

US SAILOR Of The Week Tommy Coleman



Tommy Coleman

Twenty-four year old, Tommy Coleman (III) of Chattanooga, TN, started sailing at nine; when his father encouraged him to get involved at the YMCA Camp in Annapolis, MD, where he ran the waterfront. He fell in love with the sport and spent his childhood racing. He was a member of the U.S. National Opti team, and later graduated to Lasers and 420s. At 17, again encouraged by his dad, he earned his Level One Instructor certification and enjoyed it so much that within just a few months he obtained his Level Two Coaching certification. Tommy has been coaching ever since and says: “the biggest joy of coaching is helping young sailors learn the lessons that I did as a kid, getting them started with proper technique and good sportsmanship while making it all fun, just as my dad taught me and continues to do.” The themes of sailing tradition and teaching run deep in the Coleman family starting with Tommy’s grandfather (Tom, Sr.), who sailed on the Chesapeake Bay, through his dad, (Tom, Jr.) who ran numerous youth coaching programs. Now Tommy passes along the traditions through coaching and plans to share his love of sailing with his daughter. He is working toward a degree in early childhood education with the goal of becoming an elementary school teacher and says: “Being able to guide the life-lessons kids learn while on the water, racing or just being around boats, is the reason I want to work with kids year round as a teacher.” He is currently coaching at youth regattas from coast to coast and looks forward to next July when he and his dad will run the Green Fleet at the Opti Nationals in California. Tommy is one of many young sailors who could benefit from the US SAILING 2008 Annual Appeal, which has a goal of raising funds to create the organization's first Race OfficialShip program designed to introduce and encourage young sailors to serve as certified Race Officials, Judges and Umpires by providing the necessary training free-of-charge at locations across the country. Tommy hopes to obtain a Race OfficialShip so that he can be better versed in race management and pass along this knowledge to the young sailors he coaches. Good luck Tommy!

TOMMY COLEMAN IS ONE OF  **US SAILING.**

McLaughlin employee Tommy Coleman joins Dave Perry, Nick Scandone, Anna Tunnicliffe and Ed Baird as one of US Sailing's Sailor of the Week! Tommy has been employed at McLaughlin for nearly 12 years. Aside from his coaching and among many other tasks he takes great pride in keeping the inventory and Optiparts stockroom in first class shape. Tommy is also *ONE OF US* at McLaughlin!