



2006 Men's and Women's Rowing Preseason Newsletter

The Clark University men's and women's rowing teams are looking forward to a great season on the water this year. With a talented group of newcomers, and a substantial returning class, the Cougars believe they have the right crew to make some noise.

While varsity rowers Josh Cohen '09, Sara Fealhaber '09, and Sarah Brooks will be missed this fall, Coach Erick Thiemke is confident the team of 34 women and 23 men can pick up the slack. Both Cohen and Fealhaber are studying abroad in Australia this semester, while Brooks, the women's team tri-captain, will be in Scotland.

The 23 participants in the men's program is the largest in Coach Thiemke's four-year tenure. Currently practicing as a men's novice eight, men's varsity four and men's novice four, this group is expected to perform well during the traditional spring season. On the women's side, first-year rowers Cait Gillaspy, Rachel Goldin and Rebecca Smith have all earned a seat in the women's varsity eight for the first race of the season on October 1st in Lowell, MA.

In addition to an already exciting fall slate, the men's club four and women's club eight have received a bid in the Head of the Charles on Saturday, Oct. 21. WPI will assist with transferring our shells to Boston, as we will launch from their trailer on the day of the race. The team welcomes your support and encouragement if you are in the area that day. For more information on race times and results, please visit our website at www.clarku.edu/athletics

Coach Thiemke



STUDENT-ATHLETE SUBMISSIONS

Parents Learn to Row Day (Sept 16th)

by Mika Kuwahara:

This year's parents-learn-to-row day was our best yet, as we had a good showing of enthusiastic parents and loved ones who gave it their all that morning, despite the 7am meeting time. Our new members embraced the van culture, riding along with fellow rowers to Lake Quinsigamond. They began on the ergometer, as any good rower does, and for the most part, remained silent while on the water, awaiting instructions from Coach Thiemke and the launch crew. Our fellow crewers came in, rowed hard, and set an appropriate tone for when their children would be rowing for the first time later in the week.

Coach put it best when he bestowed the term 'masters' (given to any rower above the age of twenty-nine) on our new rowers for a day - we witnessed true masters rowing that day.

Parents vs Rowers Softball (Sept 16th)

by Meryl Berger

The parents vs. rowers softball game had a good turnout this year. This is an annual tradition that has always been successful in the past. The weather was extremely cooperative, almost summerlike. The game started out with the parents taking a lead in the early innings, with 2 home runs by the 'ringer' for the parents. The rowers did regain the lead in the later innings and eventually came away victorious, 8 to 7 after 6 innings. A special thanks to the parents for attending the event and supporting us throughout our season. We welcome you to attend our regattas and look forward to seeing you this season.

Join the Team! In an effort to provide a one-of-a-kind experience for my student-athletes, I have organized crew's inaugural alumni fundraiser. Your gift to the rowing program will help the team fund an elite men's racing four and two women's racing fours. These shells are the greatest need for our program. If you are interested in supporting this cause, please contact head coach Erick Thiemke.