



The Wave

Newsletter of the McGill University Rowing Club

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Men's Varsity Eight Captures St. Catharines Challenge; Wins Right To Compete at Victoria Boat Race

On Sunday, April 29, at the Henley Grandstand in St. Catharines Ontario, the McGill Men's Challenge Eight set crew precedent by winning the biggest race in the club's recent history. In a field of seven boats, McGill rowed from behind through two crews to capture the title of 'fastest crew in the East' with a time of 5:51. A strong crew from the University of Western Ontario placed second by a deck, while the University of Toronto was a close third. The Challenge title was accompanied with an invitation to compete at the Victoria International Boat Race, 1990.

The opportunity to compete in Victoria, B.C. was offered by the race committee of the Victoria Boat Race, in an effort to gain representation from Eastern Canada in this international regatta. The plane fare, billeting, food and transportation while in Victoria have been underwritten by the City of Victoria. The trip will last from May 30-June 4, 1990. Over the past five years, this race has attracted top collegiate crews from

Great Britain (Oxford, Cambridge and the University of London), the United States (Harvard and the University of Washington), and this year the Soviet National B Team has presently committed to competing, among many others.

Since returning to Montréal to train for the remainder of the month, the crew has been covered locally and nationally by the television media. Training will continue twice daily under the guidance of National Team Coach Karol Sauvé. Following the Boat Race, a contingent of three pairs from the eight will compete at the Canadian Small Boats Championships in Welland, Ontario, in a bid to gain a place on Canada's National Rowing Team.

National television coverage of the Boat Race is scheduled for June 2nd and 3rd. The race consists of a sprint (approximately 800m) in the inner harbour of Victoria and a full length race (approximately 1800m) on nearby Elk Lake, B.C.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

•Jennifer Mactaggart

Warm weather has finally arrived in Montreal, and a core of die-hard MURC sun-worshippers continue to train into the summer months. Excitingly, the oarsmen of the McGill Challenge Eight, a heavy men's crew, have earned the title of the 'fastest crew in the East,' (Canadian East, that is!) and with it an all-expenses paid trip to the prestigious Victoria International Boat Race, in Victoria, B.C. What a win! It is so satisfying to see McGill crews make a strong impression on Canadian elite rowing. Both CBC and CTV

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COACH'S CORNER

•Mike Lizée

Lightweight Bronze Highlights Dad Vail 1990

Three women's crews travelled south to Philadelphia for the Dad Vail Regatta Association Championships 1990. This year's Martlet Crews included a Freshman Eight, a Lightweight Eight and a Varsity Coxed Four.

The number of entries increases every year at Dad Vails. This year for the first time, early morning time trials were required in most events

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have run little documentaries on the crew, and the regatta out West will be televised as well (June 2nd and 3rd), so keep an eye out for our red and white!

The women's boats also had a strong showing at the Dad Vail Regatta in Philadelphia, with the Varsity lightweight women's eight grabbing a bronze medal in their highly competitive category. This crew will be staying together to race throughout the summer, so it will be exciting to follow their progress.

On the water - only in a different milieu - the MURC crew also fought bravely. In Intramural Innertube Waterpolo (quite an impressive, not to mention highly competitive sport), the mixed OARHEADS team placed a heart-wrenchingly close second to a team 'stacked' with members of the official McGill swim and waterpolo squads. Next year those steins are destined to be ours!

The Athletics Banquet was also a success. The rowing contingent was lively and supportive despite being interspersed throughout the banquet hall. Our two MVP's were Matthew Lella and Michelle Jones, who are both invaluable members of our team and inspirations to their crews. Congratulations also to John Younger who was recognized by the university for his long-term commitment to our club, and its subsequent growth.

The Raffle was also 'pulled off' again this year. It may not have been the most successful of fundraisers for a variety of reasons, but we have raised enough to invest (most likely) in a much needed coxed four shell. We'll keep you posted. Negotiations are also being conducted with the Olympic Basin administration to open a new and hopefully much more productive contract with them for the use of their facilities. The Basin has recently been designated a National Rowing Training Centre, under the experienced and nurturing hand of national team coach Karol Sauvé. Perhaps the Basin will finally receive the recognition that its facilities warrant, and provide us with the support and stability that our club craves.

As for the rest of the summer and into the fall our plans are all systems go! Our main problem is, as always, our funding (or lack thereof). Any new ideas or inspirations would be much appreciated. Funding aside, however, our club is thriving, and it is definitely showing in our results - not to mention in our spirits and determination. Keep your eyes open and your ears to the ground - we're making waves!

...DAD VAIL 1990 cont'd

for crews not qualifying in the previous regional championships. Both the four and the freshman eight had to compete in these trials before the heats. The freshman boat which was composed of six novice lightweights had a tough time battling the chop and crosswind as a long winter of training came down to one tough 2000 metre race. The coxed four under the direction of Idie Punt looked strong in their time trial, finishing 14th out of 35 entries. Pretty good, but unfortunately only twelve crews advanced to the heats. The lightweight eight did not have to qualify in a time trial, but drew a tough heat. It included the 1989 Dad Vail Champions, Washington University (from the Mid-West) with six returning athletes. With half of our crew straight from the Martlet Novice program, the inexperience showed as the Red Dawn sat third at the thousand metre mark. Montréal native and coxswain Nathalie Hollinger led the lightweights through Washington U. and Michigan U. to win the heat. In the final, the winner of the first heat, George Washington U. of New York, took a commanding lead. McGill fought it out with last years' silver medal crew, the University of Toronto, but unfortunately the women were not as lucky as in their heat. The Martlets did take a bronze medal home as a souvenir. Hopefully this will add fuel to the fire as ten lightweights are competing for the same nine seats and will surely see the Toronto Argonaut boat this summer.

During winter training, all 'oncomers' were gladly welcomed, the talented rowers as well as those needing a bit more work. It is clear that our boats are not of the same calibre as those at Dad

Vail, but the training for this regatta will continue on a yearly basis to build a backbone for our fall program. Nonetheless, anyone expecting to make it past the first round in Philadelphia should have at least two years of year-round rowing experience. This means winter training, erg competitions, spring racing, summer racing (as opposed to recreational rowing) and finally head and sprint racing.

Many girls were disappointed after putting in so many hours at the gym. This is very much a part of our sport, and a rower is expected to pay his or her dues in sweat and hard work many times over before they can even start to think about winning. A silver in the four last year and a bronze this year in the much more competitive eight ain't too bad. We've already started training for the 1990 OU/OWIAA's and the 1991 Dad Vails. Isn't that what our sport is all about?

THE STEIN WAS MINE

•Pete Ventin

Sheer talent nearly reigned supreme. However, in the end, the Intra-Mural Innertube Waterpolo Championships slipped away. Spurred on by the chance to secure the coveted stein (thus our war chant, 'the stein is mine'), our glorious oarhead team swam, crawled, scratched and gnawed their way to the finals, against the much maligned swim team. The game featured the innovative triangle formation of the defense along with the more powerful female front triangle, thanks to coach/player/ref heckler Andrew Tees. But alas, the game was lost by one point in a gruelling overtime.

Despite the final result, superlative performances were turned in by Maritimer Lisa Holleman, who rattled the cage on more than one occasion with her underhand-reverse hook rifleshot. Notable pre- and post-game rituals by the likes of Brad Crombie reflected the team's commitment to success.

Next year's tourney will likely bring with it more fun, frolicking and of course, the stein.

ATHLETICS BANQUET - A BALL

•Andrew Tees

There is nothing like a banquet to allow a group of people who are used to seeing one another while suffering from some occasionally obscene cases of bedhead to flaunt their well groomed appearances. Dressed in natty suits and chic dresses, McGill rowers turned out in force to the annual Athletics Banquet held on April 6 at the Bonaventure Hilton.

The evening, which allows all of McGill's teams to come together and bask in their collective glory, began at 6pm with cocktails. Promptly at 7 the piper made his appearance calling those present into the dining hall to let the evening begin. Upon entering the hall, all coaches were presented with boutonnieres. Head Coach Mike Lizée, never one to pass on a free flower, looked marvellous sporting his red carnation. CBC sportscaster John Hancock, who doesn't look anything like his voice, acted as master of ceremonies and allowed the evening to proceed along at a pleasant clip. After a slide show which ran amuck and was mercifully postponed, dinner was served. Despite heavy speculation to the contrary, chicken was served. This observer counts this one as the fifth year running for chicken, and can only hope that next year we once again receive this fowl meal. This year's oarsmen and women deserve special praise for their self-control. Despite provocative glances from rowdy badminton players, discretion ruled and the rowers broke with tradition by not initiating a food fight. No sooner had the plates been removed than it was time for the presentation of the MVP awards. The recipients from the rowing team were Matthew Lella from the Heavyweight Men's crew, and the coxswain of the Varsity Women, Michelle Jones. Both are extremely deserving winners having tirelessly served the crew for years.

Those remaining then enjoyed the second attempt at the slide show which featured many candid shots of familiar rowing faces which brought cheers from all fellow oarspeople.

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With the slide show over it was time to take to the dance floor. Rowing alumnus Dancin' Dave Garside acted as DJ and featured 'the stacks of wax and platters that matter' which included more techno-pop groups than one finds on most K-Tel albums.

Thanks to a strong crew turnout, the event proved to be a resounding success.

M.U.R.C. MEN'S CHALLENGE EIGHT VICTORIA BOAT RACE 1990

Bow-Chris Lambie

2-Dave Wilson

3-Andrew Tees

4-Bradshaw Crombie

5-Geoff Barnard

6-Henry Hering

7-Grant Gush

Stroke-John Younger

Coxswain-Jennifer Mactaggart

Coach: Karol Sauvé

DAD VAIL REGATTA PHILADELPHIA, 1990

Women's Varsity Lightweight Eight

Bow-Tania Tretiak

2-Devra Hendelman

3-Katalin Makkai

4-Lisa Carey

5-Roberta Back

6-Chantal Archambault

7-Rachel Starr

Stroke-Signe Gottfredson

Coxswain-Nathalie Hollinger

Women's Varsity Coxed Four

Bow-Andrea Behie

2-Sarah Quail

3-Lisa Holleman

Stroke-Amanda Spencer

Coxswain-Edie Punt

Women's Freshman Open Eight

Bow-Zabin Suleman

2-Andrea Freiberg

3-Brenda Baxter

4-Susanna Walker

5-Mireille Salvetti

6-Alexa Zabrowski

7-Jill Roncarati

Stroke-Pamela Conner

Coxswain-Laura Hatley

Coach: Mike Lizée

GENERAL MEETING- FALL 1990

It is important to note that the MURC Fall General Meeting will be held at Bay 4 of the Olympic Basin on Friday, August 31, 1990, at 6:00 pm. All returning athletes are asked to attend this meeting, as it will give one the opportunity to sign up for ergometer tests being scheduled the following weekend.

Scheduled Dates-Fall 1990

HEAD OF THE TRENT SAT., SEPT. 29, 1990
BROCK INVATIONALS SAT., OCT. 13, 1990
HEAD OF THE CHARLES SUN., OCT. 21, 1990
OU/OWIAA CHAMPIONSHIPS
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1990

COACHES AND A MANAGER NEEDED

The MURC is perpetually looking for coaches to volunteer their expertise, and this is especially true during the fall season. This year we are also seeking a manager. Both of these positions include a small honorarium. Any enthusiastic individuals who would like to sacrifice his/her time should contact Jennifer Mactaggart for a full job description and desired hours of work.

The Wave is published three times annually by the McGill University Rowing Club as an information medium for itself and its sister organization, the Friends of McGill Rowing. Articles, comments, and suggestions should be sent to:

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