

Husky Rowing News



The First Annual VBC Banquet and Awards Night

Friday, March 25, 2005

Don James Center

Social Hour 6:00

Dinner 7:00

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Two years ago, nearly 1,000 rowing alumni, parents and friends gathered to celebrate 100 years of rowing at the University of Washington. By every possible measure, the night was an enormous success and many of you told the Board of Rowing Stewards to make it an annual event.

Here it is! The Rowing Stewards invite you to join them in this newest Husky tradition. Al Erickson and his organizing crew have put together a night that will rival the celebrated Centennial Banquet. We've told you about it already but now is the time to act. Drop down to the Reservation Form below, print it, fill it out, and put it in the mail with your check. Trust us, you don't want to miss this event.

A gold medal program has been lined up for you and your friends. Betsy Beard-Stillings, Matt Deakin and Bryan Volpenhein – Olympic Gold Medalists all – will take the podium with film and anecdotes of their victories over the best competition the world had to offer. Our

current Husky rowers will receive team awards and National Championship rings – this year in front of their biggest fans and supporters. And we will cap the evening with a public induction of those eligible for membership in the Varsity Boat Club. Throughout the night a silent auction of Husky Crew items will be available for your bid.

As interesting as the lineup may sound, you know the best part of the evening will be the chance to mingle with your old teammates and friends, meet the current athletes, and trade stories and lies.

Put together a table of six for \$300 and two athletes will sit with you. Become a Patron for \$100 or a Sponsor for \$65 to help defray the heavy costs of the evening, or sign up for the regular price of \$40. You are not just welcome but one of the necessary ingredients. Be there and help keep Washington rowing at the very top.



2005 Washington
Crew Media Guide at
www.gohuskies.com

Husky Crew Awards Banquet Reservation Form

Please reserve my spot at the 2005 Husky Crew Awards Banquet to be held at the Don James Center on Friday, March 25, starting at 6:00p.m.

Name: _____ Class: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Please reserve _____ seats for the VBC Banquet at \$40 each \$ _____

I'd rather be a Sponsor at \$65 per seat \$ _____

Make me a Patron at \$100 per seat \$ _____

Please reserve a table for me at \$300. \$ _____

I have enclosed the names of the five other people in my party.

These names must be on the list at the door for entrance to the banquet.

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ made payable to Washington Rowing Stewards

Send this reservation form and your check to:
Husky Crew Awards Banquet,
University of Washington, Graves Building, Box 354080,
Seattle, WA 98195.

Class Day Race and Free BBQ: Saturday, March 26

After a lively night at the VBC Banquet, pack up the kids and come down to the annual Class Day races at the Montlake Cut. That's Saturday morning, March 26. Here is the schedule for the races.

10:00 Women's Varsity-Novice Challenge Race

10:10 Men's Varsity-Novice Challenge Race

10:20 The Seattle Times Trophy Race

10:30 The George M. Varnell Trophy Race

After the races, be sure to drop by the new Conibear Shellhouse to mingle with friends, families, coaches and athletes. While there, fill up on the famous free BBQ served by the Stewards to the team and their parents, friends and alums. That's right, by popular demand, the BBQ is back!

The menu this year features beef, chicken or garden burgers, and hot dogs. There will be chips and cookies and beverages and, if the sponsors are in a good mood they just might pick up some apples and candy bars, too.

Our companion news source, www.huskycrew.com reports that the BBQ will begin about 11:30, or when the coals

are hot, or when the chef feels like it, and the food will be served on a first come, first served basis. Once it's gone, it's gone, so get there early. And don't forget to drop a few bucks in the collection can – all proceeds go to the program.



Fun, Fun Fun! Come and join us!

Flash! As we went to press, Dwight Phillips reported that there are a few spots left on the "Cruise with Croissants" boat. Watch the races up close and dine on fresh fruit, croissants and espresso drinks served up by Zita the Latte Lady. Boarding occurs promptly at 8 a.m. at the H.C. Henry Pier located at the south end of Lake Union – D Dock, just behind Daniel's Broiler. The cost is \$27 per person but check with Dwight at (206) 223-3606 before showing up to make sure there is space left.

Matt Deakin Reports



Our latest Olympic Gold Medalist, Matt Deakin, will be one of the headliners at the VBC Banquet on March 25, which prompted us to request an article from him for the Husky Rowing News. He was late to the starting line for our first issue but in typical Deakin fashion he came through with a very strong performance and a winning finish.

Matt reports: "On January 19th, Bryan Volpenhein, Mary Whipple, Anna Mickelson and I trooped down to the Seattle Sheraton for the Post-Intelligencer Sports Star of the Year Banquet. Not only did they invite us to the event, they promised to give us an award and put us in the running for the Sports Star of the Year."

"After ten years of rowing functions, I thought it would

be a fun, laid-back evening but I realized I was mistaken when we were led into the VIP room and handed free drinks. Then, at dinner, we sat at a long table with the other award winners in front of six to seven hundred people. Joining us was Ann Donovan, the coach of the Seattle Storm, Nate McMillan, the coach of the Sonics, a volleyball player and a basketball player from the UW, a NASCAR rookie driver and amateur golfer, Ryan Moore. With Shaun Alexander sitting next to me, I felt totally out-gunned, like I was wearing mismatched socks. The audience voted for Ryan Moore and Ann Donovan but no hard feelings, we were totally robbed. On the whole it was a great evening and I think we all had a lot of fun."

"On a side note, they gave each of us Sports Star of the Year plaques and the name on mine was spelled Matt Diaken. I have to admit it was a good ego check."

Let Us Hear From You

A new job, a child, a recent master's race? Let us hear from you. If we get enough feedback from alums and friends, we will create a Reconnect column to let people know what you are doing. Send your information to

gints@u.washington.edu and we will get the word out. While you're at it, consider submitting a rowing related article to the Husky Rowing News. We'll do our best to publish it!

Eleanor McElvaine Reports

The women's varsity squad is ready to make the change to morning practices. We have had such great weather in the afternoons that Seattle's boat owners have taken their yachts out of mothballs early and are cruising around. If we run into wakes during races this spring, we won't be fazed because we have gone through so many.

The varsity women are feeling the heat of selection. We have our final erg test, bench pulls and pair races coming up before final exams. The fours have already seen some seat racing and the coxswains are getting good at pulling together

and switching rowers. The competition is fierce and the return of some previously injured players will only make us faster. The skills of boat moving under pressure are being honed for the beginning of racing season.

I look forward to seeing many alums and parents at our spring races.



Bob Ernst Reports

With the first of March upon us, the crews are beginning their final preparations for racing season. Before we go racing, however, we have some bridges to cross. First we have final examinations. As usual this is a very busy time with papers to



write, projects to turn in and examinations to take. Our great student-athletes take this time very seriously and the grade point average of the team reflects this strongly.

Final exams are followed by spring break and the traditional two-a-days.

Crew selections for the early season races will be based on the seat racing pieces during spring break. But "double days" is also a time for bonding among the athletes – meals together, seeing some movies, the VBC Banquet and freshman orientation – which help bring the athletes together in anticipation of racing season.

This year the Huskies open with the Windermere Classic at Stanford University in early April. This is new for us because we have opened our season in San Diego at their Crew Classic since the early 1970's.

The guys have worked very hard this winter, and we have some very talented athletes. After being runner up at the IRA regatta the last two years, the seniors would like to win in '05 to make their contribution to the tradition that is Washington Rowing.

1987 Women: "On a Mission" to the National Championship by Eric Cohen

Since 1981, the women's rowing team at Washington has won 22 national championship events. And although 1997 produced our first NCAA team champions (the first year the NCAA sanctioned the sport), you have to go back ten years earlier to find what arguably was the deepest year in the history of the women's sport at Washington.

The 1987 squad was coming off a rare and disappointing loss at the National Championships in 1986. Washington had swept the varsity event for five straight years – a streak that still stands as the longest in the history of women's rowing. Every program in the nation had been gunning for Washington for years, and when Wisconsin prevailed in the final that June day in '86, the question on everyone's mind was – "is the dynasty dead?"

Not quite. To say the team re-committed itself early that year is an understatement. "We were on a mission," said Kris Sanford, '87 varsity stroke (and current women's head rowing

coach at Syracuse), in a recent interview. "The year before we were a very young team. We had T-shirts that said 'Remember We're Young'. Coach Ernst said he never wanted to see those again."

The '87 varsity was tested in their first race at San Diego, but powered through the defending champion Badgers to win by a half-length, boosting team confidence. Two weeks later, after sweeping the Redwood Shores event over Harvard and Princeton, the team was poised for greatness. "We were so incredibly up for that race," said Sanford, "it felt like the weight of the world was lifted off our shoulders. That was a pivotal point in our season."

Meanwhile, not so subtly, the JV 8 was cruising. By the middle of May, the crew had won every race entered by open water, and became Pac-10 champs by stroking to an eighteen-

(Continued on page 4)

second victory over the closest competition. “We did pretty well against the varsity in training, and felt we were talented”, said Stephanie Doyle, coxswain of the JV8, recently. “From the first day of October, everyone on the team knew we were not there to have fun. We were there to avenge. The one goal we had together was to be first across the line at Nationals.”

On the last day of May, that goal would become reality. The Varsity four began with a one-length victory over runner-up Princeton. The JV’s followed with a gut wrenching four-seat win over Yale. “We were untested in the sprint,” said Doyle “and we ended up rowing neck and neck down the course. I remember ending that race and feeling like I hadn’t taken a breath the whole way.”

That left the varsity. In their heat the day before, they were



The 1987 women’s varsity, bow to stern: Lind Luska, Katarina Wikstrom, Fritz Grevstad, Sara Watson, Heidi Hook, Lisa Beluche, Alice Henderson, Kris Sanford, and Trish Lydon (cox). Washington’s 1987 rowing team is the only squad to sweep the varsity events in the history of the women’s collegiate National Championships.

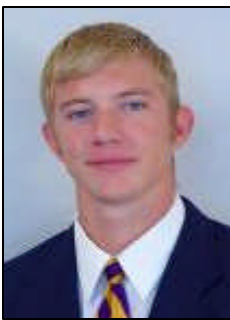
forced to row through Harvard in the sprint, after being down by a length early. In the final it was déjà vu, only this time both Yale and Harvard charged ahead. But in the end, the fit and intensely determined Huskies powered through the east coast schools to win by a half-length. “I think that is what distinguished that team,” said Sanford. “There was never any fear whether or not we could come back in a race. We just knew we would. They had that quality.”

Bob Ernst, who coached the 1987 women’s varsity team, recently reflected on that season. “1987 was the perfect storm. The team was committed to getting better. Lake Natoma felt like our home course. We had a lot of good

athletes. And they really wanted to win.”

And they really wanted to win from the first day of October.

Husky Profiles - Brett Newlin by John Wilcox



We all know that athletes who row are taller, stronger, and smarter than athletes who choose other sports, but sometimes an oarsman comes along who surprises even us. Consider Brett Newlin. At six feet nine inches tall and 240 pounds, he is bigger than either standout Husky basketball forward, Mike Jensen, or Supersonic enforcer, Danny Fortson. And as a Dean’s List student in Computer Engineering, one

of the University’s most demanding and rigorous disciplines, he defines the scholar-athlete concept.

Legendary Computer Engineering Professor, Ed Lazowska, said this of Brett: “Everyone knows him as a strong student and as a really good guy. If it weren’t for the fact that he towers over us, we wouldn’t know he’s a varsity athlete. That’s what you hope for in a scholar-athlete, and that’s what Husky Crew delivers when they attract great kids like Brett to the University of Washington.”

It should surprise no one that Brett holds the coveted rowing scholarship underwritten by well-known businessman, IRA gold medalist (‘61), and University of Washington Regent, Jon Runstad.

Brett was born in California but moved with his parents and younger sister to Riverton, Wyoming, when he was nine – a sister, incidentally, who plays on Stanford’s varsity basketball team. In Wyoming he quickly made a name for himself both academically and athletically, graduating from high school as valedictorian of his class (4.0 GPA) and as an all-

state swimmer. Michigan State University followed where, because of a pamphlet in his freshman orientation packet, he tried out for rowing. He outgrew the club sport program quickly so his coach helped him search for schools that offered a unique combination of educational opportunity and elite rowing experience. He made a recruiting visit to Cornell, but when he discovered Ed Lazowska’s program on campus and Bob Ernst’s program on the water, his decision was easy.

Brett currently lives near campus with five varsity teammates and a sixth friend who rowed for the University. He gave us choice anecdotes about his roommates but in fairness to them we will hold comment until they, in their own profiles, have a chance to rebut. We can share one item however. We asked: “Who is the best cook?” Without hesitation, he said: “Craig’s girlfriend,” which should come as good news to the parents out there who know the cooking skills of their sons and worry about their nutrition.

After graduation, Brett intends to find a job with a company where he can design computers that will be embedded in the equipment we buy and use in our daily lives. For now, he is looking forward to the racing season and a final shot at a National Championship at the IRA. But first things first; next up is the annual Class Day race to be run Saturday, March 26, at 10:00 a.m. Because he entered the program as a sophomore varsity athlete, he won’t be in the senior boat, but he’s not worried. He said: “Keep your eyes on the Classless Boat.”

For more information about Brett and his teammates, go to www.gohuskies.com and click on Crew, then on Media Guide which you will find on the lower right hand side of the page.



Show me a crew that rows well together, it has been said, and I will show you nine individuals destined for success at whatever they choose to do with their life.

We were reminded of that aphorism when we met Katie Gardner. She is not the tallest woman on the squad or the strongest; she doesn't hold down an athletic scholarship and she didn't step directly into the first boat when she arrived at the University. But in three or four minutes it became clear to us that Katie Gardner is an embarrassment of riches. She is fully engaged in life and blessed with the intelligence, grit, talent and outlook needed for what will certainly be a very long and successful run.

Born and raised in Chico, California, in an athletic family – softball, running, tennis, basketball – Katie became addicted to soccer in grade school and, by the time she graduated from Chico High School, she had built a thirteen year soccer career. A strong student, she won recognition as a Golden State Scholar and as a National Merit Commended Student which gave her an opportunity to attend the school of her choice. She was determined to find a large university in a large city and, no fan of Southern California, she looked to the Pacific Northwest. When she saw Seattle and its mountains and lakes and Sound, her decision was easy.

Katie came north expecting to try out as a walk-on with the University's strong soccer team but was waylaid by a pamphlet from the Husky crew that reached her the first week of school. She confessed that she had never seen a crew race – had never heard of the sport – when the pamphlet arrived. She

researched the rowing program and walked right by the soccer field to get to the shellhouse docks.

Katie is majoring in Political Science and plans to attend graduate school in Sports Management, after which she intends to find a position with a university athletic department or a professional sports franchise. We have no doubt she'll run one or the other some day soon.

We asked Katie: "How will it go this year for the Huskies?" and she said: "Last year was a transition year, difficult in some respects. This year is different. We're strong. We're a real team and we're very excited about the season."

We asked: "Why do you think your coach selected you for this interview?" Her reply took us quickly to a conversation on teamwork. "I have experience in all the boats," she said. "I know what it's like to row in the third boat. I know what it's like to row in the four. Last fall I found out what it's like to row in the varsity. But in every boat I try hard to make it a real team. I do my best to make sure we all work together."

Katie doesn't know it but we asked her coach, Eleanor McElvaine, the same question: "Why Katie?" and she said: "I think she will represent the program well. She represents what we are trying to achieve." We're convinced. Katie Gardner exudes success – in school, on the water, and in life – and we submit she is emblematic of the Husky rowing ideal.

For more information on Katie and her teammates, go to www.gohuskies.com and click on Crew, then on Media Guide which you will find on the lower right hand side of the page.

Call for Volunteers

Alums, moms, dads and friends! Here is your chance to renew old friendships, make new ones, see the new boat house, meet the athletes and the coaches, and best of all, do your part to keep Washington Rowing where it belongs – at the very top. We have several ways for you to get involved.

- Varsity Boat Club Banquet, Friday, March 25.
- Class Day BBQ, Saturday, March 26.
- Opening Day Stewards Enclosure, Saturday, May 7.

To sign up as a volunteer, go to www.huskycrew.com then click on Volunteer at the top of the page. Fill out the very simple form and we will get back to you right away. Here's another way to help. If you own a digital camera and plan to attend one or more race, why not share your pictures with Husky crew fans. We are looking for a few additional photographers but you must be signed up or we cannot accept your favorite shots. Do it now. Go to www.huskycrew.com then click on Volunteer.

2005 Racing Schedule

Saturday	March 26th, 2005	Class Day Regatta	Seattle, Washington	10:00 a.m. PT
Saturday	April 9th, 2005	Husky Invitational	Seattle, Washington	7:00 a.m. PT
Saturday	April 9th, 2005	Windermere Collegiate Classic	Belmont, California	10:00 a.m. PT
Saturday	April 16th, 2005	Washington State Dual	Pullman, Washington	10:00 a.m. PT
Saturday	April 23rd, 2005	California Dual	Seattle, Washington	10:00 a.m. PT
Saturday	April 30th, 2005	Oregon State Dual	Seattle, Washington	10:00 a.m. PT
Saturday	May 7th, 2005	Windermere Cup	Seattle, Washington	10:00 a.m. PT
Sunday	May 15th, 2005	Pac-10 Championships	Rancho Cordova, California	12:50 p.m. PT
Sunday	May 29th, 2005	NCAA Championships - Women	Rancho Cordova, California (Lake Natoma)	8:00 a.m. PT
Saturday	June 4th, 2005	IRA National Championships - Men	Camden County, New Jersey (Cooper River)	5:00 a.m. PT

Don't be left out. Here is your last chance to sign up for the FIRST ANNUAL VBC BANQUET AND AWARDS NIGHT . Print this page, fill out the form, make out a check, and put it in the mail today.

Husky Crew Awards Banquet Reservation Form

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Name: _____ Class: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Please reserve _____ seats for the VBC Banquet at \$40 each \$ _____

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Please reserve a table for me at \$300. \$ _____

I have enclosed the names of the five other people in my party.

These names must be on the list at the door for entrance to the banquet.

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ made payable to ***Washington Rowing Stewards***

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**Husky Crew Awards Banquet,
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 Seattle, WA 98195.**

Do you know anyone who would like to be on our mailing list? If so, send us their email address at www.huskycrew.com If you would like to unsubscribe, please let us know at that same address: www.huskycrew.com