



The University women's crew team placed third in the 1983 national regatta at Seattle. About 85 women have signed up for this year's squad.

"We lose a lot of people from attrition but we don't 'cut' people," says Wolfe. "People get the image of an elite prep sport but in the end it dwindles down to those who are hardcore about it."

And hardcore it is. Men's races are generally 2,000 meters, women's 1,000 meters. The 2,000 meter races are rowed in six to seven minutes with a sprint at the beginning, a cruise in the middle and another sprint at the end.

"In the middle of the race you no longer think logically or rationally," Wolfe says. "It becomes primitive, animalistic behavior."

But the harmony of perfection and teamwork makes the pain all worthwhile.

"It's a release, like yoga or meditation, when everyone is out there in unison, suffering hardships and working individually for the team," says Donahue.

Widder agrees. "Because everyone in the boat is in perfect harmony," he says, "crew has been described as a symphony of motion."

Story by David Carlson
Photos by John Widder

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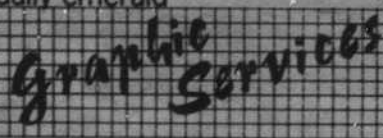
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