



USA Wildwater

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May 7, 2008 – USA Canoe/Kayak Announces the 2008 USA Wildwater Team

We are proud of our athletes who have earned berths on the USA Wildwater Team and have committed to racing in Europe this summer. As a result of the dedication of our athletes and the ongoing support of our sponsors, the USA will be competing at the World Championships, the Master's World Championships, the World Cups and Junior Pre-World Championships.

Perhaps our best opportunity for a podium spot at the World Championships and World Cups is Tom Wier of Snohomish WA. Tom has ranked in the top 10 in the World in the C-1 class for the past four years and continues to improve. We are excited about his chances of medaling in 2008.

We have a triple threat of winning medals in the Master's World Championships with David Jones (K-1), Chris Hipgrave (K-1) and John Pinyerd (C-1). Jones won Bronze in 2006 and Pinyerd won gold and they intend to defend their podium spots. Jones is reported to be 25 seconds faster than he was in 2006 on a similar length classic course. It's too early to know about Pinyerd who has geared his training (and diet plan) to pull off a peak at the Worlds/Masters Worlds. Chris Hipgrave is one of our top racers at any age and probably knows as much about paddling as anyone on the planet. They will be joined by veteran team member Michael Harris (C-1) who is also expected to do very well.

In men's kayak (K-1), we are thrilled that veteran racer Chris Hipgrave has been able to juggle his job as Director of USA Olympic Paddling to help provide on the water leadership. He will be joined by first time team members JP Bevilaqua, Nate Hamm and Jeremy Rodgers. We are excited about JP's, Jeremy's and Nate's progress. Nate will remain in Europe to compete in all of the World Cup events along with Tom Wier and to train with the Czech team. David Jones, who remains one of our top racers, will provide coaching support in addition to racing as needed to ensure all USA slots are filled.

Tierney O'Sullivan of Roswell GA is our sole woman (K-1W) on the Senior Team. Tierney will also be racing at the Junior Pre-World Championships along with Peter Lutter (K-1) and other Junior Team members that qualify later this year.

The USA will send a full complement of C-1s to the Worlds in Ivrea ITA this year which should help our chances in the C-1 Team run. Tom Wier will be joined by veteran racers John Pinyerd, Michael Harris, and Jack Ditty. Although Jack is a newcomer to the Wildwater Team, he is a world renowned extreme racer and the perennial winner of such events as the Russell Fork race. Pinyerd and Harris will also race in the Master's events.

2008 USA Wildwater Team:

C-1

Tom Wier – Worlds & World Cups

John Pinyerd – Master's Worlds and Worlds

Jack Ditty – Worlds

Mike Harris – Masters Worlds and Worlds

K-1W

Tierney O'Sullivan – Worlds

K-1

Chris Hipgrave – Master's Worlds and Worlds

JP Bevilaqua – Worlds

David Jones – Master's Worlds and Worlds

Nate Hamm – Worlds and World cups

Jeremy Rodgers – Worlds

Maurizio Tognacci – Master's Worlds

Junior Team:

K-1W – Tierney O'Sullivan – Junior Pre-Worlds

K-1 – Peter Lutter – Jr. European Championships and Jr. Pre-Worlds

Tom O'Sullivan – Team Manager

Maurizio Tognacci – Coach

For more information, see other related articles and the schedule on
www.usawildwater.com