

Men's Crew wins summer upset

Summer 1981

The University of Chicago Men's Crew posted important upset victories as they traveled to Evansville, Indiana last Saturday and Sunday for the Welborn/Coca-Cola Rowing Regatta. The first day of competition belonged to the Maroon eight who started the day by beating two boats from the Detroit Boat Club in the 1000 meter event and then went on to top the Purdue crew as well as the Detroit boats in winning the 1500 meter race in the afternoon. Chicago's showing against the Detroit eight was surprising since three Chicago oarsmen, under the auspices of the Lincoln Park Boat Club had rowed in an eight man shell the previous weekend at Detroit and had been soundly defeated by this same Detroit team. The Maroon victory over Purdue was no less than sensational since this was the crew which won the prestigious Midwest Sprints in Madison Wisconsin this spring.

Travel, lack of sleep and temperatures

approaching 100° took their toll on the U.C. crew in the second day of rowing. The morning event was a 1500 meter race in which the distance at the finish between the first and third place shells was less than one length. Chicago fell to second behind Purdue and ahead of the Detroit crews. Two equally close races in the afternoon, back to back 1000 meter and 500 meter events, each found Chicago in third at the flag behind Purdue and Detroit "A".

In addition to having a morale bolstering effect, the crew benefited from the weekend by gaining valuable racing experience. Four members of this team, all novices, will be returning to U. of C. for the fall season: bowman Bruce Lifka and starboard oarsman Clay Belcher of GSB, port oarsman Jon Pritchett, PhD candidate in Economics, and coxswain Myer Blank of the College.

Upcoming events for the Maroon crew include the Canadian Henley in early August and the Head of the Charles in Boston in early October. All interested U. of C. men (regardless of rowing experience) are urged to contact a club officer: Clay Belcher, 493-7132; Bruce Lifka, 324-1406.