College sailors set for big-boat showdown

SAN PEDRO, Calif.

Emily Frost was easy to find in the Los Angeles Harbor Cup/Cal Maritime Invitational Intercollegiate Regatta last year. She was the sailor wrestling with sails on the bow of the U.S. Naval Academy entry that finished fourth out of 10 boats. Look again: Now she’s the skipper.

Max Hutcheson couldn’t be found at all. He was still in high school in San Diego when USC was winning the event. Now he’s driving the boat for the defending champions.

Friday through Sunday they'll be testing their upgrades among nine competitors in the fourth annual event sponsored by the Port of Los Angeles. The Los Angeles Yacht Club is the organizing authority and California Maritime Academy of Vallejo is the inviting school for the West Coast’s only intercollegiate big boat regatta.

The nine teams will compete in as many as 10 ocean fleet races over three days, as conditions permit. The coed crews will sail Catalina 37s chartered from the Long Beach Sailing Foundation.

Cal Maritime, second last year, had won the U.S. Collegiate Kennedy Cup to earn the right to represent the U.S. in last October’s World Student Yachting Championships at La Rochelle, France, where they placed fifth among 14 teams from 12 countries, behind
England, Switzerland, Portugal and Italy.

The rest of the field this year features two-time winner Maine Maritime Academy, the U.S. Naval Academy, the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, the University of Hawaii, Cal State U. Channel Islands of Camarillo and two new participants: UC Santa Cruz and the State University of New York (SUNY) Maritime Academy.

USC's crew is essentially intact, but Hutcheson replaces skipper Chris Vetter, who graduated. Freshman skippers may not be the norm but Hutcheson, 6-3 and 260 pounds, will be an imposing helmsman.

"He didn't know when he signed up [for the team] that he'd be doing it," said Glennon Stratton, the Trojans" assistant coach. "But we thought it was best to keep the crew as intact as possible in their positions. And Max also has the capabilities to do it."

Frost, a senior, was appointed as Navy's skipper by Jahn Tihansky, director of the varsity offshore sailing team. She won't be driving---James Prieto is the helmsman---but she earned her role as a Navy 44 skipper last season when the team won the Annapolis Yacht Club Fall Series and placed second in Annapolis Race Week. She also led her crew to a third-place finish in last summer's 790-mile Annapolis to Bermuda Race.

But sailboat racing will soon take a back seat in the lives of the Navy seniors. Upon graduation Frost will join the surface warfare community while Prieto will enter the Medical Corps. A third senior crew member, Ted Dempsey, will head to Pensacola, Fla. to begin Navy flight training.

Racing will start at 2 p.m. Friday after an early practice session and at 11:30 Saturday and Sunday.

A windward-leeward race course will be set beyond the lighthouse outside the L.A. Harbor entrance. The racing may be viewed from Point Fermin Park at the end of Gaffey Street.
in San Pedro, an extension of the Harbor Freeway.

Shoreside events include a dinner Saturday night at the Los Angeles Yacht Club featuring keynote speaker Bill Lee, commodore of the Transpacific Yacht Club and the "wizard" of offshore racing design, including the legendary Merlin.

The Port of Los Angeles is America’s premier port and has solidified its esteemed reputation by moving more containers than any other port in the nation, more than doubling its volumes over a 10-year period. It has a strong commitment to developing innovative strategic and sustainable operations that benefit the economy as well as the quality of life for the region and the nation it serves. The Port handled a total of 7,831,902 Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units (20-foot containers or TEUs, including empties) in 2010 and remains the nation’s busiest trade gateway in terms of container volume.

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2010 race-by-race results, photos and video
2010 high-resolution photos

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Calif. Maritime Academy
Vallejo, Calif.
John Gray, skipper; Kyle Vanderspek, Scott Doyle, Sarah Himes, Matthew Van Rensselaer, Sean Kelly, Andrew Lamb. Coach: Jesse Cartee

Cal State U. Channel Islands
Camarillo, Calif.
Greg Dair, skipper; Andrew Domingos, captain; Andrew Healey, Kevin Schallert, Cameron Demararville, Hayley Bracken, Tim Fedderson, Lisa Marchand, alternate.
Coaches: Nick de Rouhlac and Austin Diaz

Maine Maritime Academy
Castine, Maine
John Joseph, skipper; Rowan Fraley, tactician/main; Matt Butcka, Andrew Bowden, Jake Newton, Gus Bispham, Zach Vickers, David Markley. Coach: Tom Brown

SUNY Maritime Academy
Throgs Neck, N.Y.
Taylor Walker, skipper; Dylan O’Malley-Joyce, Eric White, James Dempsey, Daniel McDonald, Owen Wing, Nick Berger. Coach: Russ O’Reilly

UC Santa Cruz
Santa Cruz, Calif.
Michael Radziejowski, skipper; Andrew Cowely, Mike McCarthy, Conor Bescos, Jean Rutledge, Dan Ladd, Pat Boyden.
Coach:

U. of Hawaii
Manoa
Coach: Andrew Johnson
(Crew list not available)

U.S. Naval Academy
Annapolis, Md.
Emily Frost, skipper and tactician; James Prieto, helmsman; Ted Dempsey, Ben Rowe, Louis Henry, Patrick Tucker, Colin Nevins. Coach: Jahn Tihansky

USC
Los Angeles, Calif.
Max Hutcheson, skipper; Brock Kraebel, Erik Samuels, Danny Kivlovitz, Kelsey Rupp, Stephen Lue, Jack Stein, Alessandro Sassoon.
Coaches: Mike Segerblom, Glennon Stratton
U.S. Coast Guard Academy
New London, Conn.
Coach: Doug Clark
(Crew list not available)