Class Day Crew Race On The Charles River

Seniors Win, '57 Second

by Robert G. Bridgham '57

photos by Felipe Vicini '56

Three crews, each representing an upper class, rowed a three-quarter mile race last Thursday. At about 11:30 the three boats floundered away from the starting line throwing up showers of spray in the choppy water. The start as a whole was clumsy but the sophomores three quarters of a length behind the '57 men got together and quickly palled back into the race. The juniors showed a fine disregard for the weather and kept the stroke high, losing ground all over the way of the body of the race. Came the sprint and the seniors held a half length lead over the sophomores with just that much separating '57 and '56. The sophos and juniors jacked the stroke up and died; the seniors kept it even and pulled away. At the end, the senior lead had stretched to a full boat length. The juniors trailed the sophos over the line by a scant fifteen feet.

And so the seniors, after a three year wait, walked off with the Richards Trophy, emblematic of victory in the traditional Class Day crew race. When Sherm Uchill received the trophy from the hands of "Ike" Geiger it represented the culmination of hours and hours of tedious practice. Workout after workout the seniors rowed together, smoothing out their oarsmanship until they had a unity of finesse to match their unity of purpose. The finesse showed and the purpose showed and the race was won.

The sophomorees rowed a much stronger race than expected and the juniors disappointed, mainly because they couldn't or wouldn't bring the stroke down. The rough water butchered their attempt to overstroke the other crews and their race developed into a pulling contest with very few vestiges of finesse.

All three crews showed good potential and the results might have been different if the conditions were. It's meaningless, though. The seniors proved their class. One thing was shown by the performances Thursday, that MIT crew should have a good all around season this year.

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