



Kobierowski, McGovern again win Around The Island - Press of Atlantic City, The (NJ) - August 13, 2015 - page B5

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NORTH WILDWOOD -- Darrick Kobierowski and Terry McGovern held off two contending crews to win their second straight Bud Tarbotton North Wildwood Beach Patrol Around The Island Row on Wednesday morning.

Kobierowski, a Wildwood lifeguard, and McGovern, a Wildwood Crest alumnus, took the lead early in the 20-mile row around Wildwood Island, and won by about 60 yards in 2 hours, 36.55 seconds.

The race began and ended in North Wildwood. It started at 7 a.m. at First and Surf avenues and went counterclockwise around the island to the finish line in the ocean at 15th Avenue. The race had 20 crews.

Avalon's Craig Whitehead and Shane McGrath finished second in 2:37:30, and the alumni crew of Carl Smallwood Jr. and B.J. Fox took third in 2:38:86.

"We were rowing into a headwind (in the final 7 miles in the ocean), and Avalon was on us," said Kobierowski, 41, the bow. "We were trying to push them back with each stroke, and they were right in our face. We were trying to stay tough. Terry and I do well rowing into the wind and currents. We seem to find another gear in that situation."

McGovern, also 41, and Kobierowski now figure prominently in the 40th annual event's history.

McGovern has won the Around The Island Row four times in the last five years. His first two wins were with Brendan Cunningham for Wildwood Crest in 2011 and 2012. Kobierowski now has three wins in the event, the first with Tom Lake in 2001 when both rowed for Stone Harbor.

"I don't think of it that way (in terms of multiple wins)," McGovern said. "Every year is different. Rowing the past year helps. I just look at it as an opportunity to win that year. After a race, I think of the guys I've had the opportunity to row with, including the ones I didn't win with."

McGovern had surgery on both hips in January. "It was hip surgery, not hip replacement," McGovern said. "I began training again around April and rowing in July. It didn't cause any bad effects today."

Both rowers wanted to thank the family of the late John Danley, a former Atlantic City lifeguard whose boat they bought this year, after being put in contact with the family. Danley died in March. The boat is white and unmarked.

"We gave the boat another win," Kobierowski said.

Whitehead and McGrath were second the whole way.

"We thought about how in the past Darrick and Terry shot out fast and were hard to catch," said McGrath, 32, the stern. "Our thought was to stay about five (boatlengths) behind them, and try to catch them in the ocean. But they held it."

Wildwood's John Livingstone and Steve McGuinn were fourth in 2:41:08, and Cape May guard Jeff Rife and Cape May alumnus Jim Wadlow placed fifth in 2:41:45.

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Results

1. Wildwood-Wildwood Crest alumnus (Darrick Kobierowski-Terry McGovern) 2:36:55; 2. Avalon (Craig Whitehead-Shane McGrath) 2:37:30; 3. Margate alumnus-Longport alumnus (Carl Smallwood Jr.-B.J. Fox) 2:38:36; 4. Wildwood (John Livingstone-Steve McGuinn) 2:41:08; 5. Cape May-Cape May alumnus (Geoff Rife-Jim Wadlow) 2:41:45; 6. Upper Township alumnus-Wildwood alumnus (Wayne MacMurray-Bill Kindle) 2:43:15; 7. Cape May-Cape May alumnus (Steve Kowalik-Ed Giordano) 2:43:53; 8. Ventnor alumni (Dennis Funk-George Miller) 2:44:26; 9. Margate (Shane Dickson-Hunter Pizagno) 2:45:06; 10. Wildwood Crest (Austin Neri-T.J. Kuhar) 2:45:29.

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