



THESE BOATS ARE MADE FOR DRAGON

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ons narrowly lost a third-place title, ending fourth in the 11-team dragon boat women's division. But they won more than that for the queer community.

When the Lesbian Community Project introduced the Amazon Dragons to the Rose Festival brouhaha in 1991, organizers were wary of the word "lesbian" having an official tie to the festivities, said Mary Slavin, a newer member of the crew. But she added that things have changed. For instance, as the crew customarily glides past the spectators after a race, the whole shoreline is filled with fans from all walks of life shouting "Am-a-zons! Am-a-zons!"

No one can say that the Amazon Dragons have given anything but their best this year. Training began two months before the race, when the Amazons started meeting three times weekly to brave the chilly Willamette.

Luck has been with them, as well. When the Nike team was sunk during training in early spring, the paddles were still wet from the Amazon Dragons' practice earlier the same evening.

Luck aside, Slavin also says the team had a new cohesiveness compared to last year. "We felt much more like a unit," she said, adding that this year, both mentally and physically, "It was great!"

Look for the Amazons to keep getting better. Because, while the races may say a lot about community and sportsmanship, Slavin doesn't mind admitting, "We're out there to win." But if you appreciate the spectacle more than the competition, not to worry, says Slavin: "We put on a good show."

Amazon Dragon team members: front row (from left to right): Karen Fong, Susan Neiman, Mary Slavin, Amy Valentine, Kate Richardson, Nancy Milner, Fleming McCarville; second row: Kirstin Lurtz, Elizabeth Iddings, Nancy Bird, Amy Catania, Mary Mandeville, Jenni Sprague; third row: Donna Ducharme, Alison Nordstrom-Brown, Lisa Kiente, Barb Pallari, Kim Horenstein, Wendy Murray; back row: Talie Kingsbury, Annie the dog, Mickey Lee, Jay Murray; Les Kingsbury also rowed, but is not pictured.

