



NEWSLETTER

Friends of UW Men's Crew, Inc.

December 2007-3

Coach's Message

Scholarships in men's crew have an evolving perception at UW. In years past, there was great pride in the *amateurism* of crew as evidenced by the absence of scholarships. The feeling was that other sports may need them to be competitive, but men's crew, at least from the mid-1940's, seemed to be able to regularly compete successfully on a national level without them. Even today, in a collegiate sports environment that is almost unrecognizable from just 15 years ago, we still do quite well. However, here is an example of just how different things are; at the IRA in 2006, in the frosh 8 final (in which UW finished 6th), there were 48 oarsmen. Of those, the entire total of young men that were walk-ons was 7. The 41 other rowers were all recruited HS or prep rowers. Of these recruits, at least 20 were not American. Notable, of the 7 novices in the eights entries, 5 were Badgers.

From my perspective, the days of an entire team of novice walk-ons is gone and it will never return. Rowing is growing dramatically at the junior level. It is not a niche as it once was. One result of this explosive growth is that (just like in any other collegiate sport) scholarships in men's crew are now the standard (in one form or another) at every major program; Cal, Washington, Stanford, Oregon State, Syracuse, Northeastern, Georgetown, BU and a host of smaller schools. The Ivy League uses a combination of coaches "ticks" on recruited athlete enrollment applications, together with substantial financial aid resources, to assist any students in financial need. As a result, UW is facing an increasingly non-level playing field in our sport.

Scholarships - were the Athletic Department to allow them to us - would be vital tool, in this coach's opinion, in attracting and keeping Wisconsin athletes who may otherwise need to work to stay in school as well as in recruiting some athletes who want to come to Wisconsin but have scholarship offers to row elsewhere. Another fact that many are unaware of is that scholarships are eminently divisible. For example, depending on whether a student is in or out of state and what his major is, a scholarship may be broken into 100 parts. So, in this scenario, 4 "Full Rides" might yield 400 book scholarships (a "book" scholarship is the amount it cost a student to buy course books for an entire year).

Any alum interested in conversing further on this subject is welcome to e-mail me (chc@athletics.wisc.edu) or call me (608.262.8521) between daily rowing practices (a good time is between 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM).

With best regards,

Crew News - Fall of 2007

Missed in our summer coverage was Derek Rasmussen's July 12 first place finish at the Under 23 Worlds Trials at Mercer Lake, NJ; the time was less than a second shy of the time required to qualify for competition at the Worlds. Also, still-eligible UW rowers finished 1st, 2nd and 5th in the July 21 finals of the USRowing Club National Championships on the Cooper River in New Jersey. Finishers in the pairs event were - in 1st place (7:01.17), Grant James (bow) and Ross James (stroke); in 2nd (7:07.47), Max Goff and Derek Rasmussen and in 5th (7:20.48), Peter Helfer and Ken Rueden. In the men's senior 4-, the gold (6:13:63) went to UW rowers Anthony Hoell (bow), Grant James, Ross James and Peter Helfer (stroke). The Camp Randall entry (all UW but for one rower from Yale) won the championship eight race at the Canadian Henley in August.

At the Head of the Charles on October 21, the UW's Championship 8+ entry - Anthony Hoell (bow), Ken McMahon, Ken Rueden, Ed Newman, Derek Rasmussen, Ross James, Grant James, Joe McMullin (stroke) and Adam Barhamand (cox) - placed **1st among the collegiate entries** (14:30.18.), ahead of Brown (14:31.9), Princeton (14:32.2) and Cal (14:35.7). The US National team won the event overall in the 44 entry event. The last time the Badgers won the college division was in 2002. Over 300,000 spectators attended the 43rd running of this now classic head race.

Head of the Iowa, scheduled for Sunday, October 28, was cancelled - impacting 21 programs and 871 participants - because of flood waters in Iowa City.

At the American Heritage Classic - a mostly freshman event - on Sunday, November 4 in Wyandotte, MI, the **UW novice** eights finished first, second, third and fifth (in order, A (14:25), B (14:35) and C (15:40)). The boatings were, for Entry "A": Hatton (bow), Hedberg, Gallagher, Allen, Dudek, Rodenbough, Duhon, Yeksigian (port stroke) and Francis (cox). Entry "B": Ritchie (bow), Thompson, Prey, Harrington, Kaufman, Koch, Porter, Heald, (starboard stroke) and Altimari (cox). Entry "C": Huxtable (bow), Canty, Moore, Lange, Poeschel, Schroeder, Christen, Lucas (port stroke) and Markham (cox).

In the **Novice 4+** event, Wisco finished 1st (16:44), 2nd (17:18) and 5th. The boatings, for Entry "A": Allen (bow), Thompson, Ritchie, Harrington (starboard stroke) and Markham (cox) and for Entry "B": Hatton (bow), Hedberg, Poeschel, Canty (port stroke) and Caron (cox).

In the **"collegiate" eight** race (a mix of freshmen and sophomores in UW's case) finished 1st (13:56) and 5th. Michigan was 2nd through 4th. Wisconsin's "A" boating: Corbett (bow), Ludders, Duhon, Janous, Koch, Rodenbough, Goff, Yeksigian (port stroke) and Altimari (cox).

Rosters and Bios for 2007-08. The 2007-08 UW men's crew roster, including names and hometowns of both varsity and freshman squads, can for be found on www.uwbadgers.com.



*Older Than Dirt II - he boating (as pictured):
Jim Ricksecker (bow), Tom Schuchardt,
Larry Trotter, (Coach Ken Nelson), John
Hallett, Lou Schueller, Eric Mueller, Fred
Robertson, Al Erickson (stroke) and Hal
Menendez (cox).*

Alumni News

Alumni Race Day September 22 at the Porter Boathouse was on a lovely, windless, sunny early afternoon. Five eights entries joined this now annual fund-raiser, including alumni and rowers from the Chicago's Lincoln Park BC and the Mendota BC. The event raised close to \$3,500 for Friends!

The repeat winner - *Older Than Dirt*, the entry with the oldest average age of rowers, the largest time-adjustment advantage (6 seconds) and the proudest smiles - prevailed over the 800-meter West-to-East course with the finish line extending north from the eastern boathouse pier to a lake buoy in front of the boathouse. Many thanks to all who contributed to this successful third-annual outing! Special thanks to Matt Darga, Kevin McAleese and Jeremy Whitish for sponsoring the food and beverages at the event and to Jeremy Whitish for handling all the cooking!

Coach Randy Jablonic appeared on *America's Most Wanted* television show on Saturday evening, September 29, while being interviewed about accused Sterling Hall bomber and former UW rower Leo Burt. A one-time UW rower coached by Jablonic, Burt is still at large, one of four accused in the August 24, 1970 bombing of Sterling Hall and the resultant death of a young Professor Fassnacht. The book *Rads* describes much of this history.



Peter Eckhardt, son of the late Paul O. Eckhardt, Jr. (UW rower '32 and '33), dedicating an eight named after his father.

Dedication Day on November 10 drew over 50 participants to christen the *Paul O. Eckhardt, Jr. '33* eight by Peter Eckhardt and the *IRA Golds '00* coxed four by Fran Taylor. Eight oil portraits in the Coaches Gallery were also dedicated.

Upcoming Activities in 2008

Winter Break in Austin, TX is **December 28, 2007 to January 10, 2008**.

The 2007-08 annual Crew Banquet is being held Saturday, **February 9, 2008**, beginning at 5:00 PM at the Porter Boathouse (for reservation details see WiscoRowing.org).

Spring Break is from **March 15 to 23, 2008**. Alumni or parents able to host UW rowers at their homes (for compliance reasons) for a dinner one of these nights should e-mail: bradleyftaylor@hotmail.com or Coach Clark at chc@athletics.wisc.edu

Wisco's two home dual races in 2008 are **April 5** (vs. Michigan) and **April 12** (vs. Minnesota) and the annual Midwestern Rowing Championships on Lake Wingra is **April 26**; all are on Saturdays.

April 19 and 20, UW will travel to Redwood City, CA to participate in the Stanford Invitational. On **May 3**, in Hanover, NH, Wisco will compete against Dartmouth and MIT for the Cochrane Cup and the next day, **May 4th** in Boston, for the Jablonic Cup against Boston University.

The conference championship Eastern Sprints will be **May 18** in Worcester, MA.

In preparation for the IRA's, Wisconsin will compete **May 30** against Navy in Annapolis, MD, followed **June 5-7** by the IRA's on the Cooper River in Camden, NJ. As this newsletter goes to press, the eight-event men's format looks to be trimmed to six, with the straight four (first added from 1899-1913 and re-introduced in 1974) and the pairs (first added in 1971) events likely to be dropped.



Coach Norm Sonju's portrait, one of eight hanging in the Porter Boathouse Coaches Gallery. The portrait, sponsored by the Espeseth family, was commissioned by Friends.

Report from Friends of UW Men's Crew

Friends sponsored a Twin Cities alumni cocktail November 13 at the Minneapolis Club in Minneapolis, attended by around 25 former rowers. Coach Clark, Fred Robertson and Brad Taylor drove from Madison and back that day for the event. Coach Jablonic also drove over from the UP.

The second corporation to give Friends a matching gift - Chubb & Sons – sent their match on November 28th. With a securities account, Friends is also able to accept gifts of appreciated securities.

At a recent Friends board meeting, a visitor asked: How do the men's crew endowments at the UW Foundation interface with the Badger Fund, since the matter is very confusing to alums seeking season tickets each year for football, basketball and hockey. Put simply: Season ticket purchasers should i.) pay the ticket 'premium' needed to obtain tickets where they choose, ii.) pay the Badger Fund for tickets but iii.) pay all

additional Badger Point-oriented contributions to the **Murphy Fund** men's crew endowment and not to "Badger Fund – Men's Rowing".

The reasoning is as follows: Murphy Fund **endowment contributions** do generate Badger Points AND add to the long term financial underpinnings of men's crew (endowment contributions are permanent funds, never spent on annual operating expenses of men's crew – only the earnings from such endowment balances) – **whereas** a check payable to "Badger Fund – Men's Rowing" simply off-sets that year's annual budget payments by the Athletic Department to men's rowing and thus is entirely consumed in the year given.

Last Pieces

Check out WiscoRowingHistory.org and WiscoRowing.org for merchandise and alumni news. For the latest race results, go to www.uwbadgers.com or www.row2k.com .

Of note: The new Director of Development-Athletics at the UW Foundation is **Russell A. Betts**, who replaces Trent Jackson, now VP of Development at Wayland Academy. Russell is a 1994 UW graduate and was a student-athlete on the track team. He is married and has a daughter age seven. Russell is reachable at Russell.Betts@uwfoundation.wisc.edu or by phone at 608.263.0781.

In memoriam.....The news of the June 2004 death of David W. Novak (UW '62) was recently learned. We also regret to note the May 23, 2007 passing of UW rower Dr. Ralph B. Busch, Jr. (UW '42); a generous memorial gift in his name has been made to the Murphy Fund by the estate.

Friends' gifts in support of the program, as described in several places above, are made possible only by you - the generous alumni and supporters of UW men's crew. Many thanks for another successful year. We wish all of you a Merry Christmas, Happy Holiday and a successful and healthy New Year.



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- **Oldest sport at UW**
- **First varsity in 1892**
- **First IRA title in 1900**
- **14 team Ten Eyck trophies**
- **Every Olympics since 1968**