

# Crew teams fight battle of Waterloo

## Women's worst day

By Lina Goode

The women's crew club had the worst day in its seven year history at the Waterloo Open Regatta on May 15. One entry after another fell prey to equipment malfunctions and other conditions over which the team had no control.

UCWC had to borrow a four at the last minute when the bow rigger on its own shell broke as the team was packing to leave. Steering problems developed on the way to the starting line for the Women's Open Four heats. At the start of the race, as UCWC leaped out ahead of the pack, its boat suddenly veered sharply to the left and cut in front of two on-coming crews. The race was stopped and UCWC offered to withdraw, but regatta officials decided to move the crew to an outside lane instead.

At the second start the UCWC boat veered sharply again, this time to the right. UCWC ceased rowing momentarily to avoid a crash and then went back into action, continuing to fight the steering problem the rest of the way. "We had such a good team we were hellbent on not letting the boat itself do us in," said coxswain and team captain Chris Gomez. "We came across the finish line with so much power and good form, observers wondered why we hadn't won the race instead of finishing last in our heat." The crew's spirited performance showed in the overall standings. Despite the steering problem, UCWC finished sixth out of eight teams, besting Kansas University by ten seconds and an entry from the men's crew club by forty seconds.

While the University of Minnesota established an early lead in the Novice Eight race

UCWC, again in a borrowed boat, was competitive for second place with Northwestern and an entry from the men's crew club until stroke Talia Sternberg's seat came off the track. The eleven seconds the team lost trying to recover was enough to secure last place for UCWC.

In the last event of the day, the Women's Open Eight, Minneapolis, the University of Minnesota, and Kansas University pulled away early, leaving UCWC to fight it out for fourth place with St. Paul and Lincoln Park. At the halfway mark in the 1,700 meter race, UCWC was even with St. Paul and gaining seats on Lincoln Park. An officials boat suddenly gunned forward to catch up to the race leaders, washing UCWC with a wake that swamped the boat. St. Paul and Lincoln Park surged ahead as UCWC struggled to recover. Now tugging dead weight extra pounds of water over the second half of the course, UCWC finished last, a disappointing fifteen seconds behind arch rival Lincoln Park.

Coach Susan Urbas summed the day up this way: "The worst that can happen is that you not do your best, regardless of the outcome. The next worst is to perform well and not get credit for it. The latter was Waterloo 1982 for us. But we'll get over it by the time we hit the Regional Championships in Minneapolis on May 30th."

## Men end with win

The men's crew club finished its best season ever with an impressive showing at the Waterloo, Iowa open regatta held on May 15.

The day began on a disappointing note when the men's open four failed to qualify for the finals because of an equipment problem. The UC entry passed boat after boat in its heat, breezing into the lead and pulling away at the halfway mark. But the victory was not to be, for an oarlock popped open and an oar was lost. The four was turned nearly sideways as time slipped away. Two man Bruce Lifka managed to get the oar back in place and the four finished third, but its time was not good enough to qualify for the finals.

The club's women's open four also fared badly. Finishing behind Minnesota, Minneapolis, and Kansas — which all turned in

strong performances — the boat did not qualify for the finals.

Things began to improve rapidly for the Maroons. The men's open eight eased to a second place finish in its qualifying heat, defeating Minnesota, St. Paul, and Northwestern and narrowly losing to Minneapolis.

The next event was the women's novice eight, in which the club's entry impressively finished second behind Minnesota's women. The men's entry finished ahead of Northwestern and the UC women's crew club entry. Since five of the eight women had rowed for less than three weeks, this medal-winning performance was especially remarkable. The race was protested, but scrutiny proved that the rowers were indeed women and the final standings remained intact.

Next up was the men's novice eight. In a race marred by false starts and rough water, the Chicago entry managed a third place finish behind Minnesota and Northwestern. The boat defeated both Minneapolis and Mendota.

The finals of the men's open eight was a hotly contested race both on the water and in a protest meeting afterwards. Rough water and high winds plagued the otherwise smoothly run regatta and tension was high for this event. Kansas University and the Lincoln Park Boat Club protested the start of the race, but all results were eventually upheld. The UC men did not start well and were in fifth place with only 200 meters remaining. The team's superb conditioning paid off when coxswain Meyer Blanc called for the sprint. The oarsmen took the stroke rating up and soon passed Kansas State and Kansas University. At the finish, the eight was in third place behind winner Minneapolis and St. Paul.

The Lincoln Park Boat Club, where both the UC men and the Northwestern crew row, also had a good day, winning a gold medal in the men's double and placing fourth in the mixed eight. The mixed event is a new one which is gaining popularity. The UC men placed fifth in the club's first attempt at this event.

UC coach Martin Howard was elated by the day's results and optimistic about the future. "We have a solid program now — one of the finest crews in the Midwest," he stated. "Only the heavily funded varsity teams (such as Purdue and Wisconsin) can beat us now, and we're on the track towards catching them." The club owes much of its success to president Alan Hodges, who has administered the group of about 40 men and women. David Glazer, the team's captain, has helped with communication between rowers and the coach. Larry Briand's conditioning program was a huge success, since the rowers were strong at the finish line throughout the season. The opportunity to row at Lincoln Park also helped the team's progress by providing equipment and the expertise of many nationally and internationally experienced rowers. All in all, the club is strong now and hopes to get even stronger — first the Sting, then the White Sox, and now the men's crew club.