

AT FROSTBITE REGATTA, SHOCKER ROWING TO RACE WSU COACH OF 1ST FROSTBITE

Wichita, KS – November 6th, 2011 will mark the 20th annual Frostbite Regatta held on the Little Arkansas River in Riverside Park, Wichita. Racing begins at 9 AM and ends at 4 PM. The start line is just south of the 11th street bridge with competitors finishing nearby the Riverside Ralph Wulz Tennis Center. Viewing is possible along the river and on bridges. The teams and information will be staged at the Wulz Tennis Center and parking is available south of the Wichita Art Museum.

20 years ago, John Bancheri, Head Coach of Wichita State Rowing and Don Wadsworth of the Wichita Rowing Association decided to have a late fall race in Wichita for local area colleges. Bancheri, who is now head coach at Grand Valley University, Grand Valley, MI, is bringing over 40 athletes from his school to compete against Wichita State, Kansas, Kansas State and other college teams. Grand Valley's women's eight finished 2nd last year at ACRA Nationals to WSU's women's 7th. Grand Valley's men's eight finished 5th this year at the world's largest regatta, the Head of the Charles in a field of 40 participants. The University of Minnesota was 9th at Head of the Charles; earlier in the season, Shocker Rowing men beat Minnesota's men at the Head of Des Moines.

"Glad John [Bancheri] is coming, always like to see him bringing his teams – they are going to be fast. It's nice to have a former WSU coach come back to Wichita. All who rowed for John over the years like to come back to visit and they bring a little buzz for our teams today," said Calvin Cupp, Head Coach of Shocker Rowing.

Of this season's squad, Patrick Vera, a junior from Valley Center, KS joined the squad through recruitment from his roommate and friends. A Shocker Fan 'forever' whose siblings have played for Baseball and Softball, Vera will be part of the novice men's squad who hope to capture gold as they did in Oct at Head of the Oklahoma. However, Kansas State was only 11 seconds behind on a 4000 meter course. "We know our course, it has many turns and technicalities, I feel that we can out-maneuver KSU on OUR course," Vera said.

Another local Shocker Rower is Sydney Fish, who graduated in 2009 from Wichita East High School and rowed for the Wichita Rowing Association as a junior. In her third year as a WSU rower, Fish is "excited but nervous" about racing against Grand Valley. She first participated in Frostbite in 2008 and has been racing the event every year since then.

New this year on the banks of the river will be a Wichita State Recruit Tent. As a non NCAA team, any interested high school athlete, especially non-rowers are encouraged to learn more about rowing from 9 AM to 2 PM from Shocker Rower Recruiters. One lucky guy or gal who visits the tent will be selected at random to win a Shocker Rowing scholarship per the guidelines.

For more information, please contact Tori Breithaupt, Wichita Rowing Association, tori.breithaupt@wichita.edu.