

# William & Mary Crew

There are many who would question the sanity of a sport in which half the practices occur before the sun rises, the season encompasses both academic semesters, and its participants must pay for these "privileges." Rowing is the ultimate team sport. It is second to no other in its total demand on the entire body. Rowing is the perfect

balance between balletic finesse and brute strength.

William and Mary's Crew Team continued to progress past the middle strata of national competition to challenge the elite tomorrow. Having completed its first new boat house, the spirit of the team transcended the second hand equipment and scarce funding in an extreme-

ly technological and expensive sport. With battle cries of "Power 10" and "You Can Do Anything for a Minute" after the body of a grueling 4000m head race or the final fury of a 2000m sprint, W&M Crew reached beyond mere competitiveness. Yet even as Crew overcame the obstacles of being a club sport, teams that were once

chased in our infancy now found themselves in the wake of William and Mary. It was only befitting that the second oldest institution excelled in the oldest collegiate sport — perhaps someday soon even the oldest college will fall.

## Novice Crew

The novice year of Crew is instrumental in the development of power. Novice is the category in which first year rowers on the collegiate level compete. This progression from practices and learning the jargon to finally maturing into a competitive racing crew is impossible for outsiders to comprehend. Thrust into a common misery, the initial fraternity of despair transforms into a relation between teammates that is not found in other sports. When every move has the potential to affect the entire boat, the mental strength required equals the necessity for power — the ballerina vs. gorilla equation.

Both Men's and Women's Crews defied all expectations, largely due to the integral coaching of Matthew Bozorty and Frank Connor, "novices" themselves.

The Women's Crews, captained by Pamela Testa and Barbara Wise, rebounded with an initially disappointing Portsmouth Regatta with two strong finishes in the last two regattas. Passing crews that had beaten them earlier in the season became expected. At the George Washington

Cherry Blossom Regatta, the women ran very strongly in their meet and narrowly missed a finals berth. Likewise, at the prestigious SIRAS Regatta, they pulled well to once again just miss the finals. The highlight of the Women's Crew season was a third place at the Duke Regatta.

The Men's Crew, captained by Will Martin and Chris Greenwell, evolved into a legitimate force in late spring. Improving with every race, the men repaid previously victorious crews like George Washington with defeats in the SIRAS meet. The men advanced in the finals to heart-breakingly lose the bronze medal by 0.2 seconds to Purdue. This eclipsed even the outright victory at Duke earlier in the season, and provided a script-like finale to the epic begun in November.

After this enthralling and very successful season, the survivors of the fall's 60% wash-out rate and the winter's workouts could now proudly state — I am on William and Mary Crew.

— Chris Greenwell

## Varsity Crew

Varsity Crew again combined a building year with successes, to keep heads high throughout the season. A strong Women's Crew finished in the top third, amongst nationally ranked schools, at the Head of the Schutkl Regatta in Philadelphia. The following week, both men's boats finished within 1:30 of the leader at the Head of the Occoquan, in Northern Virginia.

Captains Emily Van Loen, Molly Young, Brian Russell, and Jeff Shook pulled the

team through coach Sean Hart and assistant Stephanie Rick's grueling winter workouts and 5:30 am practices.

The intense spring season culminated with a strong showing by a small contingent at the Southern Intercollegiate Rowing Association championships in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. While there, the men finished sixth, while the women landed an eighth place berth.

— Tim Kelly



How cool are we? Members of the Crew teams pose in front of their truly impressive Homecoming float.