and 2019 and *Boardroom Magazine* recognized it as the first yacht club to be a Distinguished Emerald Club of the World.

All of the regattas hosted by St. Francis Yacht Club meet or exceed **Gold Level Clean Regatta** status from [Sailors for the Sea](#), the world's only sustainability certification for water-based events. St. Francis Yacht Club utilizes a voluntary self-assessment tool to benchmark its environmental footprint with goals for reducing waste generated by events and continuously improving the long-term sustainability of the club and the environment.

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