

Longport's Mike McGrath, Sean Duffey win Upper Township M.S. Bay Race

- [Guy Gargan](#)
- Aug 1, 2023

UPPER TOWNSHIP — Longport lifeguards Mike McGrath and Sean Duffey won the Upper Township Beach Patrol M.S. Bay Race in 1 hour, 13 minutes, 35 seconds Monday night.



McGrath and Duffey topped a field of 47 doubles crews in a race that started and finished in the waters at the Deauville Inn in the Strathmere section of the township.

Longport's Emma Barnhart and Madelyn Fox won the women's division for the second year in a row, this time in 1:23.24. There were six female crews. Barnhart and Fox finished 25th overall.

The 31st annual event is a fundraiser for the fight against multiple sclerosis.

Cape May's Andrew Treffeisen and Mike Fitzpatrick finished second in 1:13.57, and two-time defending champions Pat Bakey and Jake Klecko of Wildwood Crest were third in 1:14.21. Treffeisen and Fitzpatrick also were second in the race last year.

McGrath and Duffey were fourth in 2022.

"It was our fourth time doing it," said Duffey, 40, the stern. "We've come close a couple times, but we had a good race plan tonight. Windy conditions, and we might be the only people here tonight that actually enjoyed that. It feels great to win this race, and it's a good cause."

The rowers went first to Sea Isle City, then turned in the other direction and headed to the southern tip of Ocean City. After a final turn, the crews rowed back to the Deauville Inn finish line. The race was approximately 7 miles.

"Off the start, we were in the middle, and I think a couple boats actually moved on us pretty good," said McGrath 37. "I think we were fourth for a little while. We found some good water and got into first and held the lead the entire way."

Upper Township's Jimmy Nilsen and James Garoh were fourth in 1:14.56, and Wildwood Crest's Terry McGovern and James Yarussi took fifth in 1:15.35. Wildwood's Brandon Joyce and Cainan



Noon finished sixth in 1:15.45, and Avalon's Craig Whitehead and Shane McGrath were seventh in 1:15.59.

Ventnor lifeguard alumni Tom Sher and Kevin Prendergast, defending champions in the alumni division, won again, in 1:17.50. Sher and Prendergast were 10th overall. The division had three crews.

Avalon's Gary Nagle and Danielle Smith won the mixed doubles division in 1:18.00. The category had seven crews.

The event also has several paddleboard divisions, with 48 paddlers competing on a 4-mile course.

Gavin Loughlin of Diamond Beach took the early lead and won the Open division in 53:28. Sean Geary of Avalon was second in 55:50, and Ocean City's Brian Pasternak took third in 56:59. The category had six paddlers.

"I've been training a lot this summer, so my plan was to go as fast as I could for as long as I could," said Loughlin, 21.

Other paddleboard winners

Male 12-foot prone: Tom Medvecky, Cape May 1:01.23; **Female 12-foot prone:** Grace Emig, Brigantine 1:02.28; **Male 10-foot, 6-inch prone:** Bob Lenahan, Brigantine 1:19.47; **Female 10-foot, 6-inch prone:** Emma Demario, Cape May 1:15.36; **Male standup:** Tyler Hunter 58:10; **Female standup:** Josie Lata 1:14.14.

Upper Township's Jimmy Nilsen and James Garoh win Bay Race in Strathmere



- [Guy Gargan](#)
- Jul 22, 2024

UPPER TOWNSHIP — Jimmy Nilsen and James Garoh of the host patrol won the Upper Township Beach Patrol M.S. Bay Race on Monday in 1 hour, 14 minutes, 44 seconds.

The event's doubles row and paddleboard divisions began and ended in the intracoastal waters at the Deauville Inn in Strathmere.

The 32nd annual event is a fundraiser for the fight against multiple sclerosis.

Avalon's Dave Giuliani and Gary Nagle were second in 1:15:34. Vincent Fitzpatrick and Tyler Mangan of Wildwood took third in 1:17.03. Wildwood Crest's Pat Bakey and Jake Klecko were fourth in 1:17.37, and Upper Township's Chase Brown and Ryan Manning finished fifth in 1:17.50.

Nilsen, 19, is an Ocean City High School graduate, and Garoh, 18, is an Egg Harbor Township graduate.

"This is my third year in the race but my first time getting first," said Nilsen, the bow. "We placed fourth last year and 10th the year prior. We really just focused this year on nailing down that course and making sure that we knew where to go to stay in the lead."

Nilsen and Garoh led early in the race and opened up a good lead.

"We started out in first place, and boats started coming up on us, so we worked hard to maintain our spot and kept it all the way throughout," Garoh said.

Upper's Lorna Connell and Kailey Grimley finished 13th among 50 crews overall and won the women's division in 1:19:45. Connell, 21, and Grimley, 20, both rowed at Ocean City High School.

"It went really well. We had a really fast pace the whole time," said Connell, the bow. "We were pulling through really strong. This is a very long race (7.3 miles) for us, but we still set a fast pace. We were trying to push through all the crews next to us."

Wayne MacMurray and Jim Gibbons of Upper Township placed 10th in 1:18.38 and won the Alumni (former lifeguards) division. Longport's B.J. Fox and daughter Lauryn Fox finished 19th in 1:21.38 and took the mixed doubles division.

In the paddleboard divisions, stand-up paddler Tyler Hunter was first overall in 55 minutes, 15 seconds.

Gavin Loughlin of Diamond Beach Beach Patrol was first in the open division in 56.17.

Grace Emig of the Brigantine Beach Patrol, a prone paddler, was the first female finisher in 1:01.42 and won the women's 12-foot division. Justin Soden won the men's 12-foot division in 1:00.33.

Kate McBride was the women's stand-up winner in 1:05.18. Wildwood Crest lifeguard Wyatt McDevitt won the men's 10-foot, 6-inch division in 1:08.50. Lexi Santer of Ocean City took the women's 10-6 division in 1:12:00.

Bill Handley, the UTBP Chief and the race director, said during the event that more than \$10,000 already had been raised for the fight against multiple sclerosis. Handley said that the North Wildwood and Cape May beach patrols had each donated more than \$3,000.