

## Cal State Long Beach sailing team has smooth going in Chinese waters, team captain stepping down

By Joe Segura, Long Beach Press Telegram

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CSULB sailing team member Mark Ryan prepares his teams sail boats for a tournament in Santa Barbara. The team recently completed in China. Stephen Carr — Staff photographer



CSULB sailing team member and captain Shane Young.

LONG BEACH >> Long Beach State 49er Sailing Club team captain Shane Young is bowing out, with graduation a few months off.

The team will be led by Mark Ryan as it turns its focus on its next contest, the Rose Bowl Regatta, to be hosted by USC on Jan. 4 and 5, and drawing top sailing college teams from around the country.

Young's two-year tenure was capped this summer when the team won the first Pan-Pacific University Sailing Championship in Xiamen, China.

The 49er sailors had no real challenge winning the championship



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— also billed as the Third Taiwan Strait College Regatta — with more than 20 college teams bidding for the title in the Wu Yan Bay.

The CSULB team was the only sailing team from the United States, Young said.

The students held fundraisers and received support from the Long Beach Yacht Club, the Long Beach Sailing Foundation and Qingdao Foundation to cover the \$12,000 tab.

The shoreline waters and sea breeze were light to moderate, and there was a modest challenge from the local teams, including Singapore Management University from Singapore, four teams from Taiwan and 14 teams from China, including local favorite Xiamen University Sailing Team.

Part of the reason for the easy win, Young said, was the fact that sailing and sailboat racing still are relatively new sports in China — with many teams only having a few years' experience.

While the home teams were earning their sea legs, the Long Beach State team found their time landside challenging.

The team encountered poor conditions, with families living in shacklike homes. And the hotel rooms gave limited shelter from the monsoon weather, with leaks drenching the beds.

A complaint to the hotel management led to the bed being moved but no new room, Young recalled.

"Water came out of the light socket," he said.

The other Long Beach State team members in the China championship were Ryan, a junior history major; John Hill, a senior economics major; Nicholas Santos, a junior finance major, and Tyler Webb, a sophomore electrical engineering major.

The team sported black tank tops with the messages "CSULB never yields" and "Finishing on top since 2010" — a reference to its strong showing in college races on the West Coast.

They enjoyed meals at the home of university officials but were excited to encounter a McDonald's.

Young, 22, is a native of Long Beach and a member of the Long Beach Yacht Club. The senior marketing major is replaced by Ryan as the team continues its year-round competitions.

Young said all teams left the China event invigorated by the challenges, experience and new friendships.

All regatta teams agreed that next year's regatta will be even more challenging if more overseas teams join the race, according to Young.



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“All teams are looking forward to competing in regattas in the future in the United States, and to being pioneers in the growth and development of sailing and the recreational boating industry in China,” Young added.

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