



STROKEWATCH

FRIENDS OF UCLA MEN'S ROWING



www.uclamensrowing.org

Winter, 2004

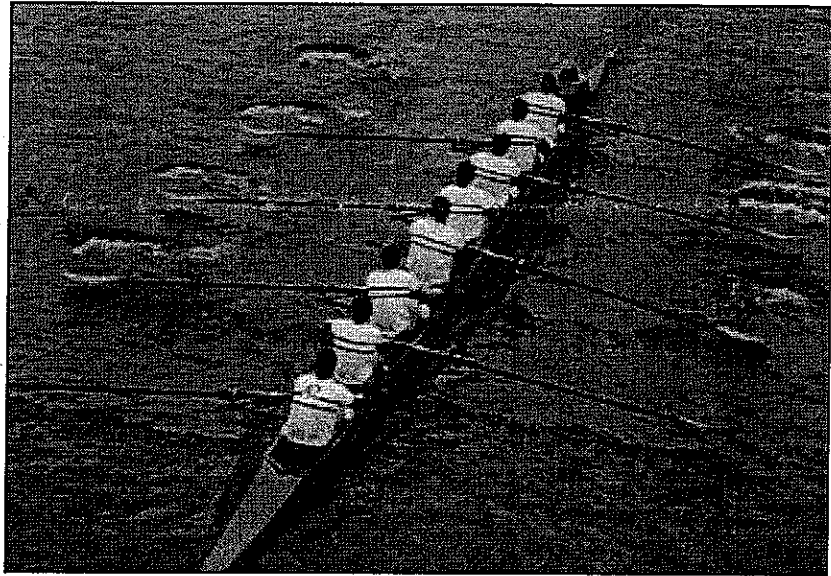
Men's Crew Races At Head Of The Charles

For the first time since 1991, the UCLA Men were represented at the fall season's premier regatta, the Head of the Charles. With 8 of the 9 members of the Varsity 8 returning from last year, the coaching staff decided that 2004 was the right time for the program to make the trip to Boston. The Bruins contingent was comprised of coxswain Kate Mead, and oarsmen Bryan Kitch, Chris Dekker, Patrick Joseph, David Hampton, Travis Thomas, Drew Cowens, Evan Faucher, Justin Price, and Danny Biocini.

The team arrived in Boston on Thursday, October 21, three days before their event, to get acclimated to the time change, weather, and race course. The course for the Head of the Charles involves navigating through six bridges and around several large turns, all while steering clear of the many other boats that start just ahead. Coxswain Kate Mead, with study sessions that would have made any of her professors proud, learned the position of each bridge, as well as the best line to steer at every point of the course.

Due to the ever increasing popularity of the race, the Head of the Charles organizers made the decision a few years ago to spread the racing over two days, Saturday and Sunday, as opposed to one. Most the marquis events, including the Men's Collegiate 8, were contested on Sunday, October 24.

Strong winds in the Charles River basin forced regatta organizers, for the first time in the event's history, to use the emergency short course for both days of racing. The short course is approximately 1000 meters less than the



The Varsity 8 races under the Weeks Footbridge during the Head of the Charles

standard course. Fortunately, the remaining 4000 meters of the course was well-protected, with only a moderate head wind at the start shifting to a light tail wind near the finish.

After three days of practice, and a day of watching other crews race, the Bruins were ready to row by the time their event started on Sunday afternoon at approximately 12:00 pm. That excitement and anticipation would translate into their rowing, as the eight didn't relax or hit a comfortable rhythm until about halfway through the course. With the short course and its narrower margin for error, and despite the fact that the crew had a strong second 2000 meters, they would finish just under 10 seconds off their goal of placing in the top-15 in the Men's Collegiate 8. As it was, the crew finished 25th of 45. "We were all a bit disappointed," said Head Coach Erinn McMahan, "despite our late start this fall relative to East Coast rowing programs, we really felt that we would have the speed to finish in the

top-10 or 15. I'm proud of the team's effort and happy that we came to Boston, we just need to go back home and refine some things to reach our goals in the spring."

Despite the lower than anticipated finish, the team had a wonderful experience during their four-day stay in Boston. The seniors were thankful to have the experience in their last year at UCLA, while the juniors are eager to return next year.

Head of the Charles Eight:
Coxswain: Kate Mead ('06)
8: Bryan Kitch ('05)
7: Chris Dekker ('06)
6: Pat Joseph ('06)
5: Dave Hampton ('06)
4: Travis Thomas ('05)
3: Drew Cowens ('05)
2: Evan Faucher ('05)
1: Justin Price ('06)

Spare: Danny Biocini ('07)

48 Oarsmen Race For Men's Crew in Fall

The theme of the fall was depth, as a total of 48 oarsmen and 6 coxswains competed for UCLA Men's Crew over the course of the 4-race fall season. Using an on-campus recruiting campaign very much like the ones used for the last 70 years, the Bruins were able to recruit their largest freshman/novice class in over a decade.

Head of the Charles:

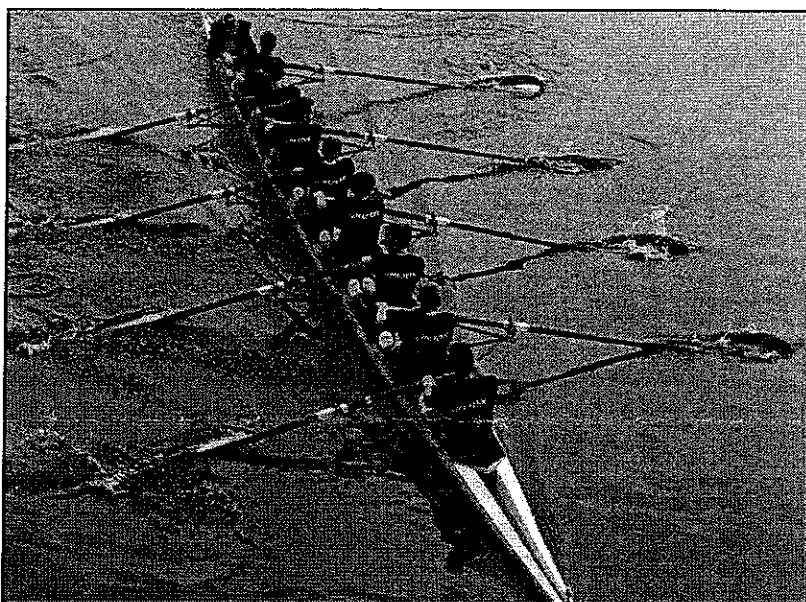
Only the Varsity 8 participated in this regatta (see page 1), placing 25th out of 45 in the Collegiate 8 division.

Head of the Marina:

Hosted by the California Yacht Club, this regatta saw action from the "C" and "D" novice boats only (the "A" and "B" boats raced the next day). In the Novice 8 category, the Bruins placed 3rd and 4th behind the "A" boats from LMU and USC. Novice coaches Erik Krogh Jespersen and Mike Aspinwall were pleased with each performance in light of the fact that both crews had been rowing for only 3 weeks. The Novice "D" got the better of their teammates, completing the 5200 meter course 12 seconds faster.

Newport Autumn Rowing Festival:

Hosted by the Newport Aquatic Center, this regatta is traditionally one of the best attended fall races on the West Coast. The Varsity 8, despite having some equipment problems, placed 6th of 24. With a malfunctioning coxbox, coxswain Kate Mead was unable to communicate with her crew, but still managed to keep them composed and 4 seconds out of 4th place. The JV 8 was split into two fours, placing 11th and 15th in the field of 22. For most of the JV oarsmen, the regatta was their first opportunity to represent their university at the varsity level. Both boats had solid races and will look to make dramatic improvements during the winter. The Bruin "A" novice boat had a strong race but was given a post-race time penalty for a traffic pattern vio-



The Frosh/Novice "A" boat had a successful fall season.



A perfect fall morning dawns as members of the V8 get ready to race.

lation during their warmup, causing them to drop from 6th to 11th overall. Their fellow novices in the "B" boat finished 16th. Both crews suffered from a lack of rowing experience relative to many of the other novice crews.

USC Fall Rivalry Race:

The Bruins faced off against the Trojan Men, who now share a boathouse with LMU, in this 4000 meter race from Ballona Creek into Marina del Rey. The Bruins won the Frosh 8 and JV8 in convincing fashion, but struggled in the Varsity 8. In the JV8, UCLA rowed to

a dominating 46-second victory. The Frosh 8 used a strong last 2000 meters to beat the Trojans by 15 seconds.

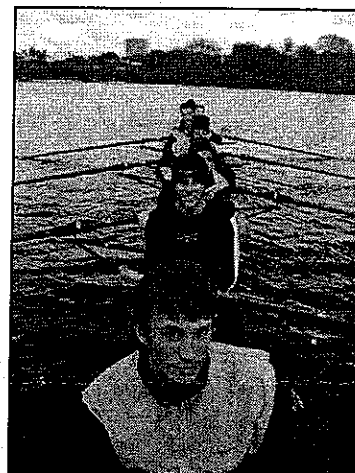
Needless to say, the V8 and their coach were not pleased with the results. "We will spend the next few months doing the hard work necessary to avenge this loss. The oarsman and I were not pleased with our performance, and we will do whatever it takes to insure that it does not happen again," said Coach McMahan. He added that the JV and Frosh results "proved that the depth of the program is improving".

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2004-2005 UCLA MEN'S ROWING TEAM

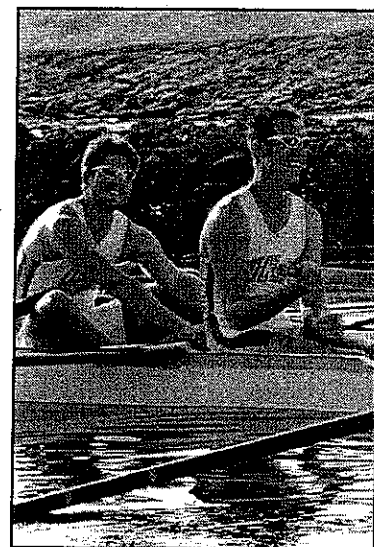
VARSIITYMEN:

Name:	Height:	Year:	Hometown:
Chris Beeckler	6-0	2005	Jacksonville, FL
Daniel Biocini	6-2	2007	Santa Clara, CA
Kyle Cadman	6-0	2007	Stockton, CA
Drew Cowens	6-0	2005	Casteau, Belgium
Chris Dekker	6-0	2006	Palm Beach Gardens, FL
Neil Doshi	5-11	2006	Huntington Beach, CA
Brian Farkas	6-3	2007	San Carlos, CA
Evan Faucher	6-1	2005	Newport Beach, CA
Ryan Frontiera	6-1	2007	Long Beach, CA
David Hampton	6-8	2006	Simi Valley, CA
Margaret Hoffecker	Cox	2007	Alexandria, VA
Pat Joseph	6-4	2006	Burlingame, CA
Bryan Kitch	6-1	2005	San Francisco, CA
Kate Mead	Cox	2006	Lincoln, England
Hiro Miura	5-9	2007	Del Mar, CA
Rod Mortazavi	6-0	2005	Laguna Beach, CA
Alex Papanicolaou	6-1	2006	Stanford, CA
Justin Price	6-1	2006	Sacramento, CA
Lok Ming Tam	5-9	2007	Los Angeles, CA
Travis Thomas	6-5	2005	San Diego, CA



FRESHMAN/NOVICEMEN

Name:	Height:	Year:	Hometown:
Chris Bald	5-10	2007	Manhattan Beach, CA
Robert Bigelow	6-1	2006	Torrance, CA
Matt Blair	6-1	2006	Laguna Niguel, CA
Roscoe Concepcion-Mata	6-1	2005	San Mateo, CA
Dan DeSantis	5-10	2008	San Diego, CA
Jason Edwards	6-1	2008	Santa Ana, CA
Mohammed El Shorafa	6-0	2006	Torrance, CA
Brett Fawley	6-3	2008	Danville, CA
Brad Gies	5-4	2008	Loomis, CA
Jorge Gottheil	6-0	2007	Yorba Linda, CA
Sarah Gross	Cox	2006	Encino, CA
Joseph Guerrero	6-0	2006	Anaheim Hills, CA
Mikael Guzman	5-10	2007	Oak Park, CA
Neal Hutchinson	5-5	2008	Lancaster, CA
Masashi Kawaguchi	6-1	2008	Agoura Hills, CA
Gideon Kleinman	5-10	2008	Van Nuys, CA
Sarah Koff	Cox	2008	Woodland Hills, CA
Arthur Lechholz-Zey	6-1	2005	Los Angeles, CA
James Long	6-1	2006	Guilford, CT
Dan Leeper	6-8	2008	Cardiff, CA
Brent Martinez	5-10	2008	Thousand Oaks, CA
Pauline Matar	Cox	2006	Palmdale, CA
Chris Moen	6-4	2008	Thousand Oaks, CA
Jeff O'Donohue	6-5	2008	Palo Alto, CA
Michael O'Rourke	5-10	2008	Millbrae, CA



Friends Of UCLA Men's Rowing News

New FOUR President

Alex Frasco, UCLA '74, will serve as FOUR's President for 2004-2005. Alex, a strong financial supporter of the program, has already begun shaping the direction that FOUR, which fundraises only for the UCLA Men's Crew, will take in the year to come.

In November, he helped organize a reunion of the Classes of 1973-'76, which was successful in bringing together over 20 former oarsmen and their wives. Jim Jorgensen '70 and Barry Berkett '74 were generous enough to each host their fellow Bruins at their homes in Newport Beach and Beverly Hills. Thanks to generous donations from Barry and Martha Berkett, Joel Coster '74, Stephen Bohlmann '75, and Bruce Kroyer '75, the reunion has already raised a significant amount of money to support UCLA Men's Crew.

Alex has worked with Lyndsey Wells and Coach Erinn McMahan to begin planning the 2005 Men's Crew Alumni

Weekend, scheduled for March 5 & 6. He is also in the process of corresponding with current board members, as well as recruiting new members.

Alex is a CPA and partner in the firm of Bogdan and Frasco, LLP. He can be reached at (415) 278-8576 or alex@bfcpas.com.

FOUR Board Members

Lyndsey Wells will return for her third year as fundraising coordinator/treasurer, while John Nelson '81 and Tim Powers '77 will begin their first year with FOUR. Both John and Tim have been major financial supporters of the program, and helped Lyndsey and FOUR in a less formal, advisory capacity last year.

"Rigger Brown II" Christening

UCLA Men's Crew and FOUR are proud to announce the purchase of new racing shell to be named in honor of Rigger Brown. The funds for the shell, to be rowed by the Varsity 8, were provided by John Nelson '81, who was a

member of the first crew to row the first "Rigger Brown" eight in 1981.

Alumni Weekend

This year's alumni weekend, scheduled for March 5 & 6, will celebrate Rigger Brown and what he meant to UCLA Men's Crew. The weekend will begin with a banquet in the evening of Saturday, March 5 and will continue on Sunday, March 6 with intra-squad racing featuring the current oarsmen, the christening of the "Rigger Brown II", and an alumni row.

FOUR Treasurer Lyndsey Wells has been working on putting together an alumni golf tournament. Please look for more information in January if you are interested.

Complete details and an invitation will be mailed in mid-January. Please set aside March 5 & 6 for a great weekend of reunions, rowing, and UCLA Crew. Contact Erinn McMahan at (310) 386-0535 or Lyndsey Wells at (310) 386-3361 for more information.

2004-2005 Men's Rowing Schedule

October 23 & 24

November 6

November 7

November 20

February 26 & 27

March 5 & 6

March 12

March 19

April 2 & 3

April 9

April 23

April 30

May 14 & 15

June 2-5

Head of the Charles

Head of the Marina

Newport

USC Fall Race

Botafogo RC (Brazil)

Alumni Weekend

Loyola Marymount

Orange Coast College

San Diego Crew Classic

UC Santa Barbara

Stanford & Oregon St.

USC

PCRC/Pac-10

IRA Regatta

Boston, MA

Marina del Rey

Newport Beach

Ballona Creek

Ballona Creek

Ballona Creek

Ballona Creek

Ballona Creek

Mission Bay

Ballona Creek

Redwood Shores

Ballona Creek

Lake Natoma

Cooper River, NJ