

# Crew club reaches finals

The 1982 Midwest Rowing Championships held last weekend gave the University of Chicago men's crew club a chance to see how it stacks up against regional competitors. The results were rather encouraging for the UCMC: of its four boats entered, two made the finals — an accomplishment unprecedented in the history of UC rowing.

Hosted by the University of Wisconsin at Madison, the event attracted 24 crews from as far away as Aspen, Colorado. UCMC entered a men's varsity 8, a men's freshman 8, a men's lightweight 4 and a women's open 4. Of these, the varsity 8 and the lightweight 4 made it to the afternoon finals.

Coach Marty Howard assessed the day this way: "These other teams are all peaking now. This was the big event of the season for them. For us to make the finals in the varsity 8 would have been really sweet, and we did that. These are teams that were destroying us just a year or two ago."

The varsity boat finished sixth of twelve with a time of 5:10.00, just 18 seconds behind gold-medalist Purdue. Purdue, it should be mentioned, wrested that honor from the Wisconsin dynasty for the second year in a row.

The men's lightweight 4, also pulled in sixth with a time of 7:16.8. Winner Kansas State clocked an unofficial 6:59.4 in the race. But nothing could match the set of white bicycling caps the UC 4 had purchased for the occasion. The morning heats were very exciting as one watched the caps edge past boat after boat on the misty, distant center of Lake Wingra.

The sob-story of the day belonged to the men's frosh 8. In the preliminary heats the crew had been handicapped by a leaking shell and was forced into the consolation finals. As 4-man Dave Frank put it, "the style felt good and there was spirit in the boat." But stroke-man Dan Laurence stated that "the power just wasn't there at the catch, and the stroke-rating may have been too low." In the consolation finals, the shell got off to a hard start, but was swiftly pulling up on rivals Notre Dame and Nebraska when a speedboat wake all but stopped the Chicago boat dead in the water. It was never able to recapture the lost time. Purdue won the event with an extremely fast 5:57.4.

The women's open 4, stroked by ex-Radcliffe oarswomen Ericka Munson, also went to the consolation finals after having come in last in the morning heat. More successful in the afternoon, the 4 edged out Calvert and the UC women's crew club entry. "That was the best we could do, given the competition," stated 2-seat Ingrid Hung, "I think we rowed well."

Howard reiterated that the philosophy of the UC men's crew has matured. No longer is it looking not to lose — now its goal is to win. "We were rowing against the best people in the midwest, and we belong there. I think we will medal in the varsity 8's within the next two years," predicted Howard. "But," he added, "the crew team has reached the level where our biggest hindrance is our poor equipment — which means money — and more support from the University."

Northwestern University and the Lincoln Park Boat Club will be scrimmaging against UC at Lincoln Park tomorrow in preparation for the regatta at Waterloo, Iowa on May 15.