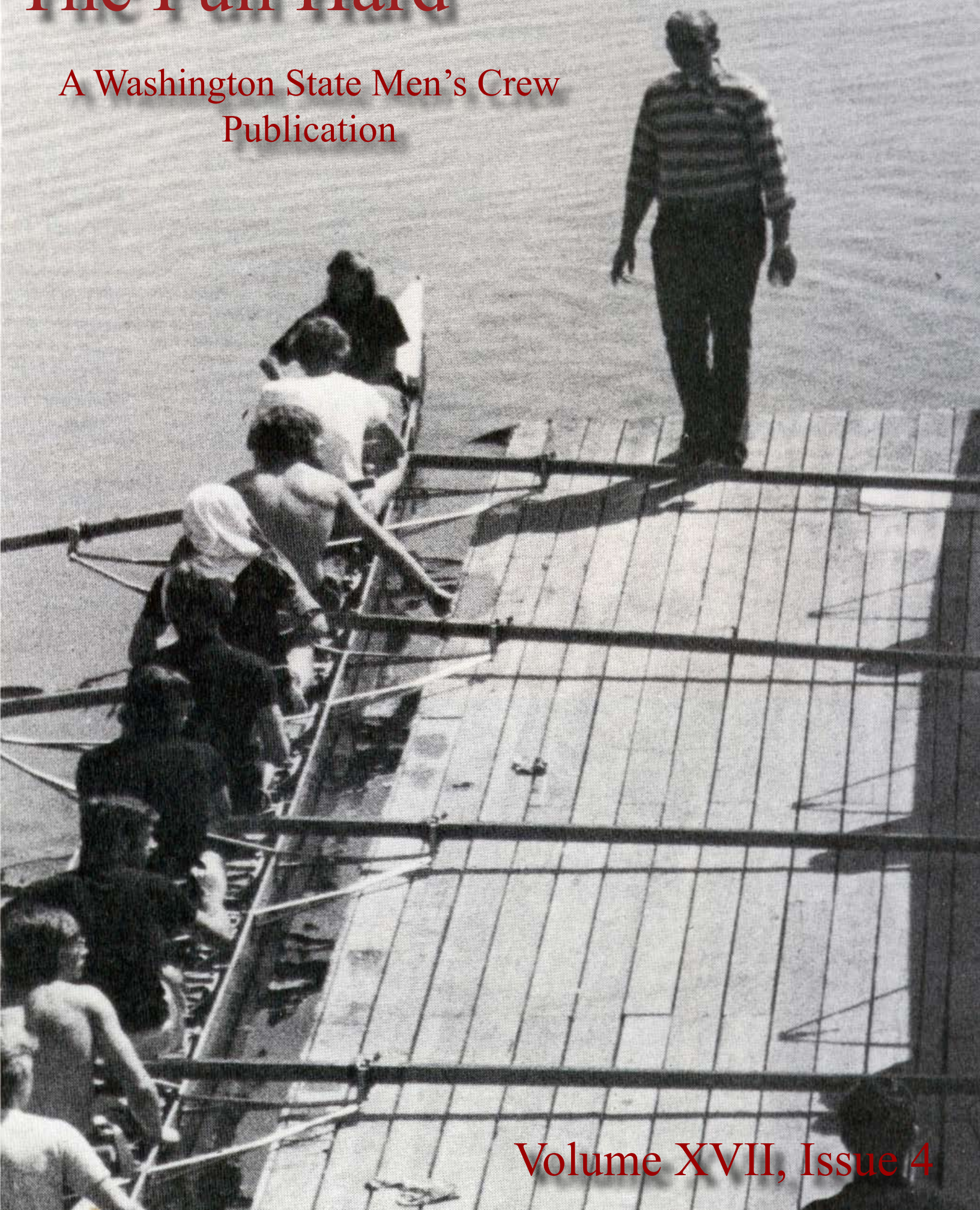


The Pull Hard

A Washington State Men's Crew
Publication



Volume XVII, Issue 4

Table Of Contents

Ken Abbey Boat House Dedication	<i>Pg.</i>	3-4
Cougar Crew Days	<i>Pg.</i>	5-9
New Officers	<i>Pg.</i>	10-11
Meet Your New Officers	<i>Pg.</i>	12
San Diego Race Recap	<i>Pg.</i>	13-14
Team Shows Depth at Daffodil	<i>Pg.</i>	15-16
CCAA Meeting Minutes	<i>Pg.</i>	17-19
Spring Race Schedule	<i>Pg.</i>	20
Varisty Spotlight	<i>Pg.</i>	21-22
UW Dual	<i>Pg.</i>	23-24

Ken Abbey Boat House Dedication

By Doug Engle '79 & Rich Ray '80

On Saturday, March 20, the Cougar shellhouse was finally dedicated. Known unofficially as the Ken Abbey Shellhouse for years, the building had yet to be formally recognized by the University. The Cougar Crew Alumni Association felt that making the name official was key to recognizing the contributions of one of the organization's most important founders.

Ken Abbey played a pivotal role in creating the team and helped guide it for 22 years. Many former coaches and athletes attended Cougar Crew Days to witness and participate in the dedication. This return to the Snake was the first in decades for some. For the second year running, the river gods smiled on the proceedings. Sunshine and mild temperatures reminded the crowd of well over 100 how infinitely fine the canyon can be on balmy spring day.

Longtime coach Ken Struckmeyer opened the ceremony by recounting Abbey's Spokane origins and UW rowing career and said he believes that "the values Ken learned through rowing were life-changing for him, as they have been for so many others..." And on the practical side: "It was also this experience that permitted him to ask Dick Erickson for shells and equipment on more than one occasion."

Next to speak was Shannon Abbey, Ken's daughter, who recalled the satisfaction her dad got from contributing to his community, how much he enjoyed working with the team, how both the men's and women's programs were equally important to him. Piles of broken seats and boot stretchers awaiting repair in the family garage was evidence of his unquenchable love of the sport.

At the banquet in the CUB ballroom later that day, Tammy Crawford, rower and first women's varsity coach, offered some wry observations of working with Ken Abbey as an officer of the women's team. She also talked of laying to rest old battles and moving forward with the concept Ken always worked from: one crew with two teams—a concept as relevant as ever and one that should contin-

ue to guide us.

Dave Pratt, one of the first two coaches at WSU (Bob Orr was the other), talked about working with Ken to build and re-build the first boathouse, collect shells and get the first crews on the water. He also provided several corrections to our sometimes fuzzy historical record.

Dave Emigh, founding rower and coach, recalled how roommate and later teammate Jim Verellen alerted him to the existence of the infant program, discovered from recruiting posters which had popped up all over campus, one of which they snagged. Said Emigh: "I guess some things are just intuitive. We hadn't even rowed a stroke yet and here we were taking down crew posters." In one of the more dramatic flourishes of the evening, Dave pulled the rolled poster from behind the podium and presented it to current team historian Lauren Curtis for the archives.

Bob Appleyard, founding rower, coach and umpire, noted the obscurity of the program when he began climbing the ladder as a race official for US Rowing many years ago. He assured everyone that WSU rowing is now firmly on the map and well thought of on the national stage.

The shellhouse dedication was fitting centerpiece to a weekend long celebration of Cougar Crew. Many thanks to Steve Ranten '78 for his telephone and email campaign to publicize the event. Also to those who contributed to the cost of casting the bronze plaque. It will be mounted to the riverside wall. There is still an opportunity to help with the cost of installation. Go to cougar-crew.com, CCAA fund, and note that your contribution is for plaque installation.

Thank you to all who attended and we hope to see you next year!



The Saturday crowd gathering around the newly dedicated Ken Abbey Shellhouse.

Cougar Crew Days

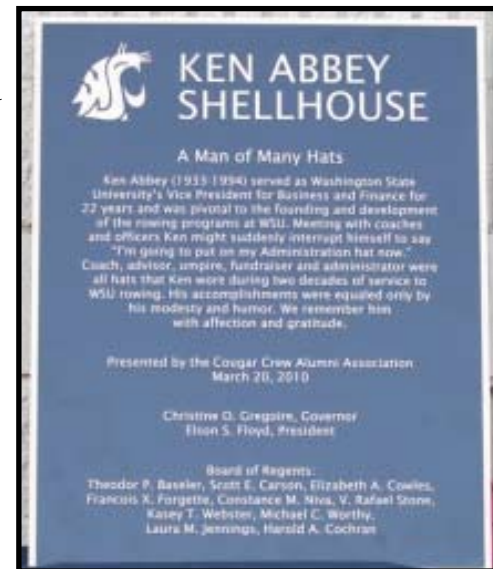
By Tim Richards '80



The weekend of March 20th, 2010 saw the Annual gathering in Pullman of current and former oarsmen and oarswomen along with family and friends to enjoy, connect, and reconnect to Cougar Crew.

The events started Friday night (March 19th) with the now annual “Ice Breaker” BBQ held in the old Stock Pavilion. Doug Engle (1979) started this tradition 4 years ago at his house with 5 people in attendance. Over the years as more and more have made the pilgrimage back to Pullman, this has continued to grow.

This year, Doug started cooking burgers around 530pm. By the end of the evening, over 150 people had shown up! Participants saw faces and friendships renewed. People who had not seen each other for a long time; some in almost 30 years, reacquainted which triggered laughs and memories. Two extra runs to the grocery store for more chips, food and drink kept the festivities running. When final numbers were tallied, over 220 burgers and 80 plus bratwurst had been served!



Ken Abbey Shellhouse Plaque



Ken Struckmeyer at Ken Abbey Shellhouse dedication.

Saturday morning started with the Annual CCAA Board meeting. Some 40 plus people came to participate and find out more about the direction of Cougar Crew and the alumni association. (As a reminder, all meetings are open and everyone is encouraged to participate in the discussions.)



Team success and stability via financial stability was a key topic. Head Coach Arthur Ericsson reported one oarsmen shy of 3 full eights turning out. Novice Coach Julia Gamache reported 3 full eights of Novices currently practicing. The success and retention into the varsity program is a direct result of the strong novice program of the previous year. A high priority is to secure funding for the coaches

The infamous "Meat Wagon 4+" warming up for their 500 meter race to the death!

so as to keep the momentum running. Also discussed was the Women's Lightweight Program and some of its successes and challenges. Doug Engle reported on the Foundation accounts and the Financial Health of the team. Over the last few years as the CCAA has gained momentum, we have also seen growing momentum in donations to the Endowments. Plans were discussed on moving the growth of those accounts forward. (For a full recap of the discussions; look for the minutes on cougarcrew.com.)

Saturday afternoon saw the anticipated trek to Wawawai landing on the Snake. Events started with some 200 people gathered at the river for the Dedication of the Ken Abbey Shell house. It was a time to reflect on our history and on someone so important to and that gave so much for Cougar Crew. Ken Struckmeyer read the dedication; Ken Abbey's wife and daughter were in attendance. A plaque will be mounted on the shell house commemorating the event.

Next; the races! Alumni boats were filled fielding 3 "slow row" alumni boats, Men's and Mixed 8's, and the infamous "Meat Wagon 4". A "death defying" 500 meter race was slated for the crews. (Death defying you ask? We actually had to sign waivers from the university! Ah, the aging process.....) The row took us out of the docks and down river for the warm up of 520 meters. (Don't want to be ridiculous...) With encouragement (sic) from Struckmeyer as Coach, the boats were aligned and the race was on! Once again, the alumni won! (Mainly because there were only alumni in this race...) The boat that finished first was poetry in motion as it left the line at full power; perhaps a bit early but who knew?

Struckmeyer had the boats raft together and did the traditional awards ceremony on the water. Great laughs with all in the boat. (There was a race between the team (Class Day winners-Juniors) and “competitive” alumni; good showing but the current team prevailed!

Festivities at the river wound down and back to Pullman for the evening Banquet and Auction. Once again, Danny Brevick did a great job organizing and hosting the Banquet. Lisa (Coble) Curtis did a phenomenal job orchestrating and choreographing the auction. Dedications and presentations were made on behalf of Ken Abbey and the shell house. Speakers from across the decades , David Emigh, Dr. David Pratt, Dr. Tammy Crawford, and Dr. Bob Appleyard, gave insight into the history and foundation of Cougar Crew. Though the evening went long, it was a chance to enjoy our beginnings. It culminated with the live auction and when all was said and done, parents, friends, and alumni, almost 300 people in attendance, stepped up to the plate and we raised almost \$34,000; \$10,000 more than the previous year!



Alumni Slow Row eights rafted together for the traditional awards ceremony.



Alumni heading out for the annual slow row.

Adjournment from the banquet to local watering holes allowed for more conversation and reminiscing amongst old friends. Sunday morning saw many groups getting together for breakfast prior to returning back to their lives.

For those of you who made it, thank you for coming and your support. For those of you who were unable to, we missed you. Put it on your calendar for next year. Come back to Pullman and enjoy a bit or a time that meant so much to so many of us. The alumni have a clear direction as to the support we can give the Cougar Crew. Financial stability via growth of the endowment and help with current operations. You soon will be contacted about some of the tasks we are trying to accomplish. Think about them and see if you might be able to help. If you have questions or want to participate more, contact the CCAA Board through cougarcrew.com.

Coug Up!

Tim “Haole” Richards

Cougar Crew Alumni Association Chair 2005-2013

Commodore 1979 - 1980

Oarsmen 1977 - 1980



See You Next Year!



New Officers

By Nichole Martin



Thank you Mitch for all your hard work and commitment! You will be missed. Commodore 09-10

Spring break training consisted of many practices, team gatherings and one very important event, officer elections. WSU Men's Crew is not a university funded sport so the team is student run by an officer corps. The officer corps is the backbone of the team. They run meetings every Thursday night to ensure that things are running smoothly, from travel to and from regattas and on a day to day basis, to the employment of our coaches. Being an officer is not a position to be taken lightly. The officers

are voted on by the team and the team only. Elections start off with nominations where rowers/coxswains can either accept or decline the position they have been nominated for. The nominees are then given a week to think about the position and give a speech to the team who will then vote for who they feel fits that position best.

Commodore is a position to be held by a team leader, this is the team captain. The commodore works directly with our coaches and all the officers. On and off the water this individual takes the responsibility of doing what is best for the team in all cases. For the last year, the team was run by senior and four-year oarsman, Mitch Williams. Mitch was elected this time last year to take on the role of mediator and leader. This year the team elected Andrew King to fulfill this leadership position. A second year oarsman and construction management major.

Vice Commodore is in charge of day to day travel and our Rent-A-Rower fundraiser. Jimmy Johnson, third year oarsman and a kinesiology major, was Vice Commodore for the 2009-2010 season and was elected again for the 2010-2011 season. After having done a year of successful Rent-A-Rowers and traveling to and from the river on a regular basis the team looks forward to having

Jimmy another year.

Historian is a job that does just what the title says. They are in charge of taking notes at all the officers meetings, recording boat lineups and races, along with sending out race recaps and thank you cards to all of our generous donors. He is also responsible for maintaining the teams overall history and updating it on a day to day basis. For the last two years this position has been held by third-year coxswain and Marketing/Spanish major, Lauren Curtis. Due to studying abroad in the coming fall, Lauren was unable to run for the position again so the team made the vote to pass the position on to Paul Ehlers. Paul is a third-year oarsman and biochemistry major.

Webmaster is in charge of the team's website, www.cougarcrew.com, and its sister UREC website, row.wsu.edu, along with many different design tasks and various projects needed to be done by the coaches. For the last two years Kramer Wahlberg has fulfilled this position. A third-year oarsmen and bioengineering major, Kramer was elected again to take on his third year in this position.

Publisher is in charge of the Pull Hard and the clothing catalog. They work closely with the webmaster to ensure that both of these will appear on the team's website. When the Publisher position opened up earlier in the year, Nichole Martin was asked to step in and fulfill the position temporarily until elections. At that time, the team voted her to take on the position permanently for the remaining season and next. Nichole is a third-year coxswain and digital media major.

Treasurer handles the team's finances and works with the commodore and vice-commodore on the money brought in from different jobs and fundraisers. This year, the team was fortunate enough to have finance major and second-year oarsman, Nick Estvold, as their treasurer. Nick has set up a fool proof system and an easy way to handle the team's finances which will ease the transition to next year's treasurer. The team has elected Josh Wadagnolo to take over for the next season. Josh is a second-year oarsman and mechanical engineering major.

The last officer position on the team is UREC liaison. This position deals directly with the commodore and University Recreation. They sit on the UREC Sport Club Federation Council and help make decisions regarding issues such as budget allocations, punishments, and other sport club business. They keep the communication between UREC and the team. For the last year Jonathan Detzler has held this position. Jonathan is a second year oarsman, engineering major and was elected to hold this position again for the 2010-2011 season.

Meet Your 2010-2011 Officer Corps!

Andrew King
Commodore



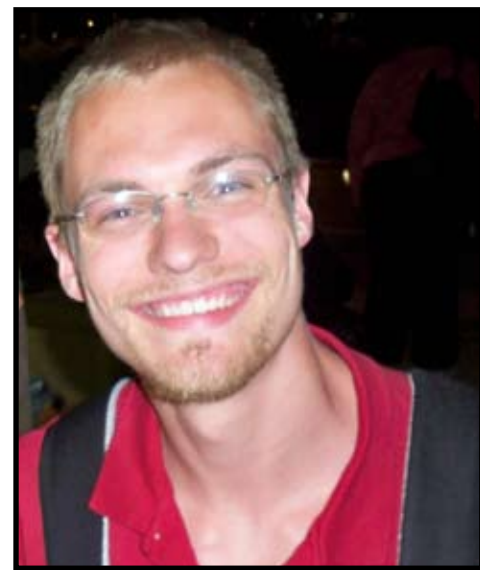
Jimmy Johnson
Vice Commodore



Kramer Wahlberg
Webmaster



Josh Wadagnolo
Treasurer



Paul Ehlers
Historian

Jonathan Detzler
UREC Liason



Nichole Martin
Publisher



San Diego Crew Classic

By Nichole Martin



WSU Men's Varsity 8+ during their heats race on Saturday.

While half of the WSU men's team was in Tacoma, Washington, competing at the Daffodil Cup regatta, the Varsity 8+ and the JV 8+ were down in San Diego, California. After coming off a very competitive fall season and one of the hardest spring break training weeks in Cougar Crew history, there was no doubt that both boats were ready to show their hard work off. At the beginning of the season, the varsity team sat down and laid out a set of goals, one of which was to "come out firing at the San Diego Crew Classic." They did just that. With

a Varsity boat that had nothing to lose and a JV boat with everything to prove, WSU men's rowing team arrived in California ready for a fight.

The San Diego Crew Classic is one of the biggest regattas that WSU attends in the spring season. Crews range from high school, to collegiate, to masters and club crews. Therefore, the regatta is broken up into two days, the Saturday racing consist of heats, where every boat fights to make it to the Grand or Petite Finals on Sunday. For the Varsity 8+, the goal for that day was to make the top two and move onto the Grand Finals. While the JV 8+ looking to make top 3 to move to the Grands as well.

The V8+ ended up winning their heat on Saturday, guaranteeing them a spot in the Grand Finals on Sunday. The JV 8+ ended up getting 5th in their heat which landed them a solid spot in the Petite Finals. Despite after having gone down the race course at least three times (including the practice row the team did on Friday) within the last two days, nerves were still high in both boats as they took their position at the start on Sunday.

Competing in the American Specialty Health Cal Cup going up against Cal lightweights, Notre Dame, British Columbia, Grand Valley and Trinity College

in the best finish WSU has see since 1996, Washington State University Men's Varsity 8+ took third with a time of 6:30.0. Trinity College, a rowing program out of Connecticut, took first with a time of 6:22.6. They were followed by Grand Valley State University out of Michigan, with a time of 6:27.9, with the Cougs nipping at their heels and finishing third by only two seconds. They were in a tough fight for third with Notre Dame and University of British Columbia until they broke away at the 1500 mark, where they started to hunt down the second place Grand Valley.



Second Varsity 8+ from left to right, Jacob Logar, Evan Eggestrom, Jimmy Johnson, Brandon Close, Jonathan Detzler, Eric DeMaris, Mark Hoffman, Kramer Wahlberg and Lauren Curtis.

Competing in the Sharp Cabillo Cup, the JV8+ was in the mix with top varsity programs such as California, Brown, and Boston University. The JV8+ went on to finish 5th in Petite Final. After beating UC-Santa Clara and the University of San Diego, the JV8+ went into Petites ready for a fight. Finishing only four second behind the UC-Davis crew, the Cougs finished with a time of 6:33.46.

As the weekend ended, the team overall was happy with their performance and was eager for the races that were to come.



Varsity 8+ from left to right, Alan Scott, Jaron Lindbom, Weston Spiva, Mitch Willams, James Dorsey, Paul Ehlers, Andrew King, Josh Wadagnolo and Nichole Martin.

Team Shows Depth at Daffodil Cup Regatta

By Nichole Martin



On the weekend of March 27th, the WSU Men's Novice team along with the Lightweight Women and half the of the Varsity team traveled to Tacoma, WA to compete in the annual Daffodil Regatta on American Lake.

With the other half of the Varsity team compet-

The Novice 8+ A boat, posing before their first place finish.

ing in San Diego, in the Varsity 8+ event WSU competed against University of Puget Sound's A and B boat, Willamette University, Pacific Lutheran University, Seattle University, and Lewis and Clark. The boat was coxed by Caitlin Aldrich, stroked by Justin Bodolay followed by, Garrett Lyman, Garrett Heiman, Nick Estvold, Lukas Jonubeh, Brian Chapman, and Colby Favour in bow. Racing at 9 am with some of the best water conditions seen on American Lake, the boat finished 3rd overall with a time of 6:17.68 behind, second place Lewis and Clark and first place UPS A boat.

Other events that the Varsity competed in were the Varsity 4+ and the 2V 4+ event.

The 2nd Varsity 4+ was coxed by John Cooper, stroked by Justin Bodolay, followed by Nick Estvold, Lukas Jonubeh and Joe Sudar in bow. They went up against Willamette University, PLU, UPS, SU, and UPS B boat. They finished 3rd overall with a time of 7:24.64.

The Varsity 4+ was coxed by Kate Sweitzer, followed by Garrett Heiman, Garrett Lyman, Brian Chapman, and Colby Favour in bow. They finished 6th

overall with a time of 7:35.61, competing against SPU, Lewis and Clark, PLU, Western Washington University, and UPS.

Alongside the Varsity, the Novice team competed in their first spring race of the season. With one of the largest teams WSU has ever produced, the WSU men's Novice showed everyone just how much of a force they are to be reck-



The Lightweight Women in their first Spring race.

oned with. The first event competed in was the Novice 4+, going up against SU, Lewis and Clark, PLU, UPS A and B boats, and Western Washington University. They finished 6th due to an equipment malfunction. The race that really showed our depth was the Novice 8+, fielding three 8's and going up against Puget Sound University with a first, second and fourth

place finish.

The A boat had a time of 6:31.87, B boat with a time of 6:55.39 and with a close race between them and third place UPS the C boat ended with a time of 7:27.61, just two seconds behind third place.

WSU lightweight women appeared in their first race of the spring as well, competing in the Novice 4+ event, the Lightweight 4+ and the Women's Novice 8+ event. They finished 6th overall in the Novice 4's event, with Lewis and Clark and PLU just edging them at the line. Only one second separated the three crews. In their Lightweight 4+ race, they finished 2nd with a time of 8:46.17 against Willamette University. In the final race, the Women's Novice 8+, WSU finished 4th in a regular novice event, losing to third place Willamette by just one second.

The weekend overall showed the depth and dedication by all WSU crews. With a busy schedule coming up, there is no doubt that WSU Men and Women's Lightweight Crews are ready to have an outstanding 2010 Spring Season.

CCAA Meeting Minutes

By Josh Proctor

(Adapted by Paul Ehlers and Mark Hoffman)

On the Saturday morning of Cougar Crew Days, the annual meeting with the Cougar Crew Alumni Association was held. This meeting included current officers, officer elects, coaches, athletes and alumni. These are a abbreviated minutes from that meeting. For full minutes to go the teams website www.Cougarcrew.com

Arthur Ericsson – Varsity Team update

Arthur emphasized the extremely large team size as compared to years past, and fundraising load on students has become almost unmanageable. Financially, the goal of the team is to raise Julia's salary and bring on an assistant coach. Priority registration was also discussed as a way to ease academic absences from practice.

Julia Gamache – Novice Team Update

The Novice team is also extremely large, and equipment issues are the largest one facing the team – most notably, a lack of cox boxes. The novice also decided not to travel to San Diego, citing prohibitive cost as the primary reason. Instead, the team is traveling to the Daffodil Cup, in Tacoma.

Emily Kohl – Women's Lightweight Team Update

The team is currently 15 strong, and has a light 8 planning to race. They did some fundraising in the fall including rent-a-rower, and volleyball games. The team is using the Bucknell guidelines for weigh ins, and currently have 10 eligible rowers.

Mitch Williams – Commodore

The team goals this year include having a strong showing at San Diego, and being competitive at WIRAs in every entered event, with an overall 1st place in team points

Nick Estvold (not present) - Financial Update

The team is expecting between \$15-20k from class day proceeds. In addition, using charter buses for traveling is usually cheaper than en masse van rentals. The team is trying to help fund the cost of WIRA travels for the athletes. Current projections show a \$15k surplus at the end of the year.

Kramer Wahlberg - Web Site

Kramer is continuing to maintain both Crew sites and continuing to build the team's electronic databases. If you have any photos/videos to add, send them to him.

Lauren Curtis - History of Cougar Crew

Lauren is continuing her work on a comprehensive history of Cougar Crew, and plans to re-implement documenting every team-participant through Pac-10s, in order to simplify alumni management.

CCAA Reports and Updates

Doug Engle - Financial Update (recap of accounts)

Doug gave a financial summary, in addition to informing the CCAA that the 3 endowment accounts are the primary ones that the CCAA actually deal with for the team, in addition to the CCAA operating account.

He met with the WSU Foundation to discuss strategy for how to find larger donors and started to develop strategies, including strengthening database of contacts; also send a visit team including foundation person and team member to individuals or businesses to sell them on how qualified Cougar Crew is for a charitable donations. These marketing teams may be geographically centered. Also, he plans to use estate planning as a tactic, and in long term it has potential for large impact.

Ken Struckmeyer – Faculty Concerns

Struckmeyer recognized the quality of the current coaching staff and highlighted the difficulties in achieving a varsity club status. He discussed the possibility of a Michigan/WSU dual race to showcase two of the top clubs in the nation. Also, Struckmeyer lamented the fact that Paul Enquist was denied acceptance into the athletic department hall of fame.

Kathleen Hatch - Director of WSU UREC

Kathleen noted Cougar Crew as being in a league of its own and a key element in increased funds for University Recreation leading to increased financial support of the team. Also, to acknowledge the financial stresses added to her organization, she proposed putting a freeze on all new clubs to highlight university awareness of UREC's challenges. Kathleen is willing to do whatever it takes to help out our cause.

Lisa Curtis – Booster Club

Lisa is about 3 years into the formation of the parents' booster club. The booster club goal is to provide food, shelter, and camaraderie to the current

team. Lisa wants to be able to post info on the web site to help with communication.

Old Business

Some newer flexibility on the driving age limitations has benefitted team a lot, with questions being raised about rule differences between Men's and Women's teams. The "No driving before 6am" rule has been suspended until it is fully discussed by University risk management team. Access to the field house has been vastly improved, as has the facility itself, with use of the conditioning center.

New Business

Cougar Crew Days

We grossed about \$23K last year: a vote was passed to split this year's proceeds 50/50 between team and endowment.

Ken Abbey Shellhouse – Doug Engle

Today, there will be a dedication ceremony of the Ken Abbey Shellhouse. A short ceremony will be at the boathouse, with a longer recognition in the evening including Bob Appleyard, Dave Emigh, Dave Pratt, and Tammy Crawford. There was discussion on where to place plaque, with the decision to place it in concrete between boathouse doors being made

Next Meeting:

Fall 2010, around the time of the Head of the Lake Regatta.

Other Items:

Lightweight women's team return was discussed, with an officer decision pending.

Garrett Lyman was elected Alumni Representative to replace Danny Brevick.

Adjournment

Spring Racing Schedule

**May 1st-2nd, 2010- WIRA Conference
Championships**

Location: Lake Natoma, Sacramento CA

**May 15-16th, 2010- PCRC and Pacific-10
Conference Championships**

Location: Lake Natoma, Sacramento, CA

**May 22nd-23rd, 2010- ACRA National
Championships**

Location: Oklahoma City, OK

Varsity Spotlight

By Paul Ehlers



Brandon is all smiles during the team triathlon in the fall of 2009.

Brandon Close has several distinctions on the Men's Crew team – he is the fastest lightweight erger, the top runner during all of our land workouts, and, most dubiously, has been injured more times than anyone else on the team. “I’ve cut my head open and needed stitches 5 times!” he says with a note of pride in his voice.

Brandon joined the team in the fall of 2007, after attending Central Valley high school in Spokane Valley. He played, at various times, Football, Basketball, and ran Cross Country and Track, with the latter two comprising the majority of his athletic experience. Coming out of high school, Brandon thought that running the 800m was the hardest thing he could do: after pulling a 6:31 2k, he says he has changed his mind. Crew appealed to Brandon because its physiological requirements were second to

none, and the team aspect was unique to someone who had excelled in largely individual sports in high school.

While one wouldn't guess it by looking at him, Brandon actually had a burgeoning football career at Central Valley. Unfortunately, an errant helmet to the knee his freshman year tore his ACL and MCL, and forced Brandon to move from violent to nonviolent athletics. Ironically, Brandon couldn't escape team-based violence completely: Brandon always seems to collide with teammates during cross-training games like soccer and has left practice with several stitches more than he started with. While Brandon may not find these events comedic, the team at large really just wonders how Brandon manages to injure himself so often, and in such bizarre fashions.

Recently, at the San Diego Crew Classic, Brandon was going for a warm-up jog and managed to roll his ankle. Thinking nothing of it, he taped and iced his

foot. Much to Brandon's chagrin, however, the rolled ankle turned out to be a minor fracture of his 5th metatarsal! With UW dual fast approaching, Brandon is willing his foot to heal as fast as possible so he can resume his spot in the lightweight 8+.

It has already been mentioned that Brandon is quite the runner. However, out of all of the rowers on the team, Brandon has participated in more outside sport events than anyone else. He has run the Sydney half-marathon (a

top 10 finish in his age group!), several 5ks in Spokane, and even competed at an open collegiate indoor track meet earlier this spring, running the 800m only 4 seconds slower than his personal best from high school. Obviously, Brandon's credentials as a runner are not to be questioned. "The ability to really push physically on the erg came directly from my ability to push physically while running", says Brandon about his lightweight team-leading 2k erg score.

And so while the "Most Injured Rower" tag may not have the prestige that "top lightweight 2k" does, Brandon adopts both with a smile on his face. His demeanor is constantly upbeat, and he really is the biggest social butterfly on the team. A joy to hang out with and most definitely a joy to have in a boat, Brandon Close is quite the remarkable oarsman.



Brandon and current Commodore, Mitch Willams, in Sydney, Australia

Apple Cup Regatta

By Paul Ehlers



The Varsity 8+ finished only 5 seconds behind the UW 3V8+

In the annual Apple Cup Regatta, the Huskies took home 7 of 7 races to sweep the Cougars with a show of depth. The closest race of the day took place between WSU V8+ and the UW 3V8+. The WSU V8+ and the UW 8+ traded punches for the first 1000 meters, with WSU knocking out 2 seats through the 500m mark, but UW managed to

feed on the energy from their home crowd in the Montlake Cut to push away in the last quarter of the race, finishing with a time of 5:58.49 to WSU's 6:03.96.

To illustrate the depth of the UW program, every rower in that 3V8+ had won an IRA national championship! The Oregon State V8+, which raced the UW V8+, turned in a time of 6:00.86, only 3 seconds faster than the Coug V8+. Head Coach Arthur Ericsson says of the regatta: "The times posted by our varsity and junior varsity 8's were impressive. They went for it from the start and never let up. This may not have resulted in a win this weekend but will serve us well in the big races coming up. And I am confident that we'll be bringing in more boat speed from several different sources."

The Cougar novice crew also had their first experiences through the Cut, racing the UW 2F8+, 3F8+, and 2FV4+. The WSU 1N8+, racing against the UW2N8+ and the OSU 2N8+, finished only 5 seconds behind OSU.

While the Cougars were not happy with the loss, they were hopeful that they can bring the speed they brought to Seattle to next week's annual Fawley Cup dual with Gonzaga.

Results:

Race 1 (Second Varsity Eight): UW 4V8+ 6:04.11, WSU LTWT8+ 6:25.42

Race 2 (Men's 3rd Freshmen Eight):
UW 3N8+ 6:08.98, WSU 2N8+ 6:39.91, WSU 3N8+ 6:59.48

Race 3 (Men's 3rd Varsity Eight):
UW 3V8+ 5:58.49, WSU V8+ 6:03.96



The 2N8+ rowing through The Montlake Cut

Race 10 (Men's Second Freshmen Eight):
UW 2N8+ 6:12.55, OSU 2N8+ 6:29.43, WSU 1N8+ 6:35.93

Race 13 (Men's Second Varsity Four):
UW 3V4+ 7:03.26, WSU LTWT4+ 7:17.25, WSU 2V4+ 7:33.9

Race 15 (Men's Freshmen Four):
UW 1N4+ 7:03.10, UW 2N4+ 7:11.54, WSU 1N4+ 7:49.68

***Race 16
(Men's Varsity
Four):***
UW 1V4+ 6:43.50,
UW 2V4+ 7:00.85,
WSU 1V4+ 7:27.16



Novice 4+ ripping through The Cut