Two MIT crews row in Europe

By David Katz

The last exams did not mean a trip home for seven members of the M.I.T. crew squad. Instead, it was at this time that these heavy-weight men started to prepare for a series of three summer regattas held in England and Switzerland. The two English regattas were the Nottingham International Regatta and the Henley Royal Regatta, while the Swiss regatta was the Lucerne Regatta.

The crew members were heavy-weight coxswain Jere Leffler '73 and Gregory Clark, heavyweight coxswain, and coxswain '74, Tom Kernohan. The two spare oarsmen, brought along as backups in case one of the regular four became sick or injured, were Charles Davies '74 and James Gorman '75.

MIT sent this particular crew to Europe because last fall they made MIT history when they became the first Tech crew to win an "Elite" event at the Head of the Charles Regatta. Heavy-weight coach Peter Holmstrom expressed the optimism that MIT could just as well account of itself against any competition in the world.

The crew left for England on June 24 with the first competition scheduled for June 30 in Nottingham. In their first race, they were surprised to discover how much better Europe represents their countrymen rowed against American university students. The American boat rowing as representatives of both MIT and the United States, came second in a competition. The English boat won easily by a margin of 36 seconds.

The Soviet Union was second, Poland third and the Australian crew scratched after it had seen the high level of competition.

For a race for pairs of "elite two's" Gorman and Davies won their heat easily. In the final, they finished a very close second to a crew from Ireland. They defeated crews from Ireland, Scotland, and Harvard. It is all the more remarkable in that they had been rowing together as a pair for only two and a half weeks.

The next day, the pair again came in second in the final after fighting hard with the leading crew. The four finished last, losing to the Czechs. At the Henley Royal Regatta, the Americans noted definite improvement as the MIT boat lost to England and the United States rowed in the inside lane. They were ahead of the MIT boat by only eight lengths as opposed to the 12 lengths they fell behind the MIT boat last summer.

The only consolation to be gained from Henley is that again, the MIT spare pair pulled through and easily won the pair's competition.

At Lucerne, the MIT boat faced its stiffest opposition. The Lucerne regatta is regarded as the first major regatta of the summer season and most of the best European crews attend to "look over" the competition. Some boats will be racing in the European Championships in Moscow during August.

At this regatta, the pair of Gorman and Davies found out that only the best pair had come to row at Lucerne. Although rowing a strong race, they managed to beat only one other pair.

It was felt that the crew tour saved its best effort for last. In the petit or consolation final, they beat the Soviet Union and the four from England was the worst. By this time, however, the winning English margin of 15 lengths at Nottingham was cut to only three. Finishing behind MIT were crews from Italy, the Netherlands (both of whom had better times than MIT in the trials), the University of Washington, Sidney, and Aberdeen University of Scotland.

Sports Shorts

Since The Tech stopped regular publication in May, the following have happened on the track:

Frustrated crew

Jack R. Fruhley, director of M.I.T.'s financial aid and the venery lightweight crew coach, has been granted a leave of absence by the athletic department to take up duties as head of the United States Rowing Committee. No successor has yet been named to replace Fruhley.

Women sailate in Nationals

The MIT women's sailing team of Maria Ruzoito '73, Shelley Berenson '74, Penny Butler '73, and Joan Fenderson '76 narrowlydefeated the Navy to win their third consecutive title in the Women's National Intercollegiate Championships held during June.

All-Americans

C-o-captains Dave Wilson '73 and Al Macrae (right) along with John Pearson '74 placed highly in the National NCAA Track and Field Championships and were consequently named to the college level All-Americans.

Billings and Malarkey to Moscow

Two former MIT lightweight crew captains, John Malarky '74 and Fred Billings '72 have been practicing with the US lightweights in preparation for the international regatta to be held in Moscow later this month.

Sports Analysis:

Nottingham, Henley, & Lucerne

By Fred Hutchison

If you haven't done so already, read David Katz's article concerning the MIT heavy-weight crew in Europe. What follows is not the "official" account of any of the three regattas, but is based entirely on conversations with coxswain J.C. Clark.

The position of any relay team at the finish of a race, not be accurately summed up in "they did poorly" or "they ran well." It is also true that blaming every team rowing at any race to Europe because last fall they made MIT history when they became the first Tech crew to win an "Elite" event at the Head of the Charles Regatta. Heavy-weight coach Peter Holmstrom expressed the optimism that MIT could just as well account of itself against any competition in the world.

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