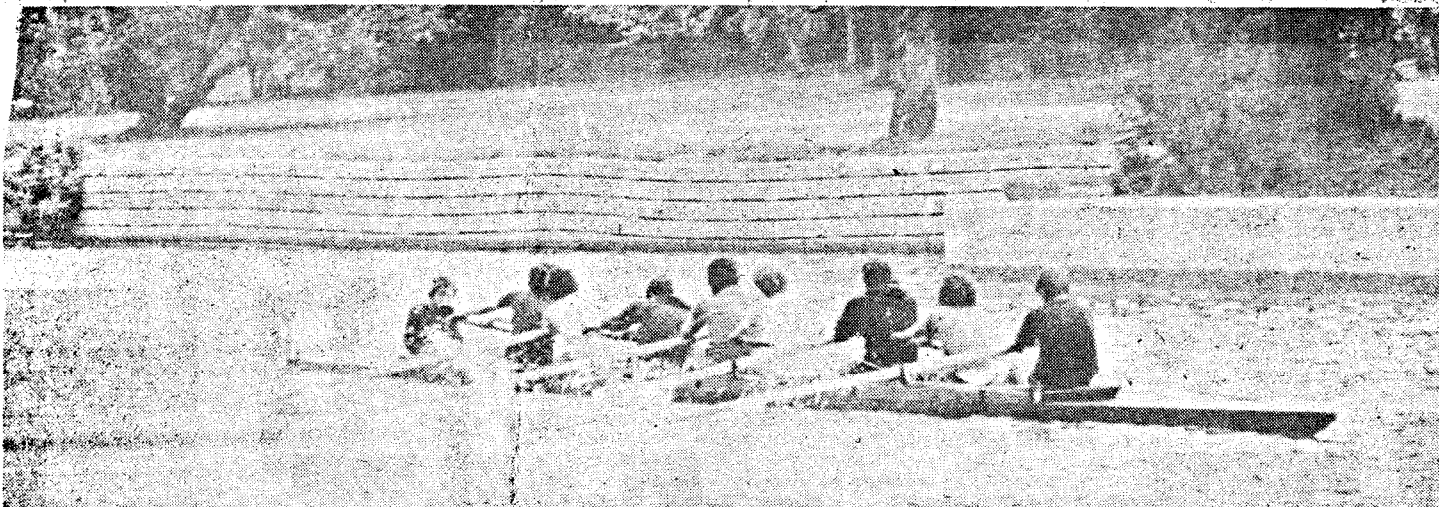


Spring 1980



Men's crew going through a 6am practice at Lincoln Park

Crew resurfaces as competitor

By Andy Lang

After getting off to a late start this season, the University of Chicago Men's Crew has re-emerged as a competitive force in Midwest rowing, following respectable showings in regattas the last two weekends. Renovations conducted on the Lincoln Park Boathouse, at which the crew practices, delayed the team's entry onto the water by nearly four weeks. Already a week or two behind most Midwestern crews, this delay cost the team valuable water time and forced them to cancel several early season meets. It was not until Friday, April 25, the day before the Midwest Sprints Regatta, that the team finally made it onto the water.

Following three hard weeks of practice under Head Coach Ed Stack, a former Brown varsity oarsman, the team journeyed to the Great Lakes Invitational Regatta being hosted by Michigan State University in Lansing. In the preliminary heat of the Varsity Eight race, the basic power of Chicago's first Eight was apparent as the boat took off with a notably quick start,

holding second place for the first third of the race. The boat was unable to sustain its position however, placing last in its heat of four. In the Varsity Eight Consolation Final, the Chicago crew again got off to a quick start, was able to keep up its speed, and in a race won more by guts than style beat host Michigan State, with a time of 3:17 for 1000 meters. (The fastest time for an Eight that day was 3:17 by Grand Valley) Chicago's triumph was sweetened by taking home the shirts of the Michigan State crew, the two teams having bet shirts before the race.

Chicago finished fifth out of seven among Varsity Eights overall, behind Grand Valley State, Wyandotte Boat Club, Detroit Boat Club, and Wayne State, but ahead of Michigan State and Lincoln Park Boat Club. The U of C also put together an exhibition boat for the Novice Eight race which made a strong effort but did not make the finals.

The next weekend, the first Eight travelled to the State of Michigan Championships (to which U of C crews have traditionally been invited) in Grand Rapids hosted by Grand Valley State. The competition was largely the same but the distance was longer, 1850 meters, a fact which caused

some uncertainty as to how Chicago would fare. In the Varsity Eight race, Chicago placed fourth out of five with a time of 6:17, losing to Grand Valley, which placed first with a time of 5:47, Wayne State, and Wyandotte, but again beating Michigan State, a team which was hot for revenge. Coach Stack was pleased overall with Chicago's performance, as its' boat rowed a much smoother race over a considerably longer distance. Chicago's improvement in timing, balance, and bladework earned praise from several of the other coaches at the regatta as well.

The team will conclude its spring season tomorrow by competing in the Chicago Springs Regatta, hosted in the Lincoln Park Lagoon by the Lincoln Park Boat Club. The times for the events were unavailable at press time but the U of C is anticipating stiff competition in the Varsity Eight and Open Four events, in which there will be at least four other entries. The regatta, with its numerous rowing and sculling events is expected to be an all day affair. In short, it presents an excellent opportunity for all to put aside their books, catch some sun, and cheer the home team to victory.