

Coed crew takes Midwest gold, other medals

By Anna Leider

The University of Chicago Coed Crew Club's men's lightweight four captured the gold medal and a trophy larger than a silver punch bowl this weekend at the 12th annual Midwestern Rowing Championships in Madison, Wisconsin. Also bringing home medals was the women's lightweight eight, which finished third in its event. Chicago's two other entries, a women's lightweight four and a men's novice four, both made it through the qualifying heats into the finals, finishing fourth and sixth respectively.

With nearly 30 clubs represented, the Midwest Rowing Championships has grown into one of the nation's most important regattas, as well as one of its largest. This year, however, high

winds caused white caps and currents of such proportion that race officials nearly had to call everything off. After the weigh-ins for lightweights on Saturday morning, one qualifying heat after another had to be cancelled because of the hazardous rowing conditions. By evening, the officials finally agreed to postpone all of the races until the morning, with the first race scheduled for sunrise. Although Sunday did not bring the blue skies and warm temperatures the teams had enjoyed on Saturday, Lake Wingra was calm enough for rowing and all of Chicago's boats easily advanced to the finals.

The women's lightweight eight (from bow: Adena Schutzberg, Molly Moon, Billie Collins, Kathy Ghilsdorf, Lisa

Fumenti, Anna Leider, Eva Merchant, Gretchen Carlson; cox, Carla Pritchett) set the mood as it captured the bronze in the first finals of the day.

The winds began to pick up again as the men's novice four (from bow: Joe Holz, Chuck Connolly, Mark Shapiro, Sam Gilbert; cox, Sue Snow) launched its boat. With waves lapping over the gunwales, the four overcame a difficult start to finish the race a wet, but strong sixth.

By noon, race officials were again forced to delay events in hopes that the water would calm. After nearly an hour of waiting patiently, the men's lightweight four (from bow: Ted Beutel, Greg Prince, Mark Sexton, John Pritchett; cox, Ian Sweedler) finally

got its chance to show why it is one of the best boats in the country. After last week's unpredicted loss to Notre Dame in head-to-head competition, the four pulled itself together and easily won the event, leaving Notre Dame a distant second.

The women's lightweight four (from bow: Schutzberg, Leider, Merchant, Carlson; cox, Pritchett) also got its chance to avenge last week's loss to the Fighting Irish. Entering the finals with the slowest qualifying time, the women rowed their best race ever to pass not only Notre Dame, but the University of Michigan as well. The regatta thus ended with the University of Chicago Coed Crew Club making one of its best showings ever.