

Legacy, Leadership, and Lasting Impact: The 2025 Knecht Cup Regatta Unites Generations on the Cooper River

PHILADELPHIA, PA, UNITED STATES, May 12, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- With more than 350 entries from over 60 collegiate programs nationwide, the 2025 [Knecht Cup Regatta](#) once again cemented its reputation as one of the premier collegiate rowing events in the United States. But beyond the fierce competition and flawless execution, this year's regatta was defined by a deeper spirit of legacy, connection, and honor.

"This event isn't just about rowing. It's about honoring the past, inspiring the next generation, and creating a moment that lives far beyond the medals," said Laura Knecht Blanche, daughter of U.S. Olympic Gold Medal winning rower Bill Knecht and Regatta Director of the Knecht Cup. "You had Olympians' grandchildren handing out medals, teammates of champions cheering on the sidelines, and kids discovering the sport that shaped our family and our community."

Honoring History, Building the Future

The regatta featured new trophy dedications honoring legendary figures in U.S. rowing — many with direct ties to Bill Knecht and his 1964 gold-medal-winning Olympic crew. Families of the Amlongs, Stan Cwiklinski, and Emory Clark, as well as J.B. Kelly III (grandson of Olympic legend John B. Kelly Sr. and son of John B. Kelly Jr.), were present to celebrate and award winners.

Highlights from 2025 Knecht Cup Regatta



Members of the Harvard University women's rowing team celebrate their victory in the 2025 Knecht Cup Regatta, as they receive their medals from Ana Blanche, granddaughter of the regatta's namesake, Bill Knecht. (Photo: Eileen C. Miller)

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For Blanche, the experience was personal and poignant. Her three children — Ana, William, and Olivia — presented medals on the dock throughout the weekend.

“William is 10 years old, and without being asked, he greeted each athlete by name before placing a medal around their neck,” she shared. “Watching the reciprocal magnitude of respect for the athletes awarded by the regatta’s grandchildren was extraordinary.”

Coaches Praise a First-Class Regatta

A post-event survey of participating coaches revealed unanimous praise for the event’s management, communication, and officiating. More than 90 percent of respondents indicated they felt “well-informed throughout the weekend” and “confident in the fairness and structure of the regatta.”

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Laura Knecht Blanche, Knecht Cup Director

River.

“The successes from this year give us a great foundation,” said Blanche. “Despite challenging

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J. B. Kelly III, representing both his grandfather, John B. Kelly, and his father, John B. Kelly, Jr., both Olympic rowing legends, congratulated rowers upon completion of their race in the 2025 Knecht Cup Regatta. (Photo: Eileen C. Miller)

J. B. Kelly III, representing both his grandfather, John B. Kelly, and his father, John B. Kelly, Jr., both Olympic rowing legends, congratulated rowers upon completion of their race in the 2025 Knecht Cup Regatta. (Photo: Eileen C. Miller)

“You and your team were the only regatta that kept us in the loop in real time and anticipated needs before we even asked. Thank you!” noted one coach.

“In my 20 years of coaching, I’ve rarely seen a regatta run with such efficiency and care. The Knecht Cup team understands what coaches and athletes need,” wrote another.

Looking Ahead to 2026

Plans are already underway for next year’s event, tentatively scheduled for April 11–12, 2026, on the Cooper

weather conditions, we were able to provide two full days of racing without any cuts. Next year, we want to build on that with even more engagement, more hospitality, and more heart.”

About the Knecht Cup Regatta

The Knecht Cup Regatta was founded by legendary Villanova University rowing coach Jack Sinclair and named in honor of William J. “Bill” Knecht, Olympic gold medalist and tireless advocate for rowing in the United States. Held annually on the Cooper River in Camden County, New Jersey, the regatta has grown into one of the country’s largest collegiate rowing competitions, welcoming programs from across the nation. Additional information is available at <https://knechtcupregatta.com>.

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Highlights from 2025 Knecht Cup Regatta



Among the over 60 collegiate rowing programs that competed in Cherry Hill, NJ on the Cooper River, two men from the Mercyhurst University rowing team celebrate a successful Sunday afternoon. (Photo: Eileen C. Miller)

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