



The Toledo Rowing Club
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Coming Home with the Gold - 2007

Anderton (“Pete”) Bentley of Perrysburg, Ohio, represented the Toledo Rowing Club and the City of Toledo on the national and international world championship masters rowing competition schedule in August and September 2007, brought home 4 gold medals.

The United States National Masters Championship Rowing Regatta was held at the Oak Ridge, Tennessee venue at Melton Hill Lake on the Clinch River August 8-12, 2007. Mr. Bentley competed in three events in very hot and humid conditions, winning gold medals in the Double Sculls, Quadruple Sculls and Four Oars with Coxswain events in the Heavy Men’s J Group. Mr. Bentley had a scary flirtation with heat exhaustion at the finish of the Double Sculls event. Mr. Bentley competed in composite crews in these events made up of veteran competitors from 4 different rowing clubs from Philadelphia, Florida, Georgia, and California with a combined rowing competition experience of 107 years. Mr. Bentley was interviewed by WBIR-TV Knoxville on August 10, 2007.

The Worlds Masters Championship Regatta was held at Zagreb, Croatia on the Jarun Rowing Stadium venue September 4-9, 2007. The International Rowing Federation (FISA) organizes the Worlds Masters Championship Regatta each year at a different venue. The 2008 Regatta will be held at Lake Galve, Trakai (Vilnius) Lithuania. Competitors represent their countries and only the Gold Medal is awarded (no silver or bronze medals for 2nd or 3rd place), hence the slogan “get the gold or go home.” 2910 Athletes from 39 countries competed in 7 boat categories. Mr. Bentley (age 79) represented the United States in two categories winning the Gold Medal in the I-J Quadruple Sculls event to a standing ovation. The same crew competed in the I-J Four Oars with Coxswain event finishing second (no medal) after a steering cable failure impeded progress down the course. The conditions of cool and overcast skies and rain showers with calm water were less than ideal. The Jarun venue was a large European permanent rowing stadium with very large covered grandstands and elaborate boathouses, training rooms, restaurants, docks, start/finish timing infrastructure. Very impressive!

The year 2007 was a gratifying experience for the age 79 Mr. Bentley. A hamstring injury during training in June impeded preparation for racing. Intensive therapy and training completed recovery. Also 2007 marks 60th year since he tried out for crew at Yale University as a freshman in September of 1947 (to the month!). Coached by Joe Burk, an American rowing icon, Mr. Bentley serves the Toledo Rowing Foundation enabling rowers of all ages to accomplish their goals.