

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nov. 9, 2023

Media Contact: Beth Manley

New Orleans Rowing Club Secretary

emanley1@gmail.com

504-231-2587

Two New Orleans high school students sign to NCAA D1 rowing teams
New Orleans Rowing Club celebrates athlete commitments on National Signing Day

NEW ORLEANS - Two members of the [New Orleans Rowing Club](#) (NORC) youth program, Lee Ferguson and Aubrey Muirhead, signed letters of intent to join NCAA D1 women's rowing teams Wednesday on National Signing Day. Ferguson committed to be a coxswain for Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and Muirhead will row for the University of Texas at Austin.

Ferguson is a senior at The Willow School and has been a member of the NORC Juniors team since 6th grade. They are in their second year serving as a team captain and were named the team's MVP in 10th grade. Ferguson has attended multiple rowing intensives to further develop their skills. Most recently, they participated in a competitive coxing intensive held in Holland and were selected for a future program based on their performance.

Muirhead began rowing in February 2023, following in the footsteps of her younger sister, Bethany. She found her desire to compete at the collegiate level after attending a rowing camp at UT this summer.

Muirhead is also an accomplished varsity volleyball player at Ben Franklin High School where she is a three-year member of the school's varsity team. Her volleyball recognitions this season include being named to the AVCA's Best and Brightest and being selected to play on the 2023 East All-Star Team. In 2022, she was named an LVCA All-State Player, District MVP and New Orleans All-Metro Player.

"Our coaches are so proud of Lee and Aubrey for earning the opportunity to be on high-level collegiate rowing teams. These offers are a testament to their hard work on and off the water as athletes and students," said NORC President and Director of Juniors Rowing Will Kuckro. "The NORC Juniors team has grown significantly in recent years, and Lee and Aubrey's successes contribute to our rising recognition across the country."

These signings follow previous NORC alumni joining rowing programs at the Coast Guard Academy, University of Notre Dame and Harvard University.

The NORC Juniors program was started in 2015 and now includes 50 athletes from New Orleans area high schools. The team competes at regional regattas throughout the year.

Note: [Signing ceremony and rowing photos for both athletes can be found here.](#)

###

Located on Bayou St. John, the New Orleans Rowing Club (NORC) is a volunteer-run nonprofit which provides rowing instruction for all ages and skill levels in a positive and inclusive environment. NORC is committed to making rowing and its benefits accessible to everyone. The club offers a Juniors program for youth in grades 8-12, a Masters team for adults and learn-to-row sessions. NORC also partnered with Xavier University in 2023 to support the launch of the school's club rowing program. Learn more at NewOrleansRowingClub.org and follow @neworleansrowingclub on Facebook and Instagram.