



UCI ROWING ALUMNI NEWS

SPRING/SUMMER 2006

New Equipment for Irvine Rowers!



Space at the Irvine boathouse became a little tighter, happily, as 10 new WinTech singles and 10 new pairs of Dreher sculling oars arrived in October of 2005. The completion of this equipment purchase in addition to the promotion of Scott Charette to varsity men's head coach began a new chapter on Shellmaker Island.

Coach Parsons and Coach Charette have enjoyed the flexibility as well as the possibilities this purchase offers. They have aggressively set about changing the training regimen and standards for the Irvine oarsmen and oarswomen. Many hours in the fall and winter were spent in the singles mastering balance, acceleration and all around boat feel. It is quite a sight to witness 10 singles racing down the channel fiercely competing for the top 8 seats to represent Irvine as the Varsity Eight.

The athletes themselves have been quick to make use of the sleek blue boats to spend many hours on the bay since the end of spring season 2006. The passion and enthusiasm that pervades the atmosphere at the boathouse is exciting as the crew heads into the new year! The ability to stay on the water to train makes all the difference!

The men were also able to purchase a new Fillipe 8 in spring of 2006. Please see page 3 for the full story.

2006-2007 SCHEDULE (Tentative)

| | | |
|----------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 10/1 | Long Beach Bay Series (V)* | Long Beach |
| 10/28 | Head of the American (V)* | Sacramento |
| 11/7 | San Diego Fall Classic (V) | San Diego |
| 11/11 | Head of the Marina (VW)* | Marina Del Rey |
| 11/12 | NARF | Newport |
| 12/2 | Newport Sprints | Newport |
| 12/3 | Christmas Regatta (V) * | Long Beach |
| 12/10 | Bay Series (V)* | Long Beach |
| 1/7 | Bay Series (V)* | Long Beach |
| 1/27 | Long Beach Erg Sprints | Long Beach |
| 2/3 | OCC Scrimmage | Newport |
| 2/3 | Hall of Fame Brunch | Newport |
| 2/4 | Alumni Day | Newport |
| 2/10 | Class Day | Newport |
| 2/24 | Long Beach Scrimmage | Newport |
| 3/3 | Parker Cup | Marina Del Rey |
| 3/10 | UCSD, CSULB | San Diego |
| 3/17 | UCLA (M) | Marina Del Rey |
| 3/18 | Chapman | Newport |
| 3/24 | Berg Cup (W) | Newport |
| 3/31-4/1 | San Diego Crew Classic | San Diego |
| 4/7 | Collins Cup (W) | Newport |
| | OCC, CSULB (M) | Newport |
| 4/14 | Chap, CSULB, UCSB, UCSD (W) | Newport |
| | Newport Regatta (M) | Newport |
| 4/21 | Miller Cup (W) | Marina Del Rey |
| 4/28-29 | WIRA | Sacramento |

* optional V- Varsity only

For more information on these events including times please check our websites www.wcrew.uci.edu and www.mcrew.uci.edu

What's Inside?

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Thank you for reading the Spring/Summer Edition of the UCI Rowing Alumni News! Please keep checking the website for more up to date information.

Gold Strike Down Under!

Duvall Hecht Recognized on the 50th Anniversary of his Olympic Gold

Saturday, April 29, 2006

REDWOOD SHORES, CA—"Take a good look at these yanks folks. You will never see any rowing better than this!" declared the announcer during the 1956 Melbourne Olympics. Two young Americans had just defeated the champion Soviets by an incredible 8 seconds to capture the gold. One of these rowers was Duvall Hecht, founder of UCI Rowing, and this year marks the golden anniversary of his achievement.

Duvall's road to gold began in 1952 when his college coach, Jimmy Beggs, convinced him and his partner, Jim Fifer, that they could make the 1952 Olympic Team in the pair and race in Helsinki. To this day, Duvall swears that nothing would have happened had Beggs not pushed it as he did. Sure enough, they made the team and won their heat, only to miss making the finals a few days later. Disappointment quickly gave way to fresh ambition, however: the Olympic seed had been sewn.

Determined to get a second chance, Duvall and Jim began training again for the 1955 Olympic Trials-this time in a straight pair named "The Leaky Easy". Sports Illustrated had favored the 1952 Olympic Champions from Rutgers to win the trials, but the two Leaky Easy dark horses defied that prediction and beat the reigning Rutgers Olympians, earning themselves a berth at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics.

Duvall and Jim began four months of intensive pre-Olympic training in Seattle, Washington, with Stan Pocock coaching. Jim, who had wed after the trials, brought his wife along with him. At one point, wary of any distractions from their training, Duvall told Jim that if his "sore back" didn't get better fast, his wife would have to leave. But it turned out for the best-Jim's wife helped cox the pair on occasion-and before long, Duvall and Jim were off to the Olympic Village in Melbourne, Australia, with George Pocock filling in for Stan as their coach and boatman.

In the heats at Melbourne, Duvall and Jim posted the fastest winning time by an astounding 11 seconds. Advancing to the final, they beat the three-time European Champion Soviets by 8 seconds to capture Olympic Gold. Unaware of this victory, Stan Pocock was toiling over a boat mold in Seattle when a surprise telegram arrived reporting the good news. Stan was so excited that he slammed his fist into the mold and punched a hole clean through it!

Ever since his Olympic victory, Duvall has made enormous contributions to the sport of rowing. In 1965 he founded the UCI crew program and ever since has played an integral role in keeping it alive, healthy and growing. During the 50th Anniversary Celebration of his Olympic Gold, which took place at Stanford (his alma mater), Duvall was recognized by several of the many young men he inspired as a UCI coach for his "unforgettable contributions to bettering young men through this finest of arts: rowing."



UCI Alumni reunite to recognize Duvall.
Top, left to right: Brian Frank, David Heimerl, Brad Cohn. Bottom, left to right: Michael Maxwell, Scott Ritter, Duvall Hecht, Gabriel Francis, Theodore Khachatourian.

Upon receiving his award, Duvall could not find the words to express his appreciation for what coaching at UCI has given him, but he offered a piece of wisdom on the merits of work with a quote from literary agent, T.A. Swanson:

"There is nothing in this world that can take the place of work. It's the best companion you will ever have. It will never interfere with your life style. And there is always the chance that it will make you rich, as well as famous."

November 27, 1956 was indeed a great day for rowing in America, and on behalf of UCI, it is a great pleasure to honor this golden anniversary of Duvall's gold strike down under!

Adapted from "What a Great Day"
by Kent Mitchell, Founder, Jamcotimes.com

Edited by Brian Frank, UCI Crew '97-00
and Laura Ritter, UCLA Class of '08

Submitted by Scott Ritter, UCI Crew '01-04

Season Wrap-Up

by Coach Scott Charette

As I look back on the season the prevailing theme among the athletes was hard work. With hard work being the backbone of this sport it is great that the athletes in this program have been so eager to adopt the philosophy. Early on they learned to pull hard and as they continued to do so they also searched for the "Art of Rowing". Every day they wanted to improve and they attacked the training like their season was riding on each stroke. I am sure our Varsity athletes will continue to pass this attitude on to the incoming freshman each year.

The Novice Women not only worked hard they also began to understand the stroke. Technically this group was a bit more advanced than the average novice crew. Balance came early which allowed them to focus on more advanced skills. As the season progressed the crew added the ability to race to their list of advanced skills. This made for some exciting and close races. The season ended with half the eight doubling into the four at the W.I.R.A regatta which provided one more opportunity to gain race experience. More race experience proved crucial in the seat racing that followed. Two of the novice women were able to seat race into the Varsity eight for the trip to Philadelphia to race in the Dad Vail regatta.



Novice Women's Four

For the Novice Men it was evident early on that they were racers. They practiced everyday as if they were rowing in a race. With almost 20 athletes the entire season, competition for seats was fierce and the line-up's changed throughout the season. Both eight's had some excitingly close racing throughout the season. Racing in the fastest novice heat at the WIRA Championship the Novice eight missed the grand finals, but showed what they were made of by winning the petite finals by 7 seconds.



Novice Men's Eight

The Varsity Men were relentless in their training and their quest for more rowing knowledge. Due to the way the program was structured, time management, self discipline and self motivation were all put on the athlete's plate. Half the required training was to be done on their own. Not only did they complete the training, many of them did extra. I could not have asked more.



Varsity Men's Four

Looking towards the 2006-2007 season the same number of athletes are returning as the previous year but that is where the similarities end. This group is stronger and more technically advanced. The competition for seats will be intense which will lead to competitive boats all around. The returning varsity athletes have a season of small boat rowing under their belt and the novice eagerly learned to row in the singles the last few weeks of school. This group is ready to step up to the next level. With increased balance and boat feel we will be able to spend a little more time on continuous rowing. The rowers are encouraged to do many cross training activities during the summer and through out the year. Swimming and running continue to be the cross training activities of choice but a few of the rowers have picked up in-line speed skating and bike riding as other cross training alternatives. We are just a few week's away from the beginning of our fall season and the buzz coming from the athletes as they trickle back into town is one of excitement. I for one can't wait to get started!

Due to the generosity of our amazing group of parents we were able to purchase 3 new sets of oars and a new eight last spring. This was the first equipment purchase for the men since the 99-2000 season. An initial gift, matched by Countrywide got the ball rolling and most of the parents quickly pitched in to finalize the purchase. The adjustable length oars will help us accommodate the wide range in the size of our current athletes. The boat is made by Filippi and the hull, the F9, is a copy of the design the former East German company "VEB" made popular in the late 70's. I do not know of any college programs rowing this hull as it is very hard to row but it is used at the international level, most recently by the German Women in Lucerne where they won Gold.



Varsity Men's Eight

Season Wrap-Up

by Coach Carrie Parsons

Greetings!

The Irvine varsity women raced hard and learned much throughout racing season 06. The varsity team, exactly nine girls - eight of whom were sophomores, had a lot to learn on the course. The girls worked hard daily in practice and used their weekend match-ups to continue to hone their racing skills. The girls spent much of the year working in small boats mastering balance, flow and acceleration. The last seven weeks of the season, the team came together to row daily in the eight with double sessions multiple times per week. The set and rhythm that they established was a testament to the early season detail work in the small boats. The varsity eight continued to get faster each weekend, and they came close to capturing their first win.

Irvine had the opportunity to travel out to Dad Vails in Philadelphia to finish off the season. Two novice women were seat raced in adding some extra horse power to the line-up. Despite a shaky first race, the crew qualified for the reps. They left everything out on the water in their second race of the day leading the pack into the final 500. It was an exciting match-up across the field as the crews came into the grandstands but Irvine was squeezed out in the final stretch. In this race, the crew - all of whom are returning next year - learned that they can succeed when they pull together as a team and trust that each will give her all. In the boat meeting afterward, each rower expressed the empowerment that they gained from this race.

I look forward to returning this eight next year along with the rest of the novice team that will step up to varsity. I see and hear about the training that is taking place this summer, I hear the buzz of excitement that is still in the air from their last race, and I know that next year will be the beginning of a different chapter at Irvine. I can't wait to get started!!

Coach Carrie



A LOOK AT THE 2005-2006 UCI ROWING SEASON

Varsity rowers Alix Howard and Katie Albo place 3rd in the Pair at WIRA Championships!!



Dad Vail Regatta

V8 4th in reps

Head of the American

WO8 11th out of 17

WIRA CHAMPIONSHIPS

WV8 2nd in 3rd final
WV4 3rd in petite final
W2- 3rd in grand final
WN8 4th in 3rd final
WN4 2nd in petite final

Head of the Marina

WO8 4th out of 5
WO2- 3rd out of 4

San Diego Fall Classic

WO2- 3rd out of 3
WO8 4th out of 9
(4 crews did not finish due to weather)

San Diego Crew Classic

V8 7th out of 7 in heat
N8 3rd in 3rd final

Newport Autumn Rowing Festival

WN8 13th out of 20
WO8 15th out of 24

Novice Men win petite final at WIRA Championships by 7 seconds!



WIRA CHAMPIONSHIPS

V8 4th in petite final
V4 3rd in 3rd final
N8 1st in petite final
2N8 5th out of 5
N4 4th in petite final
Nlt4 4th out of 6

Head of the Marina

MO4 1st out of 2

San Diego Fall Classic

MO4 9th out of 9
MO8A 1st out of 9
MO8B 6th out of 9

San Diego Crew Classic

V8 3rd in 3rd final
2V8 6th in grand final
N8 4th in petite final

Newport Autumn Rowing Festival

MO8 4th out of 17
M2O8 14th out of 17
MN8A 18th out of 22
MN8B 19th out of 22
MO4 14th out of 19

Head of the American

MO8 3rd out of 12

VARSITY 2005-2006 ROSTER WOMEN'S TEAM

| <u>Name</u> | <u>HT</u> | <u>YR</u> |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Katie Albo | 5-10 | So. |
| Collen Awad | 5-6 | Jr. |
| Laurel Dinwiddie | 5-11 | So. |
| Alix Howard | 5-10 | So. |
| Christine Le* | 4-10 | Jr. |
| Nina Nair | 5-6 | So. |
| Leonorra Sanchez | 5-5 | Jr. |
| Katie Sullivan | 5-8 | So. |
| Rachel Wong | 5-5 | Jr. |

MEN'S TEAM

| <u>Name</u> | <u>HT</u> | <u>YR</u> |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|
| Albert Almada | 5-9 | So. |
| Robert Amador | 6-4 | So. |
| Ricky Bebout | 6-1 | Sr. |
| Mark Caswell | 6-0 | Sr. |
| Thomas Chiu* | 5-10 | Jr. |
| Ryan Farrell | 5-11 | So. |
| William Gray | 6-2 | So. |
| Chris Hudson | 5-9 | Jr. |
| Ken Ito | 5-9 | Jr. |
| Justin Kessler | 6-3 | Sr. |
| Maxim Lazarov | 6-0 | So. |
| Troy Nelson | 6-2 | So. |
| Joseph Russo | 6-3 | Sr. |
| Oracio Sanchez* | 5-4 | So. |
| Artur Sarkisyan | 6-2 | So. |
| John Sequi | 6-3 | Sr. |
| Thomas Speakes | 6-5 | Jr. |

*Coxswain

UC Irvine Rowing Team



2006



Varsity 8: Oracio, Ryan, Art, R.J., Tom, John, Troy, Ricky, Justin



Varsity 8: Nina, Leonorra, Laurel, Collen, Christine, Katie A., Alix, Rachel, Katie S.



Varsity 4: Ken, Chris, Will, Albert, Tom Chiu



Novice 8: Alex, Jerome, Aarushi, Mat A., Jon, Josh, Travis, Derrick, Wesley



Novice 8: Krystyn, Ashley, Kelly, Denise Naomi, Valerie, Alexandra, Amanda, Nia



Novice Light Weight 4: Mark, Andre, Kellen, Justin, Aarushi

NOVICE 2005-2006 ROSTER WOMEN'S TEAM

| <u>NAME</u> | <u>HT</u> | <u>YR</u> |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Sukhmani Dhaliwal | 5-3 | Fr. |
| Alexandra Diachkoff | 5-8 | Fr. |
| Amanda Evans | 5-10 | Fr. |
| Ashley Fee | 5-6 | Fr. |
| Kelly Forster | 5-5 | Fr. |
| Denise French | 5-2 | So. |
| Naomi Gerbatsch | 5-10 | Fr. |
| Valerie Hite-Smith | 5-1 | So. |
| Nia Hunt | 5-11 | Fr. |
| Krystyn Slack | 5-6 | Fr. |

MEN'S TEAM

| <u>Name</u> | <u>HT</u> | <u>YR</u> |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Mat Anderson | 6-0 | Fr. |
| Alexi Antonion | 5-10 | So. |
| Aarushi Bhargava* | 4-10 | Fr. |
| Rowan Cannaday | 6-6 | Fr. |
| Wesley Chin | 5-11 | Fr. |
| Josh Cohen | 6-3 | Fr. |
| Derrick Diego | 5-10 | Fr. |
| Jeff Draper | 6-0 | So. |
| Kellen Hudson | 5-10 | Fr. |
| Jon Iwata | 5-6 | Fr. |
| Koohyar Karimi* | 5-0 | Jr. |
| Jerome Lee | 6-0 | So. |
| Mathew Michaelson | 6-3 | So. |
| Sean Miller | 6-1 | Fr. |
| Andre Paredes | 5-10 | Fr. |
| Travis Petovello | 6-2 | Jr. |
| Jason Ruth | 6-1 | Jr. |
| Mark San Juan | 5-7 | Fr. |
| Charles Stoianovici | 5-10 | Fr. |
| Alex Tessier | 6-1 | Fr. |
| Justin Varma | 5-6 | Fr. |

*Coxswain



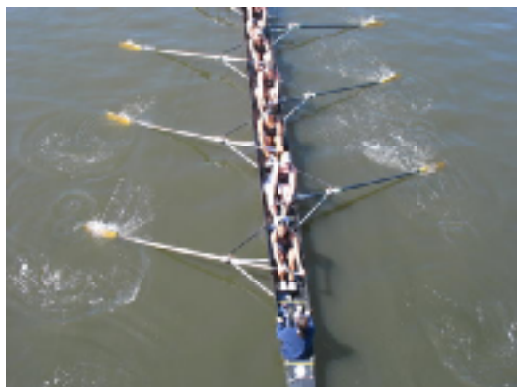
2nd Novice 8: Andre, Mathew, Rowan, Sean, Charles, Kellen, Jason, Jeff



Novice 4: Rowan, Jeff, Max, Sean



Novice Women's Eight UCLA 3/18/06



Varsity Women's Eight UCLA 3/18/06



Varsity Men's Eight WIRA



Novice Men's Eight San Diego Crew Classic

ALUMNI NEWS

Irvine alumni compete in Canadian Henely. Aaron Frank, Rob Walker, Kieren "K.C." Coghlan, Jedd Rogge, and Coxswain Jen Jacobson will compete in the four August 8th through 13th.

Mark your calendar for Alumni Weekend, February 3 and 4, 2007. This years Hall of Fame Brunch and Alumni Day were a huge success lets make next year even better.

San Diego Crew Classic will be here before you know it. Start planning to row in an alumni boat on March 31, 2007 and April 1, 2007.

BOATHOUSE NEWS

In the previous newsletters we have written about the plans for a new boathouse. These plans are still in the works but have been delayed due to the construction of the The Department of Fish and Game's new facilities.

I wanted to thank all of the alumni that have completed their on-line bios. We have received a lot of bios but there are still a lot of alumni that have not completed their bios. Please let all of your teammates know about the website and bios. We do not have an accurate alumni data base, so we are creating one with the information from these bios. Thank you for helping us keep in touch with you, our former anteater rowers.

If you are interested in writing an article for the next edition please e-mail crew@uci.edu