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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USF Sailing Team Successes Draw Notice with High Ranking

Varsity sailing at the University of South Florida has moved into the national spotlight with the women’s team being named among the best in the nation by an influential sailing publication.

In its most recent ranking, published Nov. 12, “Sailing World” magazine ranked the USF women’s sailing team eighth out of about 200 college teams nationwide. Previously, the team was ranked 15th.

Coach Stephanie Doyle was pleased and surprised by the team’s placement. “This is the highest we’ve ever been and it’s due primarily to Genoa Griffin’s high ranking at the North Americans and also in part to our team’s high finishes at regattas this fall,” she said. “We really caught everybody off guard. Nobody expected us to do this well and they’re taking notice. It’s a huge honor for sure.”

Griffin placed fourth at the Intercollegiate Women’s Singlehanded Sailing North Americans held Nov. 9-10.

The ranking came in Doyle’s third year of coaching the team, and the rapid improvement in the team pleased her. “Personally it means we’re moving in the right direction. A little quicker than I thought, which is always nice.”

The ranking came at an ideal time for the team, Doyle said, “because we have some terrific seniors who’ve already gone to very high levels and some terrific freshmen who have done well in practice and it makes the whole team better for it.”

Doyle said the team’s steady rise in the ranking has increased interest in the team, with inquiries from prospective team members from as far away as New Zealand and Turkey. “It’s a huge compliment,” she said.

For more information, contact Stephanie Doyle, (727) 553-1597.