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2016



Wildwood pair wins third straight Around the - Press of Atlantic City, The (NJ) - August 17, 2016 - page B3

August 17, 2016 | Press of Atlantic City, The (NJ) | GUY GARGAN Staff Writer | Page B3

Darrick Kobierowski and Terry McGovern are one of

the top crews in the history of the Bud Tarbotton North Wildwood

Beach Patrol Around the Island Row. The two Wildwood Beach Patrol

oarsmen became the event's most consistent crew Tuesday morning.

Kobierowski and McGovern won the 20-mile row around Wildwood Island

in 2 hours, 38 minutes, 53 seconds to become the first crew to win

the race three years in a row in the 41 years of the event.

Wildwood's John Livingstone and Steve McGuinn were second in

2:41.30, and Cape May's Geoff Rife and Cape May alumnus Jim Wadlow

were third in 2:42.26. The alumni crew of Carl Smallwood Jr.

(Margate) and B.J. Fox (Longport) placed fourth in 2:43:15, and

Avalon's Craig Whitehead and Shane McGrath took fifth in 2:44:10.

"It feels great to do it," Kobierowski, 42, the bow, said of

winning three straight. "You try to take out all the factors that

would prevent you from doing that. The training is the one thing

you can control."

McGovern, also 42, won the Around The Island Row in 2011 and 2012

for Wildwood Crest with Brendan Cunningham, giving him five wins in

the past six years.

"That's definitely the partner to be with," Kobierowski said.

The race was about 200 yards longer than usual. The row began near First and Surf avenues in the Hereford Inlet at the top of the island and went counterclockwise to the finish at 15th Avenue beach in North Wildwood. The Wildwood crew took the lead from the beginning.

"I've been fortunate to have partners with the same work ethic," McGovern said. "We did know that the record was two (wins) in a row and getting three was something we were hoping to achieve. It's always a great feeling to win. There are so many factors in the race, and you hope things go well."

Livingstone, 21, had his best finish in his third Around the Island Row, and McGuinn, 48, was second for the third time.

"It felt good," said Livingstone, the bow. "Steve gave us a good pace. We used Terry and Kobi's course, and we kept trying to push everybody back."

Wadlow comes up from Florida every year to row the race with Rife. Both are 50. Wadlow won the race in 1994 with Steve Mogck and in 2007 with Kevin Murphy. Rife equaled his best finish, a third place in 2013.

"I thought we could have done better, because we got tangled up with Stone Harbor (Stephen Bosacco and Dennis Bakey) at the beginning," Rife said. "We fell back to last, but then we rowed a good race. Jim came up for a week on his vacation, so we had longer

to row together than usual."

Smallwood and Fox won the row in 2008 and 2009, one of five crews (including Kobierowski and McGovern) who had the old record of two consecutive wins. Max Bilkins and Bick Murphy of Wildwood Crest had back-to-back wins twice, 1992 and 1993, and 1995 and 1996.

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Results

1. Wildwood (Darrick Kobierowski-Terry McGovern) 2:38:53; 2. Wildwood (John Livingstone-Steve McGuinn) 2:41:30; 3. Cape May (Geoff Rife-Jim Wadlow) 2:42:26; 4. Margate alumnus-Longport alumnus (Carl Smallwood Jr.-B.J. Fox) 2:43:15; 5. Avalon (Craig Whitehead-Shane McGrath) 2:44:10; 6. Upper Township-Wildwood alumnus (Wayne MacMurray-Bill Kindle) 2:44:46; 7. Margate (Shane Graves-Dan Salerno) 2:45:25; 8. Margate (Hunter Pizagno-Shane Dickson) 2:47:01; 9. Ventnor alumni (Dennis Funk-George Miller) 2:47:04; 10. Margate alumnus-Upper Township alumnus (Jim Swift-Jim Gibbons) 2:48:42.

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