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## Press release : 2002 : 12 : 02 : USF Sailing Team Finishes Tenth at Women's Atlantic Coast Championships

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **USF Sailing Team Finishes Tenth at Women's Atlantic Coast Championships**

Battling chilly weather and gusty winds, the University of South Florida's women's sailing team finished tenth Nov. 16-17 at the Women's Atlantic Coast Championships at Connecticut College.

The team of Genoa Griffin, Claudia Aguado, Ali Deese, Kristen Herman, and Amanda Olivier competed in rain, up to 25-knot winds and temperatures in the low 40s.

Conditions for the Thames River race were less than ideal all weekend. On Saturday, sailors battled rain and a northeasterly breeze of up to 20 knots along with temperatures in the low 40's. A strong ebbing current and a 20-25 knot breeze challenged sailors on Sunday.

Things started out a little rough for the Bulls on Saturday, according to coach Stephanie Doyle. "We decided to pair up some unconventional people into boats to make each boat the heaviest weight combo possible. As a result our boat handling on Saturday wasn't spectacular as everyone got used to sailing with a new person."

Genoa Griffin and Claudia Aguado teamed up to be USF's A division boat. Griffin and Aguado struggled on Saturday as the wind was very unpredictable. Freshman Kristen Herman and senior Ali Deese teamed up in B division and had some problems "second guessing their upwind strategy and getting off the starting line," said Doyle.

Sunday was a banner day for the Bulls. Herman and Deese started the day out right for the Bulls, getting a first place in the first race of the day. After watching Kristen and Ali's strategy, Doyle said the team figured out what was the fastest way to go on the course. Genoa and Claudia sailed to a second place finish in their first race and things started to look up for USF. The team played the left side of the river all day Sunday and passed teams every race.

The Bulls finished all their races in the top 10 on Sunday to move the team up to 10th overall.

Women's ACCs has some of the toughest competition of the year. The top teams from the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, and South-Atlantic regions must qualify to attend the regatta. USF qualified by winning the South Atlantic Women's Champs in September.