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# NORTH WILDWOOD ISLAND ROW TO TEST ENDURANCE A DAY AFTER SOUTH JERSEYS / 21-MILE COMPETITION SLATED FOR MONDAY

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There's a new twist this year in the North Wildwood Around The Island Row. Due to the rescheduling of the South Jersey Lifeguard Championships to 6 p.m. today, the 1991 Around The Island Row will now take place less than a day after the South Jerseys. Several of the oarsmen are entered in both events. The 16th annual 21-mile two-man row around Wildwood Island will begin at 8:15 a.m. Monday at 15th Street and the beach as 33 crews get a floating start.

The oarsmen will head north to the Hereford Inlet, go under the Stone Harbor and Grassy Sound bridges, row south through the back bay to the Cape May Bridge and go through the Cold Springs Inlet. The boats will then turn for home and race north in the ocean back to the finish line at 15th street.

Ocean City Beach Patrol rowers Ted Evans and Chuck Dunn, last year's winners, are slated to be in different boats this time. Evans will team with Chris Oves while Dunn will pair in an Ocean City boat with Geoff Rife of Cape May.

Dennis Funk and George Miller, the well-known Ventnor City alumni crew, is back again. Funk and Miller, a builder and lawyer respectively, set the meet record with a winning time of 2 hours, 56.06 seconds in 1987. They were second last year.

Other boats to watch include Jim Gibbons and Chris McCann of Wildwood, Max Bilkins and Skip Feraco of Wildwood Crest, Bill Howarth and Ed Harrold of Ventnor, Joe Swift and John Swift of Margate, and Mike McGrath and Don MacEachern of Longport.

#### LINEUPS

**NORTH WILDWOOD** - The lineup for the 16th annual North Wildwood Around The Island Row, set to begin Monday at 8:15 a.m. at 15th Street and the beach.

**AVALON** - Mark Duszak-John Glomb, Mike Cras-Craig Whitehead, Scott Miscannon-Carl Rahn.

**BRIGANTINE** - Bill Baldwin-John Jenkins.

**CAPE MAY** - Todd deSatnick-Tom McLaughlin, Terry Randolph-Marty Franco, Kim Kelly-Katherine Trieffesen.

**CAPE MAY POINT** - Mike Herdon-Keith Jackson, Bob Cwik-Dan Gough.

**LONGPORT** - Mike McGrath-Don MacEachern, Judge Casiota-Paul Kosner.

**MARGATE** - Joe Swift-John Swift.

**NORTH WILDWOOD** - Bill Quinn-Linda Kelly, Greg Venuti-Paul Gibson.

**OCEAN CITY** - Ted Evans-Chris Oves, Rob DeSipio-Peter Frisco, Geoff Rife-Chuck Dunn (Rife is a Cape May lifeguard).

SEA ISLE CITY - Jim Meissner-Fran Lake.

STONE HARBOR - John Vizzaro-Ralph Tice, Chris Kennedy-Nick Christos.

UPPER TOWNSHIP - Bob Swartz-Steve Eill, Greg Camp-John Storz.

VENTNOR - Bill Howarth-Ed Harrold, Scott Jones-Jim Mason, Carl Smallwood Jr.-Paul Murray,  
Cliff Murray-Bob McGinty, Dennis Funk-George Miller (Alumni).

WILDWOOD - Jim Gibbons-Chris McCann, John McGinnes-Steve McGwinn, Ed Schneiders-  
James Saverage.

WILDWOOD CREST - John Fair-John Lincke, Max Bilkins-Skip Feraco, Tom Frederick-Ron  
Peters.

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# VENTNOR TANDEM PLACES FIRST WITH RALLY IN LAST SEVEN MILES OCEAN CITY 2ND IN 21-MILE EVENT

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Bob McGinty and Cliff Murray, with a dramatic rally in the final seven miles, won Monday morning's North Wildwood Around The Island Row. Bob McGinty and Cliff Murray? That's right, a former Ventnor City Beach Patrol crew that until Monday hadn't been in the boat together at all since the mid-1980's.

McGinty and Murray were just one of many makeshift crews in the 16th annual jaunt around Wildwood Island.

But the two rowed together in their boys' crew days at Holy Spirit High School, and looked every bit like a championship team. The Ventnor crew's winning time in the 21-mile event was 3 hours, 3 minutes, 49 seconds.

Ocean City standouts Ted Evans and Chris Oves, no strangers to victory, but never partners until Monday, also looked good with a second-place finish in 3:04.29.

But at least Mike McGrath and Don MacEachern are a regular crew, right? Not exactly. The two rowed together for Longport for many years, but MacEachern (pronounced McGeckern) now lives near Santa Barbara, Calif., and made the flight in to be in the race. They were third in 3:04.55.

Injuries, plus the fact that the South Jersey Championships were only 13 hours earlier, made for some unusual pairings and non-pairings. Avalon and Atlantic City, first and second in Sunday's South Jersey Doubles Row, sent no one to the Around The Island Row.

With additions, substitutions and cancellations, Monday's lineup sheet looked confusing, but most of the area's top oarsmen were on hand, and the row was still exciting.

With the race two-thirds over, McGinty, a Ventnor Alumni, and Murray, a Ventnor guard, were tied for fourth place about 135 yards from the lead at the Cape May Bridge. In the Cold Springs Inlet, the bottom of Wildwood, McGinty and Murray, looking a bit out of place in a borrowed Margate boat, made their move.

Once they had rounded the turn, the two rowed up Wildwood Crest in the ocean, and passed Ocean City, and Longport to gain the lead. They crossed the 15th Street finish line 70 yards ahead of Ocean City.

"We got right into our stroke and rowed nice and low," McGinty, a former Trenton State College football offensive lineman, said. "Last night was frustrating for Cliff, and it was nice for him to get down here and win."

Murray had teamed Sunday evening with brother Paul to finish a competitive third in the South Jersey Doubles Row.

"It feels pretty good," Murray said. "Bob and I said that we'd row together in this race at the beginning of the season. We rowed together three years for Ventnor after high school. It wasn't like we just jumped into the boat together."

The race began with a floating start at 15th Street and the beach, and the boats headed north. Entering the Hereford Inlet, it was Evans and Oves in first, with Max Bilkins and Skip Feraco of Wildwood Crest 25 yards behind.

The Brigantine crew of Bill Baldwin and John Jenkins had moved up to second at the Stone Harbor Bridge. At the West Wildwood train trestle, Ocean City and the Wildwood crew of Chris McCann and Jim Gibbons were neck and neck.

Wildwood led Ocean City by one boat at the Rio Grande Bridge, with the Ventnor team of Scott Jones and Jim Mason 10 yards behind them in third.

It was anybody's race at the Cape May Bridge, and Evans and Oves led by four boats over Mason and Jones.

"It's a long race and anything can happen," Evans, the event's winner with Chuck Dunn last year, said. "I knew it was going to be a long workout."

Dennis Funk and George Miller, still the meet record holders with a time of 2:56.06 in 1987, took a wave very early in the race, and could rally only to a seventh-place finish.

"After we took on all that water, I asked George, "What do you think?" Funk said. "He said, "Bail."

## Results

NORTH WILDWOOD - The results of Monday's 16th annual North Wildwood Around The Island Row, which began and ended at 15th Street and the beach.

## FINAL STANDINGS

1. Bob McGinty-Cliff Murray, Ventnor Alumni-Ventnor, 3:03.49
2. Ted Evans-Chris Oves, Ocean City, 3:04.29
3. Mike McGrath-Don MacEachern, Longport-Longport Alumni, 3:04.55
4. Max Bilkins-Skip Feraco, Wildwood Crest, 3:05.08

5. Scott Jones-Jim Mason, Ventnor, 3:05.50
6. Paul Murray-Carl Smallwood Jr., Ventnor, 3:07.08
7. Dennis Funk-George Miller, Ventnor Alumni, 3:07.31
8. Rob DeSipio-Pete Frisco, Ocean City, 3:09.15
9. Steve Mogck-Rick Demers, Cape May, 3:12.24
10. Joe Swift-John Swift, Margate, 3:13.26
11. Tom Frederick-Ron Peters, Wildwood Crest, 3:14.19
12. Geoff Rife-Chuck Dunn, Cape May-Ocean City, 3:14.49
13. Bill Quinn-Linda Kelly, North Wildwood-Wildwood, 3:14.54
14. Paul Kosner-Judge Casiota, Longport, 3:15.44
15. Brendan Lake-Bob Hart, Wildwood, 3:17.22
16. Todd deSatnick-Marty Franco, Cape May-Cape May Alumni, 3:17.58
17. Chris McCann-Jim Gibbons, Wildwood, 3:18.09
18. Bill Baldwin-John Jenkins, Brigantine, 3:18.16
19. Bill Howarth-Ed Harrold, Ventnor, 3:18.54
20. Chris Kennedy-Nick Christos, Stone Harbor, 3:19.26
21. John Lincke-John Fair, Wildwood Crest, 3:21.49
22. Fran Lake-John Meissner, Sea Isle City, 3:22.01

23. Paul Gibson-Greg Venuti, North Wildwood, 3:24.00
24. Rodney Tice-John Vizzaro, Stone Harbor, 3:24.11
25. Bob Cwik-Dan Gough, Cape May Point, 3:24.48
26. Jack McGinnes-Steve McGwinn, Wildwood, 3:26.16
27. Mark DiLeo-Mike Nitti, Surf City, 3:27.37
28. Bob Swartz-Steve Eill, Upper Township, 3:29.26
29. Kim Kelly-Catherine Treffeison, Cape May (the first women's crew ever to finish this race),  
3:32.49
30. Mike Herdon-Keith Jackson, Cape May Point, 3:38.00

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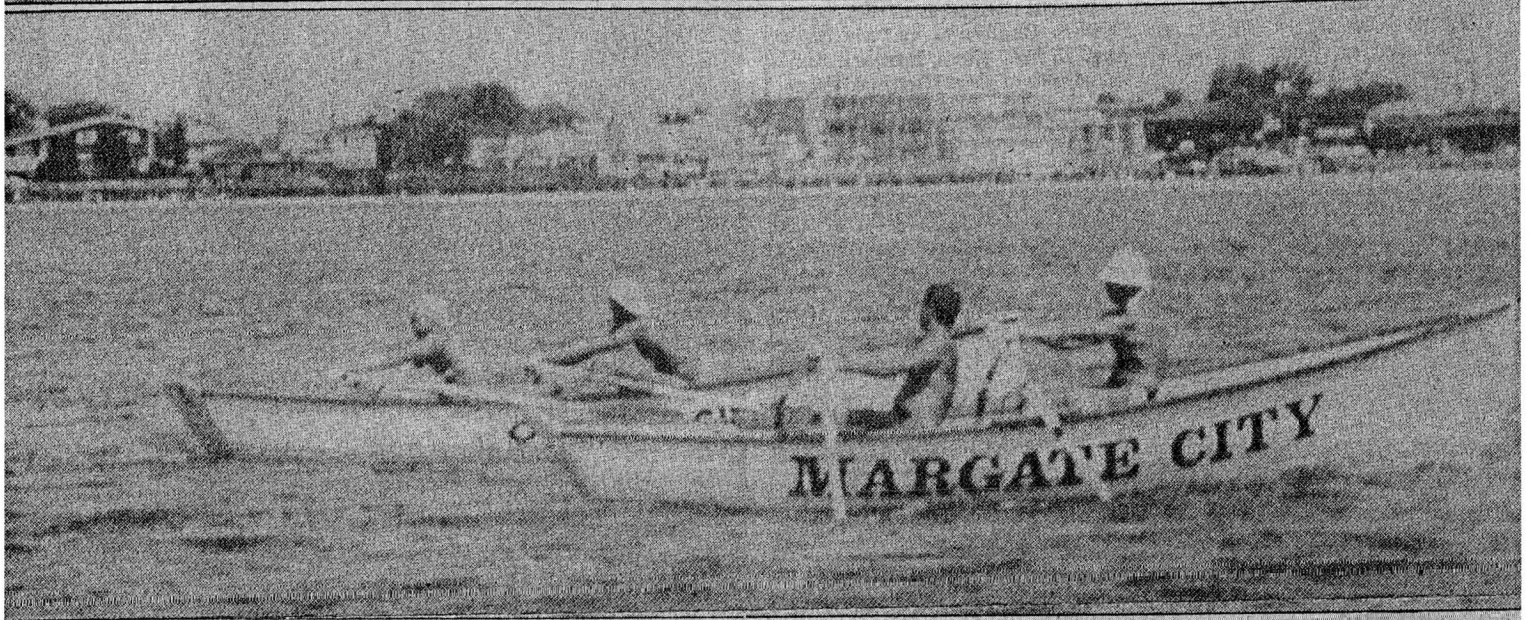
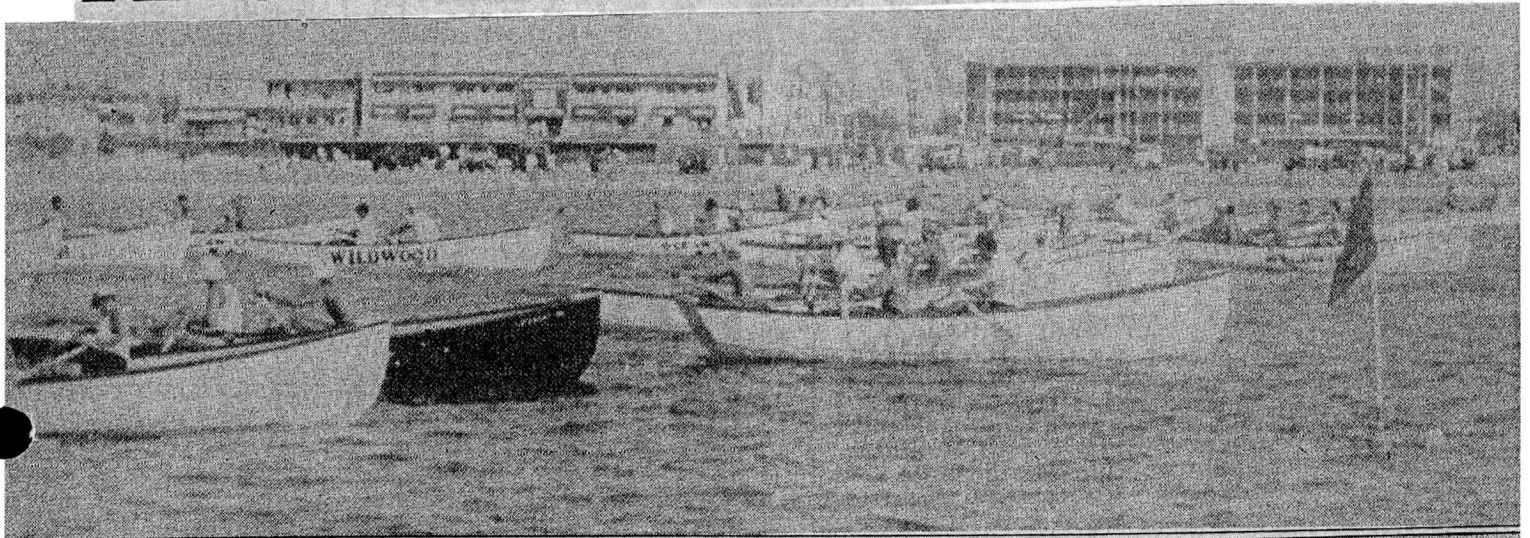


Ventnor boat wins

**“Everybody was a winner”**

**16th**

# **Around The Island Row**



Photos by Hui Seitzinger

**THIRTY BOATS** prepare for the start (above) of the Around The Island Row and it came down to a Ventnor tandem (in the Margate boat, Cliff Perry and Bob McGinty) chasing down an Ocean City's Chris Oves and Ted Evans for the win.

By ROB SEITZINGER  
Sports Editor

**FIVE MILE BEACH** -- A beautiful day, calm waters, a history making all-female team, and a dramatic race to the finish of the 19-mile 16th Annual Around The Island Row provided great entertainment and excitement for the hundreds of fans and spectators who lined the shores, bridges, inlets and roads of Five Mile Beach on Monday morning.

Bob McGinty and Cliff Murray of Ventnor won the event by drawing off the field of 30 boats during the final five miles in the rowing marathon of the season to win in 3:03.49 (the course record, set in 1987, remains at 2:56.06, set by Dennis Funk and George Miller, who finished seventh Monday).

Although just one winner was declared, Lou Cirelli, Race Director and North Wildwood Beach Patrol Lieutenant, declared the day a "huge success" and told the competitors that "everyone was a winner today."

Thirty entries, some new and some regulars, started and all finished the grueling event, which pits a two-person team against tides, turbulent waters, green heads, a relentless sun, exhaustion, dehydration, cramping and other such unpleasanties.

Included in the 30 boat field was the team of Kim Kelly and Katheren Trieffeisen, of Cape May, to give the event its first all-female rowing tandem. Trieffeisen is a mother of two, including a three-month old infant. The Cape May history makers finished the race in 3:32.49. All of the boats finished the race within 35 minutes of each other.

"This was the closest I've ever seen this race," Cirelli said, after the awards presentation at the 15th Street Fire Hall in North Wildwood. "It was just an excellent race, the conditions couldn't have been better. The level of competition never has been better. I mean there was constant pressure on the leaders the whole race. There were several lead changes throughout the race. The determination to win was just outstanding."

The race got off to a floating start at approximately 8:30 a.m. from the 15th Street beach with Ocean City's Chris Oves and Ted Evans leading the way into Hereford Inlet with North

Wildwood's Greg Venuti and Paul Gibson in hot pursuit. Wildwood's Jim Gibbons and Chris McCann raced third.

Evans was part of the team which won last year's Around The Island Row, when he was teamed with Chuck Dunn. Dunn raced this year with Geoff Rife, of the Cape May Beach Patrol.

As the lead pack of nine boats headed under the Stone Harbor Bridge, the rowers were urged on by race fans and supporters all along condominiums, the beach, the bridge and anywhere else they could catch a glimpse of the extraordinary event.

Gibbons and McCann surprised everyone by cutting through the pilings of the Gassy Sound Bridge rather than going through the center, as Oves and Evans did, and took over first place thanks to the short cut. McCann and Gibbons opened a two-boat length lead through the mud flats and headed for the West Wildwood Train Trestle in good rhythm. The Wildwood Crest entry of Max Bilkins (a three-time winner of The Row) and Skip Feraco, a Wildwood Crest Beach Patrol alumnus, had made their first showing among the leaders, steadily gaining on the leaders.

As the lead group got to the Rio Grande Bridge, another large gathering of fans greeted the rowers and shouted encouragement as the rowers were forced to put up with the increasing heat of the late morning sun.

"It was hot in the back bays," Feraco said of the long stretch past West Wildwood and Lower Township. Skip's brother, Tommy, who is Middle Township's head basketball coach, was seen on the Rio Grande Bridge, yelling support for Bilkins and Skip.

"Yeah, I heard him," Skip said with a laugh. "He was telling us how far back we were."

The back bays would be the demise of some of the early sprinters as the distance and heat took a toll on some of the early leaders, including McCann and Gibbons, who faded badly headed toward the Cape May Bridge. Evans and Oves regained possession of first place and looked strong as they headed for the "rock pile" along with the Ventnor's Murray and McGinty. The two

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# 30 two-person boats finish 16th Around The Island Row

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leaders took a 15-boat length lead on Bilkins and Feraco, who had steadily improved their position until they were a threatening third.

"The back bays were great to us," Feraco said. "That's where we caught Wildwood. This is a long, long race, we knew we couldn't go out and sprint for the first three quarters of it."

"We were just happy to be in the hunt," Bilkins said, who had celebrated his 39th birthday on Sunday. "But the guys that won really put on a show," Feraco added.

Murray and McGinty used powerful strokes to overcome the fading Ocean City leaders, who were hampered when Oves lost an oar and the team was stalled for nearly 10 seconds while the Ventnor team gulped up valuable boat lengths as they headed past Diamond Beach.

"We were using long, slow, deep strokes," Murray said.

"We knew it was hot and we didn't want to use too much energy too soon," McGinty said. "That's why we were catching all the sprinters (by the rock pile). A lot of

them went out too hard. We felt great coming in."

Murray and McGinty used a Margate boat because Ventnor had five entries and "we couldn't get a good boat," Murray said.

Oves and Evans finished in 3:04.29 for second while Longport's Mike McGrath and Don MacEachern overtook Bilkins and Feraco through Wildwood and earned third place in 3:04.55. Bilkins and Feraco were fourth in 3:05.08.

Because most of the waters were calm, there was talk before the race of record-breaking conditions, but Cirelli said the lack of wind helping the rowers along hindered the times, as well as the choppy waters of the inlet.

"The inlet caused them to slow down, they lost a lot (of time) in there," he said.

However, as many of the rowers sat in the fireman's hall, replenishing liquids and eating the donated Russo's Market hoagies and beginning their recuperation process, the looks of contentment and accomplishment said all one needed to know about the race: Everyone who entered finished a

winner.

## RESULTS

1. McGinty/Murray, Ventnor, 3:03.49.
2. Oves/Evans, Ocean City, 3:04.29.
3. McGrath/MacEachern, Longport, 3:04.55.
4. Bilkins/Feraco, Wildwood Crest, 3:05.8.
5. Jones/Mason, Ventnor, 3:05.50.
6. Smallwood/P. Murray, Ventnor, 3:07.08.
7. Funk/Miller, Ventnor, 3:07.31.
8. DeSipio/Frisco, Ocean City, 3:09.15.
9. Moczg/Demers, Cape May, 3:12.24.
10. Joe Swift/John Swift, Margate, 3:13.26.
11. Frederick/Peters, Wildwood Crest, 3:14.19.
12. Rife/Dunn, Cape May/OCBP, 3:14.49.
13. Quinn/Kelly, North Wildwood, 3:14.54.
14. Kogner/Casiotta, Longport, 3:15.44.
15. Lal Hart, Wildwood,

- 3:17.22.
16. Franco/deSatnick, Cape May, 3:17.58.
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18. Baldwin/Jenkins, Brigantine, 3:18.16.
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30. Herdon/Jackson, Cape May Point, 3:38.00.

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Photos by Rob Seltzinger

SKIP FERACO AND MAX BILKINS (top) of Wildwood Crest celebrate their fourth place finish in Monday's Around The Island Row while Linda Kelly and Bill Quinn (middle) of the North Wildwood Beach Patrol and Wildwood's Chris McCann and Jim Gibbons row during the 19 mile event.

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