

Crew conquers Charles

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By Daniel Laurence

Despite a wind-whipped course and an unfamiliar boat, the University of Chicago men's crew club managed to hold its own in Boston's celebrated Head of the Charles Regatta last weekend.

Guided by veteran coxwain Myer Blank, stroke-man Alan Hodges led his seven fellow oarsmen under seven bridges to the finish of a gruelling three-mile course. The race saw Chicago finish 23rd out of 40 boats from all around the country entered in the men's club eight event. Chicago's 17:30 placed it in the middle of the pack. A bit of excitement was added to the race when a University of Pennsylvania shell rammed Dartmouth, putting a hole in the Dartmouth boat and placing both in the low 30's.

The club eight event was won by the Worcester Rowing Association with a very respectable 16:00.7. However, this may seem slow when compared to the winning time of 14:36.5 posted by the U.S. Naval Academy in the men's championship eight event, which shattered the previous record by nearly 25 seconds.

"The Navy boat was beautiful. It looked like it was set in concrete," observed Coach Marty Howard as he described the Annapolis crew's smooth and stable style.

A poor financial situation almost prevented Chicago's nine-man team from attending "The Head," as it is affectionately referred to. However, the individual team members pooled their private resources and came up with just enough money to fly out, rent a shell and oars from Northeastern University, row, and return to Hyde Park.

Four varsity members, Alan Hodges, Bruce Lifka, John Pritchett, and Dave Koester along with cox Carla Pritchett plan to enter a four-man shell in the Head of the Tennessee Regatta in Knoxville on October 31.

In the meantime, the novice members will have a chance to race this Saturday against the Lincoln Park Boat Club in Lincoln Park Lagoon on Chicago's near-north side.

Interest in rowing at UC seems to have escalated since men's crew's successful spring season and this summer's defeat of Purdue (one of the midwest's toughest crews) at Evansville, Indiana. Membership in the club has doubled this fall, and will likely be up again in the spring of 1982.

Since its inception in 1975, UC men's crew has reached a level of achievement unparalleled in its history, and has risen to the position of one of the top crews in the midwest.

In order to maintain and, as is hoped, augment its winning status, the entire club will prepare for the spring season by holding regular winter work-outs in the field house and by rowing at the tanks of the University of Wisconsin at Madison on selected weekends.