

THE MAROON LAGOON

The Spring 2007 Newsletter of the University of Chicago Crew Club



Thoughts on the University Rowing Association Championships

Sean Beyers Class of 2010

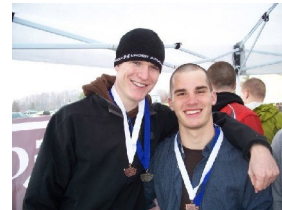
Date: April 1, 2007
Location: Moraine State Park: Butler, Penn.
Course: Lake Arthur - 2000m, floating start
Weather Conditions: Rain, 50-60 degrees, Moderate Wind, Flat Water
Regatta Website:
<http://www.universityrowing.com/>

On a cold and rainy day in April, five of the eight crews that comprise the University Rowing Association competed in the first regatta of the 2007 spring season out in Butler, Pennsylvania. The temperature was in the low 40's most of the day, and there was a constant rain that did not break until the awards ceremony. However, despite the miserable weather conditions and early wakeup at 4:45 in the morning, it was a good learning experience for the largely novice University of Chicago Crew Team.

Taking place only one week after an intense spring training, the team was nervous and excited. Although the varsity squads were out of practice due to remarkably bad weather in Chicago the week before, and the novices were still learning the art of rowing as a unit, Chicago Crew showed its large potential. In particular, the Novice Men showed off their depth and strength with a 2nd place finish in the 4+ and a 3rd place finish in the 8+. The Varsity Men also found themselves on the podium with a 3rd place finish in the 4+. Despite the lack of first place finishes, the members of the team all felt that they had learned from the experience. Overall, the regatta helped shaped new goals and set the tone for the rest of the season.

The regatta certainly was critical for the team, however, it also helped four separate squads solidify themselves into a complete team. There is something to be said for the bonding that can only be achieved through collective suffering. Traveling in close quarters on a crowded bus and eating stale donuts at a backwater truck stop sounds awful. Yet, I fondly think of the trip as one of the best experiences of my life. Huddling with my sweaty boat-mates under a broken tent after our race could not have been more enjoyable. It was fun knowing that everyone around

me was just as cold, just as tired, just as hungry, and still, just as happy and excited to be there as myself. In the end, we all left Pennsylvania with a new sense of gratitude for our teammates. The travel and weather may have been trying, but it hardened us into a cohesive unit ready to take on any other crew in the country.



Sean and fellow Chicago Rower John Dyer posing with their medals after the awards ceremony



The Novice Men's 8+ getting ready to row



Chicago's Tent

Photos Courtesy of Sean Beyers and Doug Rathburn

Strong Alumni Turnout at a Successful Dad Vail Regatta

Marjie Bush Class of 2009

Date: May 10-12, 2007
Location: Fairmount Park, Philadelphia
Course: Schuylkill River- 2,000 meters
Regatta Website: <http://www.dadvail.org>

On Thursday May 10th after an intensely compact season, UChicago Crew sent 16 rowers and 4 coxswains with bags full of clean socks, dirty unis, and more than a year's worth of hard work and hope to the 2007 Dad Vail Regatta. With a total of four boats, each one representing one of the four squads, all of the 4+ Chicago boats made the team proud on the Schuylkill River.

For the duration of our stay the team was housed and fed by the most amazing and gracious Chicago Alumni Host Families of Brett and Jeff Saunders, Valerie Armstead, and Sara Graybill. While the team participated in the regatta's races, the alumni competed for the title of "Best Hostess Ever." Last I checked, there was a dead draw and results were inconclusive. Personally, I think all three deserve the title. Keep your eyes open for the results for next year's rematch.

Friday came sooner than anyone expected. Even the heat didn't have chance to catch up! The initial mood was one of sleepy anticipation, but like the temperature, it built up as the day of racing progressed.

Launching first of the four squads, the Men's Varsity 4+ faced some steep competition.

From stroke to bow the boat consisted of Luke Matthews, Hayden Hudson, Matthew Bruce, Karl LaFavre, and Yee Fay Lim coxing. With only the top two boats in their heat advancing to the semi-finals on Saturday, the Chicago boat fought hard for second with a time of 7:11.86. Unfortunately, they were edged out of the semi finals in last 500m by Boston College and Pitt, which went on to place 3rd and 4th respectively in the final.

As the men docked, the varsity women's heat was beginning. From stroke to bow the Women's Varsity 4+ consisted of Nora Granville, Marjie Bush, Milena Meller, and Jessica Wright, with Elizabeth Chen coxing. During the heat, Northwestern State from Louisiana surprised everyone by jumping out quickly to first in the start sequence, followed closely by Drexel. The fight in the rest of the field was intense, but in the end Chicago made their move just a stroke

too late and lost third by less than .16 seconds to the tied Johns Hopkins and Georgia Tech crews.

After the intensely exciting Varsity races, it was the Novices turn to introduce themselves to the Dad Vail Regatta. If their races were any indication, it seems that Dad Vails will be seeing much more of these talented rowers in the years to come.

The Men's Novice 4+ launched first. Representing a very deep squad from stroke to bow were Sean Beyers, Stefan Weickowski, Garret Allen, John Dyer, with Chad Hughes coxing. This particular lineup had showed a lot of potential the weekend before at MACRAs and everyone was very excited to see them race. It was another close race in which Chicago was edged out to third in the last 500m, losing to the powerhouses of Central Florida, which went onto place 6th in the final, and Boston College.

The Women's Novice 4+ had the pressure of being the last team to race for the day, and the last hope of racing in the semi-finals on Saturday. From bow to stroke the boat consisted of Rebecca Lorick, Jamie Morgenstern, Hila Mehr, and Meghan White in bow, with Anju Muthiah coxing. Chicago again saw a great race and once again was just barely prevented from Saturday's semi-finals by a third place finish behind the dominating Trent crew.

In between the heats, the alumni tent was a great place to hang out and a luxurious amenity where, thanks to Valerie, Jeff and Brett, food was always plentiful and shade was welcomed. Throughout the day, we were visited by several alumni, including our old friend Chris Noto, former captain of the team and head of the rowing alumni association. The alumni were incredibly supportive and I don't think that we could have made it through the weekend without them.

As for the rest of our weekend, it was spent enjoying our wonderful hosts' food and hospitality, watching some amazing races, and vowing that we would never hear the words "third place" next year.



*Varsity Men's 4+ at Dad Vails
Photo Courtesy of Liz Chen*

Captains' Report

2006-2007 Captains Karl LaFavre and Nora Granville

The University of Chicago Crew hit the water on March 17th as we kicked off our spring break training in Chicago. Our fears of cold temperatures were dispelled as the weather proved beautiful throughout our week of intensive training. We enjoyed ourselves on the water as well as off at team dinners and evening 'classes' during which we watched videos of the days' practices and discussed technique. During the week Chicago GSB and Chicago Crew alum Doug Rathburn very kindly lent us his Hudson pair and came out on the river with us to share his rowing wisdom. Overall, the week went quite smoothly and much progress was made.

Psyched for our first regatta of the season, the team traveled to Moraine State Park, in Pennsylvania, for the URA Championships. We left with some medals, but more importantly, this early regatta provided us with the determination to compete at a higher level the rest of the season. Both the varsity men and women committed to two-a-day practices, and our novice teams built upon this experience at their first spring regatta to prepare well for the rest of the season.

Early in the season, the weather didn't seem to be on our side, with many cancelled water practices due to lightning and high winds sending us to the ergs. However, the weather eventually became more cooperative, and we came back to consistent water practices with a new confidence forged on the ergs.

The hard work paid off at the MACRA Regatta in Grand Rapids, MI. The regatta was a success for the team, with strong performances all around, and both of us walked away feeling that the breadth of accomplishment across all squads was uniquely great in our several years of experience with Chicago Crew.

Soon we were at the Dad Vail Regatta in Philadelphia, where we received much great support from many University of Chicago alumni. Our boats raced well but ended up finishing a bit behind where we would have liked. The regatta was nonetheless a wonderfully valuable experience, with everyone very attentively studying the other races and determinedly setting their sights for next year.

Overall, the season was one of much good work and progress made by all squads, most especially evident in our racing at the MACRA Regatta. Both of us are proud of this year's accomplishments, and very much look forward to seeing Chicago's varsity joined next year by our exceptionally strong novice teams.



Coaches' Report

Head Varsity Coaches Amanda Carson & Eric Mersmann

We end this year as we end every year, proud of the accomplishments the team has made, aware of the areas we can improve and excited about the coming year.

Our fall season began with no small difficulties. Having bounced around from site to site the preceding year, the team found itself homeless going into the preseason. However, the board, under the leadership of Junior Matt Bruce, worked tirelessly along side the University administration to secure our current home at the Magnolia Street Site, alongside the Lincoln Park Boat Club and St. Ignatius Chicago Crew. Despite this late start, the team rallied and performed admirably throughout the fall.

The fall is an especially exciting time for novice rowers, and this year was no exception. The Novice Coaching staff did a spectacular job of recruiting and training throughout the fall season. Head Novice Men's Coach Jeffrey Hreben and Assistant Maris Goldmanis, both alumni of the team, built an impressive squad, pushing the limits of our fleet when boating their practices throughout the fall. Although a new addition to the coaching staff and the team, Novice Women's Coach Rosemary Anderson created an amazingly skilled squad, despite a relatively small turnout at the beginning of the year. The success of the novice boats is the surest sign of the potential the team will have moving forward, and thanks to the Novice Coaching staff, there seems to be great potential.

The Club occupied the long Chicago winter on the ergs. Although erging is never anyone's favorite activity, the winter season was made significantly less arduous by the addition of 5 new Concept 2 Model Ds. Having a grand total of 14 Model C or D ergs enabled us to make practices more efficient and convenient for everyone, and as the athletes pushed themselves and each other on the ergs, the ergs pushed back, giving us the valuable boat speed we would need in the spring.

While some crews were winging off to Florida or Texas or South Carolina for Spring Training, we opted to remain in Sweet Home Chicago. Fortunately, we were blessed with unseasonably warm weather, and the team made the most of it. Doug Rathburn (MBA '05) returned to lend his coaching expertise to the squad for a weekend, and to lend his technical expertise to the coaches. With three to four practices a day, the haze of months of erg training faded as the rowers found their swing again, and the muscles still aching from that last pull on the flywheel instead sent the shells coursing through the Chicago River.

Thanks to the leadership on each squad, this momentum was harnessed, and propelled us through a successful spring season. Although missing a number of races due to trailering difficulties, Captains Nora Granville and Karl LaFavre made sure the club made the most of each race.

We are both looking forward to what promises to be a very strong year. Again, the Athletic Department has stepped up its support of the club, enabling us to expand our fleet. We anticipate purchasing two eights this summer, both of which are sorely needed, especially given the numbers we'll have in the fall. We would not be in this position without the support we've received from the rowers and coaches who came before us, without the parents and friends of the team who stand by us, and most notably without the athletes who give us everything we ask of them and more. To all of you, we extend our most heartfelt gratitude.

Thoughts on the Year President's Report

Matthew Bruce Class of 2008

Reflecting back on this past year, I am extraordinarily proud of the growth that our club has demonstrated. In particular, the operation of the club of has improved. Over the past year, we have obtained secure river site access, a problem that plagued us for a number of years. We have also made substantial investments in equipment. In addition to purchasing several new outboards and Jonboats, 16 new oars, and several new ergometers, we are taking delivery on the two pairs and single that were awarded to the club by the Women's Board.

Perhaps the most significant change in the past year has been an improved relationship with the Athletic Department and the University as a whole. We have worked with Tamsen Burke, Assistant Director of Athletics for Sports Clubs, far more closely than we have in the past. This relationship has led to the club receiving far more funding from University sources than in previous years. We received \$16,000 from the Annual Allocations Committee for FY2007-2008, nearly \$5,000 more than for FY2006-2007. This, combined with the approximately \$6,000 we received through Quarterly Allocations, and the \$17,000 granted by the Women's Board and Athletic Department brings University support to over \$35,000, far higher than at any point in recent memory.

Our performance in fundraising has also improved over the past year. We reinstated the Erg-A-Thon and raised over \$5,000 towards the purchase of a new 8+. As in the past, the team sold t-shirts and Chinese buns throughout the year. However, we also began selling other items that included, mounted vintage Life Magazine advertisements and shot-glasses. Over all, our fundraising improved to well over \$8,000 for the year.

In addition to the fiscal growth experienced, the team also grew a great deal in size. At the end of this year, the team was comprised of some 40 athletes, with only 3 graduating seniors. Next fall, we look forward to continued growth from recruitment and strong retention from of the novice athletes.

Our coaching staff has also shown amazing dedication to our squads this year. The impact of having a dedicated coach to instruct and mentor can be seen in the improved performances by the team. Their advice often extends far beyond simply rowing, but extends into career and other areas. For this, and for infinitely many other reasons, I express the thanks of the entire team for all of our coaches.

Finally, I have one last piece of exciting news to share. Late this spring we received funding from the

Congratulations to all of our boats at the Mid-American Collegiate Rowing Association Championship Regatta!

May 5, 2007; Grand River MI



Highlights

- *Lightweight Men's 4+: Bronze*
- *Lightweight Women's 4+: 4th Place*
 - *Varsity Men's 4+: 5th Place*
 - *Novice Men's 4+: 5th Place*
- *Novice Women's 4+: 3rd in their heat*



The Team at MACARAS

Athletic Department, in the amount of \$27,000 for the purchase of a new boat. This money, along with the money raised through fundraising and a number of donations will allow us to purchase two nearly new Pocock Hyper-Carbon Eights for \$42,000.

This past year has brought about immense change in the operation of the team and as a result, the athletes have a new sense of motivation and purpose. The team has literally been revitalized. I look forward to the team's continued growth and competitiveness, and thank all the alumni and parents who have supported the team this year.



*Team Picture
Photo Courtesy of the Carson Family*



Fall 2007 Race Schedule

- 9/29 *Head of the Des Moines Regatta*, Des Moines, IA
- 10/7 *Head of the Rock Regatta*, Rockford, IL
- 10/19-10/21 *Head of the Charles*, Boston, MA
- 10/21 *Head of the Eagle*, Indianapolis, IN
- 10/27 *Head of the Elk*, Elkhart, IN
- 10/28 *Head of the Iowa*, Iowa City, Iowa

As always, alumni and parents are invited and encouraged to attend regattas. We would love to see you all!



Alumni Rowing Opportunity

If you are an alum and living in the Chicago area, there are opportunities to row with the club! Those interested should contact Club President Matthew Bruce at mbruce@uchicago.edu.



2007 Alumni BBQ and Row

The 2007 Annual Alumni BBQ will be on Saturday September 22nd at the Point. Friends and Family of rowers past and present are welcome and encouraged to come. Parking is available near the Shoreland. In case of rain, the event will be moved to the Bartlett Lounge/Trophy Room on University Ave. (Further details will be sent out over the summer.)

This year's event will also feature a silent auction with items including, old blades, seats, and naming rights to our new boats!

Alumni, if you are interested in coming, please contact Chris Noto at crnoto@life.bio.sunysb.edu or visit the Website <http://life.bio.sunysb.edu/~crnoto/crew/> Please be sure to include in your e-mail if you would like to participate in the Alumni Row earlier in the morning.

Parents, if you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Parent/Alumni Chair, Morgan Lindsay at morgan.lindsay@uchicago.edu. Please be sure to include "BBQ" in your subject heading.

It would be appreciated if all RSVPs were submitted before September 10th.



Spring 2007 Board

President	Matthew Bruce mbruce@uchicago.edu
Vice President/ Regatta Chair	Elizabeth Chen ejchen@uchicago.edu
Treasurer	Hayden Hudson hhudson@uchicago.edu
Secretary	Becky Brehl rbrehl@uchicago.edu
Parent/Alumni Chair	Morgan Lindsay morgan.lindsay@uchicago.edu
Fundraising Chair	Majie Bush marjibu@uchicago.edu
Webmaster	Yee Fey Lim yflim@uchicago.edu
Equipment Manager	Miles Betley mbetley@uchicago.edu

*Congratulations to the newly elected 2007-2008 Captains
Marjie Bush and Miles Betley!!*