

U of A rowers high and dry

by Mark Spector

Because of a foul up by the CIAU, the 1985 Canadian University rowing championships have been cancelled. And a U of A rowing team that has been training since the end of the summer season for the event will have to settle for competing in the less prestigious Victoria Regatta early in November.

The CIAU finals were to be held in Welland Ontario on the weekend of Oct. 26 and 27th. But also scheduled for that weekend, amongst other races, is the Head of the Charles regatta in Boston. This is regarded as the top yearly meet in North America.

So Victoria and UBC both pulled out of the CIAU's in favor of the Boston meet. The two B.C. schools traditionally have the strongest rowing programs in Canada.

As well the Brock University Invitational is scheduled for the same weekend. Several eastern universities were previously committed to that event.

So why did the CIAU decide on probably the busiest weekend of the rowing season to hold the nationals? Good question.

In the past, the CIAU's were always held in the spring. But because the B.C. universities were the only Canadian schools that could train in the winter, they held

an unfair advantage and annually took first and second place at the regatta.

So this year, in an effort to even things out somewhat, the CIAU's were moved to the fall. This way, universities that can only train in the summer months would be better able to compete with UBC and UVic.

But the CIAU, in all of its wisdom, scheduled the nationals on the same weekend as The Head of the Charles in Boston.

So the two best teams, the ones that had instigated the shift, cancelled out.

And last Friday, a week and a half before the U of A club was to leave for Welland, the CIAU cancelled their national meet.

"The people in the club are pretty disappointed," understates club president Kelly Kucey, "there's not really anything to aim for now."

The Victoria Regatta is no substitute for the nationals. The U of A team will compete against the B.C. universities and several private schools on the coast. "And we can hardly afford to go to Boston," Kucey says.

They might be able to if they could gain varsity status, but Athletics isn't about to make that step an easy one.

Alberta is the biggest university in Canada that doesn't have a var-

sity rowing team. The members of the U of A club are mostly from the Edmonton Rowing Club. The U of A club is in its fourth year of operation.

"Athletics says that we need the approval of three other Canada West universities plus a conference that will accept us (presumably Canada West)." Well, there is no Canada West rowing conference for them to join, therefore no conference members to approve their bid.

To top that off, "we can't even pool time without paying for it," laments Kucey.

So that is the fate of a little fish in a big pond, so to speak. The CIAU screws up, and months of training go out the window for some hard working Edmonton rowers. And Athletics is far more concerned with filling the hockey and football stands than spending valuable advertising dollars on a rowing program that is unlikely to reproduce said dollars like the hockey program someday may.

And who can blame them? I know some disappointed rowers who may.

See page 20 for full schedule of this weekend's events and promotions.

Standings board

WIFL

	G	W	L	F	A	P
Calgary	5	4	1	49	120	8
Alberta	4	2	2	63	92	4
UBC	5	2	3	96	78	4
Manitoba	5	2	3	130	121	4
Sask.	5	2	3	100	127	4

Upcoming Games

Fri., Oct. 18	Manitoba at UBC
Sat., Oct. 19	Calgary at Alberta,
2:00 p.m.	

CWUAA soccer

	G	W	L	T	F	A	P
U Vic	7	5	0	2	21	7	12
UBC	7	4	0	3	22	3	11
Alberta	7	4	2	2	10	9	8
Calgary	6	3	2	1	14	9	7
Leth.	6	1	5	0	8	20	2
Sask.	7	0	7	0	3	28	0

Upcoming Games

Fri. Oct. 18	Calgary at Alberta
Sat. Oct. 19	Lethbridge at Alberta

MATURE STUDENTS

Brown Bag Rap Session

You are invited to drop in and get acquainted with fellow mature students. Bring your lunch (coffee available).

And opportunity to meet people and discuss mutual concerns.

Tuesday and Wednesday,
11:00 - 1:30

Heritage Room, Athabasca Hall

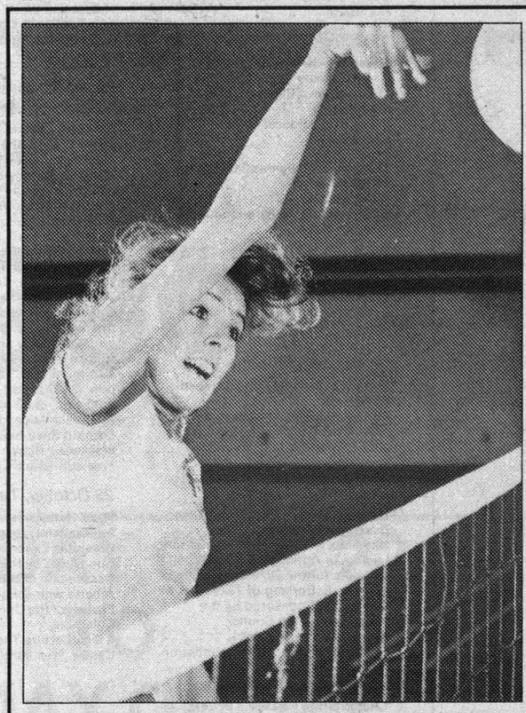
For Information: Mature Student Association
300 Athabasca Hall, 432-4145

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CMA

THE SPORTS QUIZ

1. THE "WESTERN CONFERENCE" IS:

- the five CFL teams in western Canada
- a wild guess on a European history test
- a California-style telephone conversation

2. "FORWARD" IS:

- a position in hockey or basketball
- all you need to know to drive an automatic
- any guy who speaks to your girlfriend

3. AN ALL-STAR "NON-IMPORT" REFERS TO:

- an excellent CFL player who played high school football outside the U.S.
- a car made in Oshawa or Windsor with decent gas mileage
- a nice cold bottle of OV



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