

# Concrete Canoe News

## **Michigan Tech Concrete Canoe 2006-2007**

The 2007-2008 Michigan Tech Concrete Canoe team chose to pay homage to the area's historic shipping industry by selecting **Great Lakes' Shipping** as their competition theme. The canoe, cast on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007 by a thirty member team in a record 149 minutes, was dubbed **Gitchee Gumee** which is the Ojibwa term for Lake Superior and translates to "big water". The team extended the theme not only to the boat, but also to the display, by creating an elaborate lighthouse and nautically inspired canoe stands.

<b>2006-07 Michigan Tech Concrete Canoe At A Glance</b>	
Name	Gitchee Gumee
Colors	Black with a Red and White Stripe
Weight	195 pounds
Length	19 feet 3.5 inches
Thickness	0.5 inches
Regional Place	1 <sup>st</sup>
National Place	10th

## **Regional Competition**

Michigan Tech had the privilege of hosting the 2006-2007 North Central Conference Competition and Gitchee Gumee was debuted on April 1st, 2007.

Due to the weather conditions in Houghton in the early spring, the competition location was split, with the display and presentation portions of the weekend held at Michigan Tech and the races held at Haithco Lake in Saginaw, MI.

For the second time in team history, Tech took first place in every category. The team successfully defended their regional title for the ninth consecutive year earning a bid to the National competition at the University of Washington in Seattle.

## **National Competition**

On June 6<sup>th</sup>, Gitchee Gumee along with 7 teammates began its cross-country road trip from Houghton to Seattle. After 3 days on the road, she arrived safely in Seattle and was met by the rest of the team, ready for competition with the best boats in the nation. Facing stiff competition in all categories, the team came in 10<sup>th</sup> overall. The 2006-07 teams' strong suit was evident on Race Day, as the team took home 3<sup>rd</sup> overall in the race category including defending their Men's Sprint National title.

## **2007-2008 Campaign**

Typically, finishing 10th out of 200 hundred teams nationally would make any

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<http://www.cee.mtu.edu/asce/canoe/index.htm>

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concrete canoe team happy. However, after finishing 10th at the 2007 National Concrete Canoe Competition the Michigan Tech team felt they could have done better. This feeling has transcended into the 2008 campaign as the team has hit the ground running! Taking on an attitude that nothing is impossible and is stretching the limits of mix design, hull design, and reinforcing materials; Michigan Tech aims to win big at the 2008 National Concrete Canoe Competition and isn't letting traditional boundaries stop them.

Casting Day for the 2008 boat (yet to be named) has been set for Saturday, January 19th. In order to make this a reality the team has already begun testing new hull designs, optimizing the mix design, experimenting with new reinforcing techniques, and paddling multiple times a week. If momentum like this can be sustained throughout the year, the sky will be the limit for how much this team could achieve!

## ***Team Leadership***

Returning for a second year as a co-captain at Michigan Tech is civil engineering major Nick Norman. Nick has been a member of Concrete Canoe all four years

he's been at MTU. In addition to being one of the presenters for the Technical Presentation, he currently has the honor of holding the Men's Sprint National title along with fellow senior Josh Cotter.

Stepping into a leadership position as the other co-captain this year is junior Brent Skaw. Brent is a biomedical engineering student who has been apart of the team since his freshmen year. He's been a part of the Technical Presentation as well as the team's safety officer and a member of the paddling team.

## ***Regional Competition***

This year's North Central Conference Competition will be held at Michigan State University. The team is looking forward to the trip to East Lansing and the tough competition the Spartans will be hosting.

## ***National Competition***

At the time of this printing, the location of the National Competition had not been decided on, but teams have been told to be prepared to travel as far south as possible. Regardless of where competition is, Michigan Tech intends to be a part of it.

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## ***Contact Information***

If you'd like to learn more about the team, or become involved, please contact one of the team captains. Questions and assistance are always welcome!

Nick Norman  
[njnorman@mtu.edu](mailto:njnorman@mtu.edu)  
(231) 632-6425

Brent Skaw  
[beskaw@mtu.edu](mailto:beskaw@mtu.edu)  
(715) 651-1202

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