

# Legacy of Champions Powers the Spirit of the 2025 Knecht Cup Regatta

*26th Annual Collegiate Rowing Championship Set for this Weekend on the Cooper River*

PHILADELPHIA, PA, UNITED STATES, April 11, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- As more than 64 collegiate rowing programs and over 345 entries converge on the Cooper River this weekend for the 26th Annual [Knecht Cup Regatta](#) (April 12–13, 2025), the event will be defined by more than fast times and fierce competition. This year's regatta honors the enduring spirit and influence of two legendary figures whose contributions shaped the sport of rowing in the United States: William J. "Bill" Knecht and Ana Tamas Knecht.

The namesake of the event, Bill Knecht, was more than an Olympic gold medalist — he was a lifelong ambassador and advocate for rowing. After picking up an oar at La Salle High School in Philadelphia and continuing his rowing career at Villanova University, Bill went on to earn international accolades. He won gold medals in the eights at the 1955 Pan American Games and 1964 Olympics, and additional golds in the double sculls at the 1959 and 1963 Pan Am Games. He also represented the U.S. at the 1960 Rome Olympics, rowing alongside John B. Kelly Jr.

But Bill's impact extended well beyond the boat. He was a driving force in developing rowing infrastructure and governance across the country and abroad — as President of the National Association of Amateur Oarsmen, as a delegate to Federation Internationale des Societes



One of the most anticipated regattas of the collegiate rowing season, the 26th annual Knecht Cup Regatta returns to the Cooper River course designed by the event's namesake, Bill Knecht, on Saturday, April 12 and Sunday, April 13.

d'Aviron (FISA) – now known as World Rowing, and as a founding member of the National Rowing Foundation.

Most notably for this weekend's athletes, he was a founder of the Cooper River Rowing Association and instrumental in creating the rowing course where the Knecht Cup is held today.

Alongside Bill's accomplishments, the regatta also honors the remarkable legacy of his wife, Ana Tamas Knecht, for whom the Ana Tamas Knecht Trophy is named. A trailblazer in her own right, Ana emigrated from Romania to the United States in 1968, bringing with her a résumé that few in world rowing could match: 14 world championships, a Romanian government coaching license, and the rare title of "Honored Master of Sport" — the highest recognition bestowed upon an athlete in Eastern Europe.

Ana became a fixture on the Schuylkill River, one of the first women to break into the male-dominated world of American rowing coaching as the first woman coach at the legendary Vesper Boat Club. She was known not only for her technical expertise and rigorous standards, but for her fearless leadership at a time when many athletic directors could not envision a woman at the helm of men's rowing programs.

Together, Bill and Ana embodied a spirit of excellence, determination, and deep love for the sport that continues to animate the Knecht Cup Regatta.

"Bill and Ana Knecht's legacy lives on in every race rowed on the Cooper River," said Laura Knecht Blanche, Regatta Director and daughter of Bill and Ana. "Their passion and persistence helped build the foundation for collegiate rowing as we know it today. Honoring them is more than tradition — it's a celebration of what rowing can be at its very best."

The 2025 Knecht Cup Regatta will once again feature live streaming of all the races on YouTube, an enhanced Grandstand area with a Jumbotron displaying the livestream and a full beer garden and concessions area, as well as the presentation of medals by the Knecht grandchildren as well as other famous families of rowing, reinforcing the family's deep ties to the sport.

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26<sup>th</sup> Annual Collegiate Rowing  
Championship Set for this Weekend on the  
Cooper River in Cherry Hill, New Jersey

[KNECHTCUPREGATTA.COM](http://KNECHTCUPREGATTA.COM)

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Knecht Cup Regatta - 26th Annual Collegiate Rowing  
Championship Set for this Weekend on the Cooper  
River

For more information about the 2025 Knecht Cup Regatta, visit <https://knechtcupregatta.com> or follow @KnechtCupRegatta on social media.

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