



AROUND THE ISLAND ROW / WILDWOOD ROW SET FOR TUESDAY

Press of Atlantic City, The (NJ) - Monday, August 16, 2004

The 29th annual North Wildwood Beach Patrol Around The Island Row will begin at 6:45 a.m. Tuesday at 15th Avenue beach in North Wildwood.

The race around Wildwood island for lifeguards and alumni, approximately 21 miles in distance, begins with a floating start in the ocean at 15th Avenue and goes in a counterclockwise direction.

The two-man crews head to the Hereford Inlet at the top of Wildwood, go past the Stone Harbor Bridge and the Grassy Sound Bridge, and proceed to the backbay.

The teams row past the Cape May Bridge to the Cold Spring Inlet at the bottom of the island.

After a final turn into the ocean, the crews row back to the 15th Avenue finish line.

Edition: All

Section: Sports

Page: D4

Record Number: 0408160068

Copyright, 2004, South Jersey Publishing Company t/a The Press of Atlantic City

[← Back](#)

LIFEGUARDING COMPETITION / FUNK, MILLER TRIUMPH AGAIN IN AROUND THE ISLAND ROW

August 18, 2004 Publication: Press of Atlantic City, The (NJ) Page: D1 Word Count: 840

The younger lifeguard oarsmen usually get outdone by the older rowers in the North Wildwood Beach Patrol Around The Island Row, and that was certainly the case Tuesday morning. The extreme case in point is the fact that the Ventnor lifeguard alumni crew of Dennis Funk and George Miller, ages 52 and 53, respectively, won the race, beating 20 other boats. Funk and Miller had a time of 3 hours, 6 minutes, 7 seconds. Behind them, the next four boats had either older lifeguard rowers or alumni. Margate's Carl Smallwood Jr. and Rich Kugel finished second in 3:06:17, about 1 1/2 -boatlengths behind Funk and Miller. The alumni team of B.J. Fox (Longport) and John Swift (Margate) was third in 3:08:21. Funk, a builder, and Miller, a lawyer, also won the 21-mile row around Wildwood island in 1987 and in

1999, setting the meet record both times. Their time of 2:55:30 in 1999 is still the meet mark.

"My work gets me on the road pretty early, so George and I sometimes get out at about 5:15 a.m. to row," Funk, the bow, said. "We do three races a year, the Boardwalk Row from Margate to Atlantic City, the Upper Township (Six-Mile Bay) Row and this. We start early in the year and we finish late, so it keeps you going.

"Down at the bottom of the island (with the race about two-thirds over), they (Avalon's Craig Whitehead and Mike Cras, who led most of the way) were outside and we hugged the rocks, and we managed to get by them. It feels pretty good to win it again. Top-five is more than you could ask for, so to win it is great."

Miller said he gave it his all. "I can honestly say that I have no strokes left," Miller said. "Dennis kept saying to leave something in your tank. My last stroke was my last stroke.

"I train twice a day. Once with Dennis and again riding my bike or lifting weights. I'm 53 and this isn't the kind of thing you do at that age. Years ago we said we were done doing this, and we thought about it (not doing the Wildwood row again) in 1999 (after winning). But we'll definitely do it again next year."

Funk and Miller were South Jersey Lifeguard doubles row champions 1973-75. The next crew to equal that feat was Whitehead and Cras from 1991-93. Whitehead is a 16-year Avalon guard, while Cras, 32, is an alumni who lives in Havertown, Pa. The two finished fourth, and Cape May veteran guards Geoff Rife and Jim Wadlow were fifth.

"Craig and I got to (practice) row about 10 times for this race," Cras said. "We were sitting up front (leading) after about 15 minutes (into the race) and we led till the rockpile (the Cold Spring Inlet at the bottom of Wildwood). I hope to come back next year and get a little more training in."

Kugel and Smallwood were in second place most of the race. "We passed the Avalon boat at the inlet and stayed behind them (Funk and Miller) the rest of the way," Kugel said. "I rowed as hard as I could, and we couldn't catch them."

NOTES - The Longport crew of co-captain Mike McGrath and Matt Kelm finished 21st, but it was still a big victory. McGrath has had four cancer operations and finished radiation treatments only a week ago. That didn't prevent him from representing Longport in the big South Jersey doubles races this summer with son Mike, and also didn't keep him from doing his 23rd row around Wildwood.

"I felt pretty good," McGrath said. "Everybody's always hurting at the end in this race, but it wasn't too bad."

RESULTS

1. Ventnor alumni (Dennis Funk-George Miller) 3:06.07; 2. Margate (Carl Smallwood Jr.-Rich Kugel) 3:06.17; 3. Margate-Longport alumni (John Swift-B.J. Fox) 3:08.21; 4. Avalon (Craig Whitehead-Mike Cras) 3:08.59; 5. Cape May (Geoff Rife-Jim Wadlow) 3:09.08; 6. Wildwood (Mike McConnell-Ryan Meyer) 3:09.35; 7. Wildwood (Steve McGuinn-Dan McGuinn) 3:11.44; 8. Margate alumni-Ventnor alumni (Jim Swift-Scott Jones) 3:12.27; 9. Wildwood (Steve Stocks-Tom Kilian) 3:13.13; 10. Ventnor (Mike Tripician-John Hazlett) 3:15.34; 11. Stone Harbor (Scott Ashman-Steve Ramsey) 3:16.39; 12. Wildwood (Ed Schneider-Joe LaRosa) 3:17.49; 13. Wildwood Crest (Dan Rasmussen-Rich Angelucci) 3:19.39; 14. Ventnor (Jim Mason-Vince Canosa) 3:22.32; 15. Cape May (Tim Fiochi-D.J. Draus) 3:23.04; 16. Wildwood Crest (Rick Greco-John Fair) 3:24.24; 17. North Wildwood (John Ovelman-T.J. Figaniak) 3:25.00; 18. Avalon (Evan Pierce-Shane McGrath) 3:27.30; 19. North Wildwood (Steve Dingley-Rich Bostwick) 3:29.57; 20. North Wildwood (Bill Kindle-Lou Dwyer) 3:31.23; 21. Longport (Mike McGrath-Matt Kelm) 3:31.54.

AROUND THE ISLAND ROW CHAMPIONS

Press of Atlantic City, The (NJ)

Date: August 18, 2004

Page: D1

Copyright, 2004, South Jersey Publishing Company t/a The Press of Atlantic City