

One dedicated crew

Rowers race in spring, train in fall

By **BRENDA THORNTON**
Of the Emerald

Oregon crew has a few good strokes. At least Lori Huseth, 1981-82 crew coach, thinks so.

"The team is really looking good, even this early in the season," Huseth says. "Most of our rowers are novices (first year rowers), but they are dedicated and learning quickly."

Dedicated is an understatement. Practice begins at 5 a.m. Monday through Friday. Usually the workout opens with the entire team push-starting the decrepit school bus which transports the rowers to Dexter Lake. Once at the lake, the 17 men and 18 women rowers begin training.

"We emphasize technique fall term. It's important for the rowers, especially the novices, to get as much water time as possible. We average about nine or ten hours a week," says Huseth.

Huseth claims that spring is more rigorous, however.

"We spend spring break practicing, getting as much experience as we can before the serious racing begins. In the spring we have regattas almost every weekend, some as far away as San Francisco."

Huseth adds, "By the time spring rolls around, we are living, breathing and sleeping crew."

The rowers are not the only hard working crew members. One position is frequently overlooked: the coxswain. Although the coxswain appears to do nothing more than sit in the back of the boat and yell, he or she is actually in command. A coxswain must plan race strategies, run practices, steer and generally let the boat know who is boss. Most importantly, the coxswain encourages the boat

to work as a unit and pull full power in a race.

"Boats have either eight or four rowers in them, and each rower must give his or her full concentration while in the boat. The coxswain must be able to take control and make sure everyone is giving that concentration. Every oarsman must literally pull his weight for that boat to be competitive in races," says Huseth. "And we have some stiff competition."

The crew will be in Corvallis Saturday, Nov. 7 competing in the Head of the Willamette, a three mile race for time against Oregon State crew.

Although it is a club sport, Oregon crew is often matched against varsity crews in the Pacific 10 Conference, as well as other crew clubs. Most of these crews own several shells or boats, have their own weight training equipment, and practice in their own backyards.

Tim Meier, crew commodore, scoffs at these luxuries.

"We rent our boats and have to borrow racing shells. Most of our off-water training is running laps and stadium stairs. And we spend an hour daily traveling to and from practice on a cold, broken down bus," Meier says. "But it's all worth it once spring racing begins."

In order to stay afloat monetarily, the crew has planned a 100-mile row-a-thon on Sunday Nov. 8. Thus far, pledges add up to about \$3,000. Meier says they are hoping for more pledges before Sunday.

"A good eight-man boat costs about \$8,000, and that is still only a dream for our crew. The money will probably go towards new oars and transportation to regattas."

Adds Meier, "We may be small and we may not have our own shells, but we're one determined crew."

Harper's dunk propels Blazers past Warriors

OAKLAND (AP) — Michael Harper made a driving slam dunk with 11 seconds remaining, after Calvin Natt stole a pass, giving the Portland Trail Blazers a 109-108 National Basketball Association victory over the Golden State Warriors Wednesday night.

The Blazers, who trailed by 16 points late in the third period, remained unbeaten through four games.

Harper was fouled as he made the winning shot but missed the free throw attempt. Golden State had trouble getting the ball upcourt, however, and Purvis Short was forced to take a 40-foot shot just before the final buzzer sounded.

Lloyd Free, who scored 23 points for the Warriors, left the game in the final minute of the third quarter after pulling a groin muscle. The Golden State lead dwindled quickly in the final period.

Oregon State downs Ducks in water polo

Oregon's water polo team fell to Oregon State 17-12 Wednesday night at Leighton pool on the University campus.

The Oregon squad came away tied with the Beavers at 6-6, but could not stop its opponent in the second half.

The next match for Oregon is against Southern Oregon State College Friday and Saturday in Ashland.

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