

Navy Crew Newsletter

Fall Recap

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NWC Wins Navy Day

The fall season started out with a record number of athletes joining the team. In the beginning of September over nine eights worth of athletes packed the roster (about 11 to 12% of the female midshipmen in the Brigade). By the end of September a total of 84 athletes still crossed the bridge over College Creek to come to practice. The roster was overloaded, so cuts had to be made for only the second time ever.

For the third year in a row Head Coach Mike Hughes and Assistant Coach Nicole Stimpson were given additional coaching support by Capt. Andrea Stover, USMC. Capt. Stover, a language professor at the Academy, volunteered her time to help coach the novices.

The Navy Women's Crew (NWC) fall schedule targets four races; Navy Day Regatta in Philadelphia, Head of the Charles Regatta in Boston, Head of the Schuylkill Regatta in Philadelphia, and Head of the Occoquan at Sandy Run State Park in Virginia.

At Navy Day the varsity won the Collegiate Race by five seconds over Georgetown in a field of 13. The second varsity won the Women's JV Collegiate Event by 20 seconds over the University of Pennsylvania and the third varsity won the Club Eight Race by 1.2 seconds over Vesper Boat Club. The Novice finished second and 10th in a field of 20 in the Novice Eight Race.

At the Head of the Charles with only
Story cont'd on page 2...

Top Five at Head of the Charles

After winning the Navy Day Regatta by almost 40 seconds over second-place Drexel, the Navy varsity heavyweight boat traveled to Boston to compete against many of the top collegiate and international teams in the world. With the past three IRA winners in attendance (Wisconsin, Washington and California) it was sure to be a highly contested event among the collegiate crews.

The Midshipmen knew it was going to be a hard-fought race with Moseley Boat Club, a crew made up of British national-teamers, starting right behind them. Navy was able to hold off Moseley for most of the race until the big turn

before the Cambridge Boat Club. Moseley pulled up beside the Mids at the start of the turn but Navy, having the advantage of the inside of the turn, was able to pull away from the British crew and cross in front of their bow under the Eliot Bridge to get the inside of the final turn of the race course.

While Navy and Moseley slugged it out in the last turns of the race, the Mids had slowly crept up on Yale who started in front of them. Overall, Navy finished an impressive seventh out of 37 crews in the race and fifth among the top collegiate boats behind Washington, Brown,

Story cont'd on page 2...



Lightweights Primed for Medals

The varsity lightweights kicked off their fall racing season on October 5th when they traveled to Occoquan, VA to race in the Occoquan Challenge. A fairly small regatta, with a 180 degree turn at the halfway mark, coupled with a beautiful day of weather, made for a great kick off to the regatta season. In the Championship Eight event Navy took the top three spots, while in the Championship Four race the Mids finished first, second, fourth and fifth.

The team then joined the Heavyweight and Women's programs the next weekend in Philadelphia, PA where they raced in the annual Navy Day Regatta. Along with three varsity boats, the light-

weights traveled with two plebe crews for their first race of the fall. Once again they were treated to almost perfect conditions. In two even boats, the plebes led off the successful day of racing in a heavyweight event, finishing a very respectable second and seventh. The Varsity, not to be out done, won the Lightweight event by over 20 seconds. The JV had a strong performance, finishing as the top JV, but the performance of the day came from the 3V, finishing a mere two seconds behind the JV.

Next on the schedule came the Head of the Charles. As it is fairly normal this time of year, Boston was very cold and

Story cont'd on Page 3...

...Heavyweight Story cont'd.

California and Northeastern.

"This was a solid, well-rowed race for our crew," stated varsity coach Rick Clothier. "We were able to handle the raw temperatures and rough water extremely well."

Navy's varsity boat finished the fall season at the Head of the Schuylkill where they finished second to a strong Penn Athletic Club entry in some very adverse conditions.

The depth of Navy's heavyweight program seems to be growing among the lower varsity boats and the strong plebe squad. Navy's second and third varsity boats completed their fall season undefeated, finishing first and second in the Navy Day Regatta's 2V race, as well as the Head of the Schuylkill's Club Eight event.

After placing well at the Navy Day Regatta in two even boats, the plebe heavyweights formed a first boat to race at the Schuylkill Regatta and Princeton Chase. The top plebe boat was able to win in Philadelphia, beating a highly-touted Princeton crew by a mere 0.5 second margin. The very next day in Princeton, Navy placed a strong third behind Yale and that same Princeton crew.

"With only five recruits in our top boat, I am confident our walk-ons will develop to make our plebe crew contenders in the spring time," said new Plebe Heavyweight Coach Rob Friedrich. "We rowed much lower than most of our competitors this fall and hope to rev things up a bit this April."

Navy Foundation Appeal for Equipment Fund

The Naval Academy Foundation is finalizing plans for a fundraising appeal to all Navy Crew Alumni. The goal of the appeal is to raise \$2 million, of which we have already received \$1.5 million pledged! When added to existing resources in the Foundation's Navy Crew Excellence Fund, these resources will provide sufficient investment income to routinely replace two to three boats per year to maintain the Hubbard Hall shell inventory for all three programs: women, lightweights, and heavies. Current plans call for phone calls soliciting gift support to be placed to Crew Alumni starting in February 2009.

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...Women's Story cont'd.

the first varsity competing in the Women's Championship Race, Navy finished 26th after a collision with the University of Pennsylvania in front of the Cambridge Boat Club.

At the Head of the Schuylkill, in

some of the fiercest conditions for racing (20+ mile per hour winds and driving rain), the first varsity was the top collegiate boat to finish in the Women's Open Championship Race, taking third place to Vesper Boat Club and New York Athletic Club in a field of 17. The second

varsity won the Club Eight Race, finishing 32 seconds ahead of second place Fordham University in a field of 28. The third varsity finished 14th in the same race. In the Novice Race, NWC's two novice eights finished fourth and 16th in a field of 37.

At the Head of the Occoquan, all three varsity boats raced in the Collegiate Women's Eight Race finishing first, second, and sixth respectively in the field of 23. The top novice eight won the Women's Collegiate Novice Race with the second novice boat finishing 16th in the field of 31.

The Head of the Occoquan ended a great fall head race season for the Navy Women's Crew and ushered in the beginning of winter training.

The Great Eight Christening

On November 8th the newest shell in the USNA boathouse was christened as "The Great Eight". This was not the first shell to don that name and now thanks to the William and Valerie Anders Foundation, it won't be the last.

General William Anders '55 and his wife, Valerie, have taken it upon themselves to create a boat fund in honor of "The Great Eight" to ensure their name and Olympic accomplishment will grace the halls of Hubbard Hall forever.

"The Great Eight" won 29 consecutive races from 1952 through 1954, three Intercollegiate Rowing Association national championships, three Eastern Sprint titles and a gold medal performance at the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki. Navy qualified for the Olympics with a nine-second victory over Princeton in the Olympic Trials, setting a trials record of 5:57.7 (2,000-meter course). At the Olympics, Navy's winning time of 6:25.9 was nearly six seconds better than the Soviet Union, eight seconds ahead of Australia and nine seconds in front of England.

To further bolster its claim as the best

crew in America, Navy won its 29 consecutive races handily. "Nobody ever got ahead of us (in a race) and there was always open water between us and the second place boat," said Dick Murphy '54, the four seat in the Great Eight. In the 1952 intercollegiate season, the crew won six races, defeating nine teams and every victory was by at least two boat lengths.

The team came home from Helsinki heroes and was named "The Great Eight" in an article in Life Magazine. They remain the only group of midshipmen to ever review a parade at the Academy. The crew was inducted into the National Rowing Foundation Hall of Fame.

Five members of the crew were on hand for the dedication of the new boat: Jim Dunbar '55, Wayne Frye '54, Dick Murphy '54, Frank Shakespeare '53, and spare coxswain Robert 'Mouse' Jones '53.



The shell is a state-of-the-art Em-pacher racing hull made in Germany. "The Great Eight" and Olympic rings are displayed on the bow, while each member of the Olympic crew's name is embossed on their seat inside the boat.

VADM Jeffrey Fowler presided over the christening and accepted the donation of stroke-seat Ed Stevens' Olympic gold medal on behalf of the U.S. Naval Academy.



...Lightweight Story cont'd.

windy. Starting in the fifth position, the lightweight four tipped off that Sunday afternoon and had a great race finishing third overall (only 0.7 seconds out of second place).

In the eight race the varsity had a great row as well, but came up a little short, bettering last year's finish of third by one spot. The only crew to beat Navy was Princeton.

The plebes were the sole representa-

tive of the lightweight program at this year's Head of the Schuylkill Regatta. They rowed in a heavyweight event in two even boats, the only even boats in the race. Finishing sixth and 11th, they had a solid performance, handling the less than ideal conditions very well.

The varsity team's season came to an end the next weekend at the Princeton Chase. Another opportunity to show the depth of the lightweight program, Navy was one of only two schools to race a

true fourth varsity boat. The Varsity boat raced well, closing the margin on Princeton but once again came up a little short, finishing third overall in a field of 30. The second varsity boat also had a solid race, placing second among all JV crews, 0.8 seconds behind Yale. The 3V and 4V also had solid performances. After the eight race Navy's oarsmen launched to race five fours, comprised of a mixture of the 1V, 2V, 3V and 4V. The fours, with little practice, raced well with the 'B' four finishing in fourth place overall.

The plebes finished their fall season, racing in the University of Virginia Invitational. Once again in two even boats Navy rowed a well put together race against mostly heavyweight competition. The first boat finished fifth overall out of 24 and the combined time of the two even boats placed Navy as the second overall lightweight program in front of Georgetown and Delaware.

2009 Spring Racing Schedules

Heavyweight Schedule

April 10-11	GW Invitational (Holy Cross, Georgetown, George Washington)	Washington DC
April 18	Goes Cup (Syracuse and Cornell)	Syracuse, NY
April 25	Adams Cup (Harvard and Penn)	Annapolis, MD
May 3	Stevensen Cup (Columbia)	Princeton, NJ
May 10	Eastern Sprints (EARC League Championship)	Worcester, MA
June 4-6	IRA Regatta (National Championship)	Sacramento, CA

Women's Schedule

March 28	Murphy Cup	Philadelphia, PA
April 4	Playfair Cup	Camden, NJ
April 10-11	GW Invitational	Washington DC
April 18	Georgetown	Washington DC
April 26	Patriot League Championship	Camden, NJ
May 17	Eastern Sprints (EAWRC League Championship)	Camden, NJ

Lightweight Schedule

March 28	Johnson Cup (Yale)	Princeton, NJ
April 4	Murtaugh Cup (Princeton) and Columbia	Princeton, NJ
April 11	Georgetown	Washington DC
April 18	Haines Trophy (Harvard)	Boston, MA
April 25	Callow Cup (Penn)	Annapolis, MD
May 10	Eastern Sprints (EARC League Championship)	Worcester, MA
June 4-6	IRA Regatta (National Championship)	Sacramento, CA

Men's Rowing Announces Staff Changes

The Navy men's crew program has announced three changes to the heavyweight and lightweight coaching staffs. Rob Friedrich, Navy's lightweight head coach for the past seven years, will become senior associate head coach of the heavyweight squad. Nick Baker, Friedrich's assistant coach for the last three years, will ascend to the head coach position for the lightweight team. Lt. Hunter Washburn, USN, Navy's lightweight team captain in 2004, will take over as the lightweight assistant coach.

"Over the years, Rob has earned a tremendous amount of respect from eve-

ryone in the rowing community," said Naval Academy Director of Athletics Chet Gladchuk. "He is an excellent coach and this is another opportunity to share his wealth of experience and leadership at the highest level. He will do a fantastic job working directly with coach (Rick) Clothier."

"This is a young and exciting staff," stated Navy men's heavyweight head coach [Rick Clothier](#). "Rob Friedrich brings nearly ten years of experience with him to this new position of senior associate coach. Nick Baker has certainly more than earned his promotion to

varsity coach. We felt that Hunter Washburn was a wonderful leader with great maturity as an undergraduate captain in 2004. These changes should result in strong, focused, dynamic and coordinated leadership for our men's rowing teams."

"I'm very excited for the new challenge of coaching in the heavyweight league," said Friedrich. "It'll be my job to build the depth of our program from the ground up and I'm looking forward to getting started."

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