



VOLUME SEVEN • SUMMER 2011

# SWEET

THE OFFICIAL WASHINGTON ROWING QUARTERLY

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A WASHINGTON ROWING STEWARDS PUBLICATION

# National Champions!!



The site for the IRA National Championship races on the Cooper River is unlovely in any season, but on June 4th it was the prettiest spot in the nation.

The Husky men's teams laid down a set of races that will be remembered and discussed for ages. The freshmen eight rowed their finest race of the season to capture the silver medal. The open 4+ and the varsity 4+ both took gold. The second varsity 8+ took their fifth straight national championship, and their seventh in the last eight years. And then came that magnificent varsity 8+ race with all the drama, excitement, thrill and payoff that an athlete, coach or fan could want.

After stumbling in the wind in the semis the prior day, the Husky varsity came to the finals to win. You know the back story by now. Just one year ago the squad suffered a heartbreaking loss to California in the finals – an eyeblink's distance, .26 of a second. "Point two six" became our team's mantra and for twelve months through rain and cold and periods of trial, they used it to keep their focus. Everyone expected a tight race with Harvard and California but the Huskies had something to prove and they did just that with one of the most athletic, mature and dominating 2000 meters in recent history.

The Huskies have now won 14 National Championships over the long history of the program, the most recent two coming in the last three years under coach Michael Callahan.

The performance also earned our Huskies its fifth straight Ten Eyck trophy for team performance which is a signature objective of the program. Think about it: almost 40 Husky rowers won gold or silver on the Cooper River this year.

It should be noted, too, that senior Niles Garrett won his fourth straight national championship. Each was won in a four; this year's gold was in the open 4+.

Have you ever had so much fun? Well, pat yourself on the back for it. We have the best collection of student-athletes, the best coaches, the best athletic department and the best rowing program in North America and not because the stars happened to be in a favorable alignment. It happened, in part, because of your support and involvement. If you hadn't stepped up when the program needed you, it is unlikely that we would be celebrating as we are this year. We've said it before and we love repeating it: the University of Washington has the best collegiate rowing program in North America. Period. Now let's get working on next season.



## Season Finale - NCAAs



*Junior Victoria Nenchev stroked the Second Varsity 8+*



*Second Varsity 8+ coxswain Kelsey Jackson after a Petite Final win*

The Memorial Weekend scramble on Lake Natoma for the women's national championship was nearly everything the Huskies could hope for, and it will have true rowing fans impatiently waiting for the next season.

The Huskies finished eighth in the team championships, won by Brown and featuring four Pac-10 teams among the top finishers. The Husky varsity showed spirit finishing fourth in the petite final. The second varsity rowed a gutsy, intense race to finish first in their petite final. Bob Ernst told the Seattle Times: "The JVs rowed a great race today. They really came together the last week or so. I couldn't be happier for them."

The varsity 4+ placed fourth in the grand final. Assistant coach Colin Sykes said: "We were pleased with the fact that we had the best race we had all year in the final. They raced from start to finish, no let-up."

Okay, expectations among Huskies are high but we want you to know that these girls came to race and the races they laid down demonstrated that they are making great strides in moving the team back into the very top tier of the sport. It is a difficult, multi-year process and this year's results showed that the Huskies made the next, necessary step in 2011.

And here is the reason we wish the 2012 racing season was about to begin. Twenty Husky rowers and three coxswains competed in this national championship regatta and the group is losing only four rowers and one cox to graduation. Three freshmen and one sophomore competed in the varsity boat. The strong second varsity was led by five juniors and two sophomores. Everyone from that great varsity 4+ will be back except for the cox, Michele Miyauchi. As coach Ernst says, it's all about recruiting. He is on track and so are his student-athletes. Next year is going to be a great show.



*Stern four of the Varsity 8+ (r to l): Camilla Andersen, Erin Lauber, Kerry Simmonds, and Madison Culp at the NCAA Championships*

The fifth annual Dave McLean Memorial Golf Tournament & Auction will take place on Saturday, August 13th at Washington National Golf Course. This fun event raises thousands of dollars every year for the Dave McLean Scholarship Endowment. Be sure to sign up at [www.davemcleangolf.com](http://www.davemcleangolf.com) for this wonderful event!

# Game On

We sat at a kitchen table. Our three young hosts apologized for their roommate's tardiness.

"He called. He'll be here soon," Jeff said with something close to a smirk in his voice. "He'd better be," Dan laughed. Foreshadowing what we were about to learn, Ambrose said: "This is going to be fun." Two minutes later when Rob Munn burst through the door spilling apologies, his teammates pummeled him with abuse.



*Rob Munn at the award dock after winning an IRA Championship in the Second Varsity 8+*

We listened. The banter suggested that even something as innocent as a two minute delay had been marked somewhere in a scorable game they were playing. We had scheduled the conversation to learn how college life for current rowers differed from the life we led when we lived at Conibear. But the incident side-tracked the question in favor of a new one: Just how competitive are these guys?

On that evening at that townhouse at their table, the veneer we all develop to mask our competitive drives was refreshingly absent. These four young Husky oarsmen (and all their teammates, no doubt) live lives that are openly, willingly and humorously driven by competition. There was something uniquely attractive in their expectation of perfection from Rob, and the result was that he didn't have a chance against their merry fun. Round lost, yes, but you knew there would be more to come for their life together this year was regulated to a startling degree by contests.



*Ambrose Puttmann (l) in the Varsity 8+ at Opening Day*

The compulsion to compete lies within all of us, but in the next forty-five minutes we discovered that it is a conscious, focused fact that dominates our rowers' lives. It begins at the first practice of their freshman year with wind sprints that some will swear lasted for over an hour, not the scheduled 20 minutes. And it continues through nine months of exercise, erging, pair training, practice pieces, conditioning drills, time trials and racing, followed by summer workouts at home, at rowing camps or on a national team. The trick is finding ways to make it fun, constantly positive, and conducive to a sport that requires the epitome of teamwork.

Jeff Gibbs, Robert Munn, Ambrose Puttmann and Dan Kavanagh have found that balance. They live in a townhouse north of campus, compact but with three bedrooms and a loft. Their biographies can be found on [www.gohuskies.com](http://www.gohuskies.com) and we encourage you to check them out. When we got beyond the antics of Rob's arrival, we discovered quickly that these young men perform on and off the water to a higher standard than many of us did at their age. No one in the house, for instance, has a grade point average under 3.3 and the highest rises to nearly 4.0.



*Jeff Gibbs (l) is a 2011 PAC-10 and IRA Champion in the Varsity 4+*

Jeff is majoring in biochemistry and plans to become a zoo veterinarian. Rob studies political science and history and is keeping his options open in spite of a strong interest in politics. Ambrose is majoring in biology and will attend medical school after graduation. Dan, a former Husky cox, is an electrical engineering and math major involved in a long-term internship that will lead to work with the firm in astrophysics. You come away from the four knowing that they will have no trouble achieving the goals they set out for themselves even in our very competitive world. In fact, you come away from them with a sense of admiration for the maturity they possess in the midst of the fun they create.

If they have a single, notable characteristic in common, it is that intense competitive drive. It defines them. There is the obvious competition for seats, of course – like their coach, the three row off the wrong side of the ... oops, we meant starboard side of the boat. Seat competition for them is a battle they keep within themselves. But just about everything else is fair game.

*continued from page 4...*

There is academic progress, for example. Because their life goals are aligned with their academic choices, they stay focused. But what course of study doesn't wear over time? And who hasn't had a boring class? So they agreed to make mental vacations more expensive by attaching dollars to them. If a housemate's grades dip in an academic quarter, he owes \$20 to the house. And it is a factor of their drive that for nearly three years, dips have happened only twice, and on those two occasions the two men involved each dropped less than .02 of a percentage point.

They concede that Jeff is the most organized and the hardest worker but everything else is an open question subject to the next contest. They've got a Nintendo 64, a relic of their youth, which serves as both contest and stress reliever. We heard about wild sessions of Mario Kart and Super Smash Brothers. And then there are games of cribbage with running scores carefully kept, and board games tucked away for the right moment.

And life away from Conibear, that original question? As we talked, it became a less important and, importantly, less interesting. Teammates live close by, parties and study sessions occur regularly, but Conibear remains, as it has for generations, the central focus of their campus life away from the classrooms. That's where they recreate, that's where they test themselves, and that's where they've found most of their friends. They may not shoot rats from the balcony or blow up dynamite caps in Union Bay; they may not

relocate their coach's car to the roof of Conibear or explore steam tunnels on campus; but in all other regards, they lead a life that is surprisingly similar to the ones we led. And we have no doubt that they are creating their own antics that will become their own legends over time.

We were so impressed with these four men we returned to Coach Callahan and asked about the strength required to survive at the shellhouse. He noted that there are those who chose to move on as there are in any intercollegiate program, and those who find themselves unable to live up to the demands of the sport and still maintain their academic standing. So legitimate, self-selected departures occur, but those are healthy choices for everyone. That said, however, he emphasized that both the coaches and athletes are focused on ensuring that each member of the team succeeds no matter how skilled, no matter which boat. On a squad as large and competitive as ours, that says a great deal about the ethics and spirit of the program.

"What about this quartet?" we asked. "Did you set us up? Are these guys typical or did you pick them on purpose?" He replied: "They are typical of our student-athletes but they are also the model of what we are looking for right now. They are rare and hard to find, but worth all the effort."

We agree.



### **Pledge/Gift Form**

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Return to: University of Washington Athletics, Attn: Husky Crew Fund, Tye Office – Box 354070, Seattle, WA 98195

(CREWFC/64-1511) CRW12

# Spring Events

## VBC Banquet

The quarter started, as always, with the Varsity Boat Club Banquet. This year's speaker, Fred Schoch '72, runs the world-famous Head of the Charles Regatta – which our Husky men just happened to win last fall.

Once again it was a sell-out crowd, bolstered this year by the women's class of 2001 celebrating their 10th reunion, and by members of the class of 1961 celebrating their 50th reunion.

Awards were made, new VBC members inducted, parents updated, old friends reunited, and everyone treated to a piece of "entertainment" by the seniors. Unexpected by everyone, it was an instant hit and shows promise of becoming a new Husky tradition. Be there next year to find out what it is all about.

## Class Day Activities

First on the water was the Class of '61. Board Chair and Commodore of the class, Chuck Turbak, pulled out all the stops to gather his classmates to the banquet, and they responded to his call. Twenty-three old oars and spouses showed up, enough to fill an eight and a four (supplemented by Chuck's grandson) and a few launch riders claiming injury. Ron Wolfkill, the '61 Captain and varsity cox, still lying about his weight, barked the group through



*The Class of '61 after their reunion row*

a 500 meter row into the Cut and said on return: "The guys weren't half bad considering those new-fangled oars, not bad at all." The Class of '61 gifted the program with two sets of those new-fangled oars.

The Goodtimes II was on schedule and filled with parents and friends. Dwight Phillips popular annual affair gave everyone a close up view of the races and expert commentary by the coaches.

After the races, everyone gathered at the shellhouse for the most anticipated BBQ of the year. No one went away hungry or disappointed.

And everyone will recall the most unusual finish and award ceremony in the history of the classic.

## Women's Alumni Race

More than 50 Women's team alumni representing five decades of Washington rowing gathered on Class Day morning to race in what is sure to be a new yearly tradition. Four boats of former Husky rowers raced 1000m in Ham 'n' Egger style line-ups. All crews finished within two seconds of each other in a display of competitive spirit and fight-to-the-finish gusto characteristic of the Washington rowing program.

Current members of the women's team, family and friends lined The Cut to cheer on the racers. Seattle weather provided the perfect backdrop for this special event with a gorgeous sunrise over the Cascade mountains and perfectly flat water on which to row.

A very special thanks goes to Nicole Minett, Denni Nessler, and Vanessa Tavalero for creating and organizing this wonderful morning. Thanks to Kim Lawrence for working with the Big "W" Club to provide gifts to all the participants. Thanks also to the eight members of the Class of 2001 who met in Seattle to celebrate their 10-year reunion at this event, and to show their continued support for Washington rowing.

The alumni group provided great inspiration to the current women's team starting their spring racing season. We hope to see even more alums at next year's Alumni race!



*A vibrant group of Women's Alums after the race*



*All four crews entered the cut within a few seats of each other*

# Sophomore Reality

Believe it: The academic rigor at the University of Washington is intense, probably much more so than a decade ago, certainly much more so than a quarter century ago, and for the 50 year reunion members ... well, we won't go there.

Right after Class Day, we sat down with three high-performance sophomores to discover how they forged a balance between classes, athletics and their personal lives.

Brandon Taft grew up in Fircrest and graduated from Bellarmine Prep. As the second Husky in a family of 16 Cougars, he had much to prove. After years of high school football and basketball, he intended to skip college athletics to concentrate on civil engineering studies. But during the first week of school Alex Bunkers happened to spot Brandon on campus in a USRowing t-shirt and said: "Hey, you're a big dude. See you down at the shellhouse for the meeting this afternoon." So Brandon showed up.



*Dusan (l) and Alex (r) as stern pair of the undefeated 2010 freshman 8+. Dusan stoked the 2011 2V8+ to an undefeated season and an IRA title, while Alex sat seven seat in the National Champion Varsity 8+*

Alex Bunkers graduated from Winter Park High School in Maitland, Florida. He had planned to attend Syracuse University and hadn't considered a West coast university until mid-way through his senior year. Even today he seems a bit surprised by his choice but definitely pleased that he made it. Like so many recruits, it was a combination of the UW's highly rated academics, its world-class rowing program, the persuasive logic of freshmen coach, Luke McGee, and a recruiting trip weekend that coincided with warm, clear-skied weather that showed off Seattle at its absolute best.

Dusan Milovanovic grew up in Novi Sad, Serbia. Reports from rowing buddies at home about the Washington rowing program, and lots of internet research led him to the UW. Just the same, he almost missed making the important connection with Michael Callahan two years ago at the Junior Worlds. With conflicting venue passes that kept them in separate areas during the multi-day event, he didn't catch the coach and make his pitch until five minutes before leaving for home. With more information about his academic performance, rowing chops and erg scores, it all came together quickly.

We asked about the challenges they faced in their new environment. "For me," Brandon said, "it was the switch from skills sports played in spurts to a cardio/endurance sport. It was a big challenge for me my freshman year. I was tired the whole year but especially tired in winter quarter when we worked indoors on ergs without a break." Alex and Dusan agreed. "In the fall you have the Thanks-

giving break," Alex said, and Dusan added: "And something about the spring racing schedule forces you to focus on your studies. And there is the excitement of racing, too. It's that long winter quarter that gets you."



*Brandon Taft sat bow seat in last year's undefeated freshman 8+*

"There was something else, too," Alex said. "It took me awhile to understand how to adjust my mind and body to a different schedule. In high school," he explained, "I got up about seven and went to bed pretty late. But here I'm up at five or earlier and begin the day with the turnout." All three agreed that they had to learn to shift their study time from the evenings to the mornings and early afternoons before the fatigue set in. And Brandon added: "I've learned that it's best to study right after class when it's fresh." The other two agreed instantly. And then, after a quick glance at his buddies, one of them laughed and added, "and we've discovered that it's okay to go to bed at eight-thirty."

Brandon has added geology to his civil engineering studies and is currently carrying a 3.25 GPA. Alex admitted to a bumpy start his freshman year but has things under control now. He is a communications major and has pulled his grades above 3.0.

Dusan might have been the best prepared of the three for college academics. He attended a rigorous school in Serbia and was well prepared for freshman math and science classes. He said: "Without rowing, I think I might have made a 4.0 last year." He's not much below that now and has his sights set on a business degree. In fact, the day before we talked, he had submitted his application to the Foster School of Business.

One strong message on adaption to the scholastic demands of the university came from their freshman coach Luke McGee. His constant refrain during their freshman year was: "Study beforehand and race with a clear mind." Yes, it got old, they said, but they appreciated it then and they do now for the wisdom the words contain.

Another key to success for the three during their first year at Washington was the quick friendships made at the shellhouse. "Your friends are here," Alex and Brandon agreed. "The guys on this team have very, very strong bonds."

The sum of the inquiry is obvious. Our student-athletes are most likely adapting to the university more quickly than the average student, and to the challenges of intercollegiate sport because of the complex support system that exists within the team and from their coaches.





“The strength of our community is the backbone  
of the program....we couldn’t do it alone.”

Michael Callahan

Thank you for your support of  
Washington Rowing!



# Notable News

## Race for the Cure

At the beginning of spring break back in March, the Husky men's team participated in the Big Climb for Leukemia & Lymphoma. They ran up the stairs of the Columbia Tower in downtown Seattle for this community event.



## Cox Steers the Right Course

Varsity cox, Sam Ojserkis, underscores our team's focus on academics. He continues to maintain the highest grade point average among all intercollegiate athletes at the University of Washington.

## Pair Captures Honors



In the Husky Student-Athlete Academic Services category "Academic Excellence" which is a score that includes "continued dedication to academics, challenging course load, and notable grades," Kira O'Sullivan of the women's squad and Jeff Gibbs of the men's squad were selected for top honors.

## Team Comes in First

Once again, the Huskies have landed right where you want them: at the top. For the winter quarter among all Husky teams with 20 or more student-athletes, the men's crew came in first with a team GPA of 3.28. This performance is a good bit stronger than the student body average and comes as no surprise to generations of Huskies. It is part of the tradition that defines our teams.

## SI Highlights Conlin McCabe



In May Sports Illustrated included a mention of our own Conlin McCabe, noting that he had helped the Huskies win the Windermere Cup that month, had swept the World Individual Rowing Championships in Boston in February (collegiate, U-23, Open), and had competed with the Canadian senior national team last fall at the 2010 World Championships in New Zealand.

## Pac-10 Coach of the Year

Once again, Michael Callahan was named Pac-10 Coach of the Year. This is the third time in his four year varsity head coach career at Washington that he has won the coveted honor. In those four years he put together an enviable record: three Pac-10 championships and two IRA victories, the most recent pair coming this year in May and early June.

## 4.0

Yes, you read that correctly. Our Josh Klein of the men's crew took top honors among all athletes at the University of Washington with a perfect 4.0 GPA for winter quarter.

## All Pac-10 Honors



Kerry Simmonds, a walk on just a few years ago, continues to light up the rowing world. The Husky team captain this year, Kerry won world championship gold last summer on the U.S. U-23 team eight. She was the single selection from the Husky varsity eight to be named to the 2011 All-Pac-10 team. Kerry will join the US Senior National team this summer, with hopes of earning a spot on the 2012 Olympic Squad.

## More All Pac-10 Honors

Anthony Jacob, Hans Struzyna, Nedad Bulicic and Conlin McCabe were named to the All Pac-10 team. This is the third year in a row on the team for Jacob, Struzyna and McCabe, and the first for Bulicic who stroked the varsity this year. All four Huskies will row for their national teams this summer.



## Graduation

Ty Otto, five seat of the National Champion Varsity 8+ and 2010 Team Captain, was selected as the gonfaloniere (banner holder) for the College of Arts & Sciences at the UW Commencement Ceremony in early June. This is a prestigious honor for any student at UW, and Ty is the first student-athlete in recent memory to receive this honor. Ty was also awarded the Gertrude Peoples Scholarship and PAC-10 Postgraduate Scholarship, which he will apply to graduate school next year. Congratulations Ty!

# Board Elections

The Washington Rowing Stewards' new governance model has been implemented. The last of the major changes occurred on June 8 with the board election. It was the first membership-wide election in the long history of the organization.

Seven directors were elected to the initial terms. In the future, one third of the board will be elected each January and each board seat will have specific responsibilities that reflect the needs of the Washington rowing program.

Chair Chuck Turbak announced three other appointments in addition to the seven elected board members. Here are the new additions.

**Andrew Beaton** Andrew lettered three years on the University of Washington crew and was both Captain and Commodore in 2008. He will focus on developing internship programs for our student-athletes.

**Scott Carter** Scott graduated from the University of Washington in 1981. He rowed as a heavyweight in the first freshman boat (undefeated), and in varsity lightweight boats for the Huskies and, in 1980, for the US Lightweight Team. Scott will be responsible for developing and enlarging the Husky presence at away race sites.

**Charlie Clapp** Boston resident, Charlie '81, was appointed Director at Large. He was instrumental in generating interest and financial backing on both coasts for Husky participation in the annual Head of the Charles Regatta. He will remain active in that capacity.

**Phil Henry** Phil graduated from the University of Washington in 1994, and was a volunteer coach under John Parker in 1995. He was also a member of the US National Team for several years on which he raced successfully internationally. Phil will be responsible for developing the mentor program for the Huskies.

**Adrienne Hunter** Adrienne was a standout scholarship rower (All Pac-10, All American) on the memorable Husky teams of 2000 through 2003. Adrienne will focus on fundraising with a special focus on women.

**Howard Lee** Howard was a member of the class of 1984. Already involved as the sponsor of the Washington-California dual party at the Duchess Tavern, he will be our liaison to the Dave McLean Memorial Golf Tournament.

**Denni Nessler** Denni graduated from the University of Washington in 1998 after a highly successful rowing career (All Pac-10, Captain, Commodore, Husky Hall of Fame). After winning major plaudits for her efforts in organizing the women's Class Day alumnae race and breakfast, she will now focus on turning it into an annual affair for the Husky rowing program.

**Kjell Oswald** Kjell graduated from the University of Washington in 1996, and coached at Oregon State from 2000 to 2004. Long active in development work, Kjell will bring his considerable skills to our fundraising efforts.

**Kara Sawyer** Kara (Farquharson) '08, will fill the board seat vacated by Tristine Drennen and will assume responsibility for the Class Day Barbecue. She will run for a full three-year term in January.

**Fred Schoch** Concord, Mass., resident and second generation Husky oarsman, Fred '73, was this year's featured speaker at the VBC Banquet. He is the chief executive of the Head of the Charles Regatta and will continue to ensure that our Huskies have the means to participate in the fall event.



2011 IRA Champion Varsity 8+ (l to r) Rick Gherst, Michael Callahan, Sam Ojserkis, Nenad Bulicic, Alex Bunkers, Hans Struzyna, Ty Otto, Conlin McCabe, Anthony Jacob, Mathis Jessen, Tom Lehmann, Luke McGee

# The Men's Season

## Class Day

It all begins with Class Day but Class Day never ended quite like this one.

The men's boats had passed under the bridge with the seniors ahead by about four seats when some nut gave a quick, double blast on an air horn and the two leading shells stopped about twenty strokes short of the finish line. The juniors got it together more quickly and scrambled across the line first. Consider Yogi Berra's lesson re-learned: "It ain't over until it's over."

The juniors showed immense character and good will with a Solomonic solution to the question of who won. Their name will go on the George M. Varnell trophy but they gave the winners' pins to the seniors. In spite of the bragging rights, it is a single team, after all, and a solution like theirs makes you proud of this entire team.



## Husky Open

The men dominated the five events entered at this annual Northwest regatta. The third varsity and the Grunties came in first and second in the varsity eight competition, separated by slightly more than one second. The Huskies also placed first and second in the varsity four, and came out on top in the second varsity eight, freshman four and freshman eight competitions.

## Oregon State

On April 9, the men traveled to Oregon State for the Covered Bridge Regatta and returned from the races with all the hardware. The men's varsity, second varsity, varsity 4+ and freshmen crews all won.



## Washington State

On that same weekend another set of Husky men traveled with the women's teams to the Snake river to take on the Cougars. The Husky men swept all races, winning the varsity, second varsity, varsity 4+ and both the freshmen and second freshmen races.

## California Dual

The Bears came to town two weeks later for the 100th running of the Washington-California dual. A large crowd gathered in perfect conditions to watch the varsity jump out at the start and power on to win by three seconds. For the fifth year in a row, the Huskies took the honors and kept the Schoch Cup in Seattle. The 2V and four also won, and only the freshmen, facing a race-hardened Cal boat, lost.

This always-anticipated race was preceded on Friday by a party at the Duchess Tavern hosted by alumnus Howard Lee '84. More than one hundred Husky fans turned out for the affair.

## Windermere Cup

This year teams from Cambridge University, Stanford, Oregon State and the University of Victoria came to Seattle for the 25th Windermere Cup anniversary. The varsity raced Cambridge and Stanford for the men's Windermere Cup and finished first. The men's second varsity won the Erickson Cascade Cup by besting Stanford, the University of Victoria and Oregon State.

## Pac-10s

The men's varsity won the Pac-10 crown by beating California and Stanford in Rancho Cordova. The men's second varsity was also victorious over California and Stanford. The men's varsity four came in first ahead of Cal and Oregon State. Only the freshmen, among all Husky oarsmen, tasted defeat, once again to the strong Cal freshmen team.

## IRA

And finally the men traveled east to Camden, New Jersey, for the national championships. See the article on page 2 for the recap of this exciting regatta.

# The Women's Season

## Class Day

The class of 2011 may have been small but they had heart. Having never won a Class Day race, they drafted a few freshmen to fill the holes, took the lead at the half way mark, and won the Seattle Times trophy. The other classes followed in order – juniors, sophomores and freshmen.

## San Diego Crew Classic

On the first weekend in April, the varsity eight came up against a strong Pac-10 field in San Diego, finishing behind USC, Stanford, California and Wisconsin in the Jessop-Whittier Cup finals. But it was a successful regatta for the Huskies. The second varsity eight came in first and the novice crew also took first. To this point, novice coach, Nicole Minnett remained unbeaten in her three year stint with the Huskies.



## Husky Open

At home on the same weekend, the Huskies swept the field at the Husky Open. Two boats were entered in each of the women's varsity four races and they took first and second in each. The Husky women's novice eight boats came in first and second.

## Washington State

The following weekend, the women traveled to the Snake River to race the Washington State Cougars. In identical fashion, the Huskies swept the river, winning the varsity, second varsity, varsity four, second varsity four, novice and second novice races.



## California Dual

Two weeks later, California came to town for the annual dual race. Showing an uncanny talent for fast starts and strong finishes, the Bears swept the races, leaving the Huskies good reason to refocus on the remainder of the season.

## Windermere Cup

The women's Windermere Cup race shaped up to be a great battle between a strong team from Oklahoma and another from Cambridge University. Our women put up a great battle and took the cup. The women's second varsity, racing for the Erickson Cascade Cup faced an interesting lineup, the number one and two ranked Division II teams, Western Washington University and Seattle Pacific. The Huskies took top honors.



## Pac-10s

Lake Natoma offered threatening weather but a colorful lineup, all witnessed by a great group of parents and alumni who gathered at the Husky tent to watch the competition. Unfortunately, a squall hit during the varsity eight race and our women – perhaps affected – finished fourth behind California, Stanford and USC. The women's second varsity faced an equally difficult challenge and were beaten in the finals by Stanford, California and USC. Our varsity four put up a great race and finished second behind California, as did the novice eight which placed third behind California and Oregon State.

The women returned to Seattle knowing there was one more regatta ahead that would determine how much progress the team made this year over last.

## NCAAs

See page 3 for a recap of the national championship women's regatta.

# Ten Eyck Thoughts *Editorial by John Wilcox*

The years roll by too quickly – especially the good ones, especially this one. Choose your own highlight, there were plenty enough for anyone. My personal favorites were the Husky triumphs at the IRA, the James Ten Eyck trophy now won five years in a row, and the 50th reunion of the class of 1961.

Huh? 1961?

Okay, I understand that 1961 doesn't resonate with you as your own class year does, but it is my class, and it struck me as I thought about our reunion that, as special as we know we were, we weren't much different, really, than most classes. In fact, my class could be a fair representation of all the Husky classes, past and present.

Fifty years ago, the national press predicted that the Husky eight (made up largely of juniors that year, the class of '61) would win the right to represent the United States in Rome at the 1960 Olympic Games. It didn't. Although our team set several course records and won most of its races over the years leading up to the trials, we didn't live up to expectations. Or did we?

We won the James Van Eyck trophy at the IRA that year. Most of us thought of it as nothing more than a cruel consolation prize. It certainly didn't lift our spirits when we helped Cal load their IRA winning eight onto a rail car, and it didn't help a few weeks later when we sat in the outside lane and watched Navy celebrate its Olympic trials victory. We weren't thinking of larger issues in those days, only victories. But with distance, the Ten Eyck trophy – its meaning then and now to the Washington program – comes into better perspective. We're less focused on victories and losses these days than we are on the years that surrounded them - the stunts, the personalities, the friendships. I'll bet your class does the same.

In fact I know you do. Over the last seven years I've had the rare good fortune to meet and speak with a great number of you in my quest to open your wallets. I've discovered that most of us share an abiding conviction that our time in the boats was not just well spent but a signature period in our lives. Over and over, I've needed only to raise the subject of the program to see the romance in your eyes and your posture. Even those of you with no current connection to the program put words to events from your past as though they were fresh and foremost in your thoughts. It's pretty simple: Husky crew changed our futures by shaping the adults we became.

Michael Callahan has thought deeply about the impact rowing has on lives, and on the purposes it serves beyond the complex but essentially straight-forward quest of winning. He communicates those thoughts clearly to his student-athletes, their parents, and to any alumnus or fan who will listen. And here we get back once more to that Ten Eyck trophy. In a recent talk he made to the 101 Club, he stated that, "the trophy is important. It represents something that underlies a goal of the Husky rowing program."

He believes, you see, that the program's success isn't measured just by varsity victory but by success for each boat and each in-

dividual in the program. His job, he says, is to ensure that every participating student-athlete succeeds in having a positive, life-affecting experience. He wants his charges to be proud Huskies now, and in forty years, and forever. If each person in the program succeeds, he says – top to bottom, person by person – then he has succeeded. And he knows that the Ten Eyck trophies his teams have won represent that depth and success.

This isn't coaching hokum; Michael lives the belief. So does Bob. On April 2nd, for example, the Huskies raced at both the San Diego Crew Classic and in the Husky Open. On that weekend, there were 16 Husky shells in which 48 men and 48 women raced in intercollegiate competition. The following weekend, April 9th, the Huskies sent teams to both Dexter Lake to race Oregon State and to the Snake River to race the Cougars. On that weekend, 18 Husky boats faced off in intercollegiate competition, and they carried essentially the entire men's and women's squads to victory. I find that to be a particularly compelling fact and I'm sure the student-athletes who participated did too.

In case you missed the point, success begins with the environment. Most often winning is the happy end product but success doesn't necessarily require it – at least not every time out. And now, because of good decisions and good guidance from Bob Ernst and Michael Callahan, the program sits at one of those points in its history that will be remembered for as long as rowing is remembered at Washington. In a sporting world made hard by self-absorption and self-aggrandizement, it is a refreshing antidote, an upbeat and rational place to return not just in memory but in fact.

Not so long ago Harold Bloom wrote a long and passionate book to make his point that Shakespeare created human nature as we know it today. His point is arguable but it is also extendable. I would argue for a sporting corollary: human nature will change in fundamental ways for every man and woman who gives our sport a fair trial at the University of Washington. They will be informed by it, affected by it, and changed by it forever.

And if that is true, here is an equally important point: you own a piece of the Ten Eyck trophy. In June of 2005 we issued a call to arms in these pages. We could continue on the path we were on, we wrote, and become a second tier program, or we could invest in the future and stay on top. You responded then, you responded later when the economy fell apart, and you are responding now. I'm not writing only of money; did you know, for example, that nearly 5,000 people turned out for the Cal dual? 5,000! That was a decent crowd at a Mariners game until Ken Griffey, Jr., came along. Without you and your support there is no Husky crew.

Thanks for your encouragement, your financial support and your enthusiastic re-connection over the last few years. Please join me in giving Chuck Turbak that same level of support as he takes the Stewards' tiller. We will be back next fall with a fresh look at the 2011-2012 racing season. Until then, work hard, play hard and win all your races.



*The 2011 Second Varsity 8+ went undefeated and won the IRA National Championship*



*The Open 4+ won gold at IRAs. Niles Garatt (third from left) won four IRA National Championships as a Husky*



*The Grunties earned a silver medal at the IRA National Championships*



*The 2011 UW Women's Rowing team raced to an eighth place finish at the NCAA Championships*

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