

2008 NWISA High School Singlehanded Championship

September 6-7, 2008

Cascade Locks, Oregon

On a picture perfect September weekend in the Columbia River Gorge, Michael Schalka and John Renehan sailed away from a 13-boat fleet of high school Laser sailors to earn themselves berths in the 2008 High School Singlehanded Championships next month in New York.

Schalka, who won nine of the 13 races but suffered a near fatal error in race 12 when he led to the first mark but then took off on the wrong course, managed to edge Renehan by two points to win the title. Schalka, a senior at the Dartmoor School in Seattle, and Renehan, a senior at Garfield High School in Seattle, will represent the Northwest district at the Interscholastic Sailing Association Singlehanded Championships, or Cressy Cup, Oct. 17-19 in Ithaca, New York. Sam Parish of Orcas High School, Orcas Island WA, finished third, 25 points behind the leaders.

Mitchell Burke led the WSC High School Sailing contingent, finishing seventh in a very competitive fleet. Monica Mader was close on his heels in eighth, followed by Greg Moran in 12th and Andrew Cannard in 13th. Congratulations to all our WSC high school sailors who competed in this championship regatta; you are now "Gorge-Tested"!

The regatta attracted high school sailors from all around the Northwest, including Portland, Seattle, Anacortes, Gig Harbor, Orcas Island, and North Kitsap. Conditions were ideal for Laser racing throughout the weekend, with wind 10-12 knots from the west on Saturday and a challenging 15-18 knot easterly on Sunday. Thanks to the Columbia Gorge Racing Association and PRO George Yioulos for putting on another great regatta! For complete results and photos by Sean Trew, check out the CGRA website at <http://www.cgra.org/index.htm>.

Bill Symes