

Crew upsets Notre Dame



After suffering disappointing opening season losses at Michigan State, the crew club rebounded with two impressive upset victories at Notre Dame this weekend. In the men's open eight event, the Chicago crew overcame a substantial Notre Dame lead at the midway point, sprinting the last 500 meters of the race to achieve victory. Fighting a strong headwind and current, the varsity eight posted a time of 6:34 over the 2000 meter course, seven seconds ahead of second place Notre Dame and 20 seconds ahead of Grand Valley State College. The victory over Grand Valley avenged the prior week's loss to the same crew in a race which was marred by equipment problems.

The varsity win followed strong performances by both of Chicago's novice men's eights. In the novice "B" event, Chicago led the entire race, finishing strongly in a time of 7:20. Again, Notre Dame finished in second place, ahead of both Grand Valley and Culver Military Academy.

The novice "A" race was perhaps the most dramatic event of the day. After popping an oarlock and losing several boat lengths, the Chicago eight gallantly fought back and nearly edged out Notre Dame at the finish line with a strong sprint. Their effort fell short, however, and they finished two seconds behind Notre Dame's time of 7:17.

One disappointment of the day came when a combination University of Chicago and Lincoln Park women's open four finished third. The disheartening result was not entirely unexpected. Coach Marty Howard attributed the loss to a lack of "quality" rowing time during practices due to personnel changes and equipment problems.

Howard was pleased with the overall performance by the crew. "The winter workout program designed by trainer Larry Briand has shown definite results. Our crew is

strong and well conditioned. There's still a lot of room for improvement in style and timing, but with adequate water time, we should be peaking for the Waterloo (Iowa) Regatta on May 15," he stated.

In addition to the Waterloo Regatta, the team will be travelling to Madison, Wisconsin this weekend for the Midwest Rowing Championships and will also participate in a regatta at the Lincoln Park lagoon on May 8th against the Lincoln Park Boat Club and Northwestern.