

SWEEP

Volume 35 / Fall 2025

Sweep is published two to three times a year for dedicated donors, alumni and fans who value their impact on Washington Rowing and their contributions to the storied history of Seattle as 'Rowtown USA.'

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COVER PHOTO: AllMarkOne WRITING: Eric Cohen, Jeff Bechthold, Feresa Moore DESIGN: tɒda.com



Donate to the Annual Drive here!

On the Cover: The University of Washington men's team captured its 21st IRA National Rowing Championship and a record-setting 19th James Ten Eyck Team Championship.

Dear Washington Rowing Alumni, Friends, and Family,

What an extraordinary year for Washington Rowing!

This spring, our Men's team reclaimed the National Championship, demonstrating the relentless drive, unity, and excellence that define Husky Rowing. Meanwhile, the Women's team delivered a historic performance, earning UW's first-ever Big Ten Championship with a sweep of all seven events—a truly remarkable feat that puts an exclamation point on a season of tenacity and speed.

As we celebrate these accomplishments on the water, we also reflect on a beautiful year off the water as alumni. This season also offered a moment of reflection. We honored legendary coach Bob Ernst with the unveiling of a permanent bronze plaque on the Legends Wall at Conibear Shellhouse, with an incredible Varsity Boat Club Reunion Event. Over 500 alumni, friends, and family gathered to celebrate Ernst's four-decade legacy—from the men's freshmen crews of the 1970s to the women's teams of the 1980s and beyond.

We continued to celebrate 'those who came before' this October as Bob Ernst and the women's classes of 1987 and 1988 were inducted into the Washington Athletics Hall of Fame. These recognitions were celebrated at our alumni tailgate on October 10th, followed by the official induction on October 11th—a perfect moment to honor our past while looking toward the future.

Over the past year, the Board of Stewards has focused on strengthening the long-term health of the program—building connections, deepening alumni engagement, and supporting the student-athlete experience.

But we now find ourselves on the edge of historic transformation. With the landscape of college athletics shifting rapidly—perhaps the most significant change since Title IX—we must be nimble, strategic, and future-focused.

It's a new era. Big moments like these are rare opportunities to evolve and reimagine how we support Washington Rowing. As stewards, we're taking this moment to reassess how we operate as a volunteer group—how we connect alumni across generations, and how we build community so that platforms like Tyee and Dawgs Unleashed can fuel this program at the highest level.

This year, we invite you to join us in taking action:

- Come celebrate—attend this season's events and reconnect with teammates.
- Volunteer your time—help us build stronger alumni networks.
- Support financially—whether through the Forever Washington campaign (p.13), the "Continue the Legacy" initiative (p.14), or by involving your business in Dawgs Unleashed (p.12).

Together, we can ensure that Husky Rowing not only honors its past but thrives in the future.

With pride and gratitude,

Noelle Broom

Ante Kusurin

CO-CHAIRS, WASHINGTON ROWING STEWARDS

A New Frontier in College Athletics

COLLEGE SPORTS'
GREATEST CHANGE
SINCE TITLE IX

Q&A with Shannon Kelly, Deputy Athletic Director of Revenue Generation and Sport Administrator for Washington Rowing



n June, the NCAA approved the landmark House Settlement, a transformative decision that will reshape the financial structure of college athletics for years to come. As part of the settlement, the NCAA will pay \$2.5 billion in back damages and introduce a revenue-sharing model that allows participating institutions to allocate up to \$20.5 million annually from television revenue—an amount set to increase by 4% each year.

As athletic departments across the country respond to financial pressures by cutting sports and scaling back programs, the University of Washington has chosen a different path. UW remains fully committed to all 22 of its varsity sports, including men's and women's rowing, reaffirming its dedication to broad-based athletic excellence and the belief that every student-athlete deserves the opportunity to compete, grow, and thrive.

"Knowledge is power. We want our alumni and supporters informed so they can help us chart a clear path forward."

HOW DOES THE HOUSE SETTLEMENT SPECIFICALLY IMPACT WASHINGTON ROWING?

Like many programs across the country, our coaches were asked to submit reduced budgets this year. While some institutions have made the difficult decision to cut sports, Washington has not. We remain fully committed to rowing and to all 22 of our varsity programs.

That said, we're operating in a new reality. As part of the recent settlement, roster caps will now apply to both men's and women's rowing.

Additionally, all student-athletes now have access to fair market value endorsement opportunities, allowing them to earn income based on their athletic performance and how that value translates in the marketplace.



WHAT IS THE BEST PATH FORWARD FOR FRIENDS OF WASHINGTON ROWING?

First, continued investment in men's and women's rowing through programmatic support via the Annual Drive. Contributions help cover essential costs such as travel, equipment purchases, and race day expenses. Over time, we aim to expand endowment opportunities to further offset these costs and ensure long-term sustainability.

Second, we invite alumni and business partners to connect with our student-athletes through Dawgs Unleashed. This platform enables athletes to engage in FMV partnerships that help offset educational expenses.

Third, investing in current-use scholarship support helps ensure financial stability for our student-athletes, especially as traditional funding models evolve. These scholarships offer consistent, predictable resources that allow our rowers to focus on training, academics, and leadership—without the uncertainty of fluctuating financial support.

Leading Through Change

As college athletics enters a new era, Washington Rowing remains steadfast in its commitment to excellence, equity, and opportunity. The House Settlement may redefine amateurism, but it also opens doors for innovation and deeper community engagement. With the continued support of alumni, donors, and partners, Washington Rowing is poised not only to adapt but to lead—ensuring that every student-athlete has the resources to thrive in competition, in the classroom, and beyond.

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2025: Honoring Our History, and Our Legends

FIVE DECADES OF VARSITY WOMEN'S ROWING, THE ENDURING IMPACT OF COACH BOB ERNST, AND THE UNIFIED SPIRIT OF THE VARSITY BOAT CLUB

By Eric Cohen



A Golden Milestone: 50 Years of Varsity Women's Rowing

he 2025 Season marked a historic milestone: fifty years since Women's Rowing became a varsity sport at the University of Washington. Built on the foundation laid by the UW club team in 1968, the 1974–75 season officially launched the varsity era—and what a 50 years it has been!

Among those early trailblazers were coaches Paula Mitchell and Colleen Lynch, whose vision and advocacy helped elevate the women's club team to varsity status. At the 50th anniversary boat dedication, Paula christened two newly named shells—one bearing her own name and the other honoring Colleen Lynch—with champagne, a joyful tribute to the legacy they helped launch. Their leadership during the pivotal early 1970s laid the groundwork for generations of Huskies to follow, transforming possibility into tradition.

This season was dedicated to the generations of women who blazed the trail, shaping the program into the national powerhouse that it is today.

"If you had a time machine and someone from this decade went back to the '70s, they'd bond instantly," said Head Coach Yasmin Farooq. "There's a common thread in their experience. Washington draws a certain kind of person—someone who loves this

> ary Whipple '02 with keynote speaker Nina unching the 50th anniversary celebrations.

sport, this place and these people, and is willing to work hard and give themselves over to all of it."

The results speak volumes. Over five decades, Washington Women's Rowing has earned:

- 16 National Championships (including five NCAA Team titles)
- Three historic sweeps—the only D1 women's program to sweep Nationals (1987, 2017, 2019)
- Five consecutive Varsity 8 titles (1981–1985), still unmatched
- Victory at Henley Royal Regatta's inaugural women's race
- Countless podium finishes at Nationals and Conference Championships

In May, Washington made its Big Ten debut—and swept the entire championship. Every one of the 51 student-athletes returned home with a gold medal and the Team Trophy.

"The night before finals, we talked about our values and what it means to be a Woman of Washington," said Farooq. "Those values haven't changed. They're passed down from generation to generation. This latest group is ready to begin the next fifty years with the same grit and determination."





2025 Husky Hall of Fame: Celebrating Champions

his year's Husky Hall of Fame class celebrates the enduring excellence of Washington Rowing with the induction of two legendary women's varsity eights from the 1980s—crews that helped define a championship era.

The 1987 Women's Varsity Eight

Trish Lydon (Cox), Kris Sanford (Stroke), Alice Henderson, Lisa Beluche, Heidi Hook, Sarah Watson Peshkin, Fritzi Grevstad, Katarina Wikstrom, Linda Lusk.

The 1988 Women's Varsity Eight

Stephanie Doyle (Cox), Kris Sanford (Stroke), Katarina Wikstrom, Lisa Beluche, Fritzi Grevstad, Chris Van Pelt Rosenauer, Sarah (Watson) Peshkin, Gail (Dorf) Byrne Baber, Trudy (Ockenden) Taylor.

These remarkable crews, alongside Bob Ernst, were honored at the 2025 Alumni Tailgate on Friday, October 10, and formally inducted into the Husky Hall of Fame on Saturday, October 11.

To learn more about the history of Washington rowing visit Eric Cohen's website at: washingtonrowinghistory.org

Coach Bob Ernst

he only D1 coach to win Collegiate National Titles in both Men's (1997, 2007) and Women's (1981–85, 1987) Rowing. His legacy includes:

- Olympic Gold (1984 Women's 8)
- Founding the Windermere Cup (1987)
- Rebuilding Conibear Shellhouse (2005)
- Multiple international, national and conference championships.

Already a member of the National Rowing Foundation Hall of Fame (1994) and College Rowing Coaches Association Hall of Fame (2015), Bob's influence on Washington Rowing—and the thousands of student-athletes he coached spanned five decades.

"You could feel the strength of the bonds we build here"

- Noelle Broom '08



Varsity Boat Club Reunion Night: Honoring Coach Bob Ernst



n Friday, May 2nd, Conibear Shellhouse was packed with five decades of rowers, coaches, coxswains, families, and friends—all gathered to celebrate legendary coach Bob Ernst and unveil his bronze plaque on the Legends Wall.

"It was a total team effort," said Stewards Co-Chair Noelle Broom '08. "We had at least twenty alums and friends involved, and everyone was 'all in' from the start. Midway through, I turned to Ante Kusurin '05 and said, 'We wanted a packed house—and we got it!""

"Absolutely one for the ages," added head coach Michael Callahan. "The

tributes, the video, Bob's speech. It was special, I think everyone in that room knew it at the time. To hear Bob reflect on his years here... it could not have been a more powerful expression of what it means to row at Washington."

Held the night before the Windermere Cup, the atmosphere was electric as teammates and classmates reunited beneath the Husky Clipper and filled the shellhouse. Organized under the Varsity Boat Club banner, the goal is to make this reunion an annual tradition.

"You could feel the strength of the bonds we build here," said Noelle. "I'm already looking forward to next year."

SAVE THE DATE

The next VBC Reunion will take place on Friday, May 1, 2026—the evening before Opening Day, Windermere Cup Regatta. To kick off the celebration, a new women's eight will be dedicated in honor of the Women of the Eighties, recognizing their enduring impact on the legacy of Washington Rowing.

lass of 20

Marius Ahlsand



Paris Burbine Alpharetta, GA



lan Burnett **Arlington, MA**Master of Science in
Business Analytics



Jane Cox



Shakira Mirfin Ivercargill, NZL Marine Biology

Evan Park

Bend, OR



Grace Murdock Roswell, GA

Eliza Perry

Master of Science in Applied Environmental Science Chemical Science and Terrestrial

Bellingham, WA



Leah Nash Chatham, MA



Maddie Ohm La Grange, III Food Systems, Nutrition, Environmental Public Health

Henry Ramstad



Seattle, WAApplied Mathematic
Data Science



Quinn Hall Chester Springs, PA



Nick Dunlop

Sydney, AUS

Olivia Hay Auckland, NZL Food Systems, Nutrition, and Health



Marilou

Duvernay-Tardif

St. Jean-Baptiste, Quebec, Communication **CAN**

Brianna Hoffman Poulsbo, WA Law, Societies, and Justice;



Harry Fitzpatrick

Auckland, NZL

Allison Jakeway Ridge, B.C. CAN Education Studies-Sport



Alex Gonin

Oak Bay, B.C. CAN

Sally Jones Victoria, B.C., CAN



Connor Shoup Steilacoom, WA



Addison Smee Kalama, WA



Parker Raines

Sammamish, WA

Isabelle Tinsley Venice, FL Computer Science



Logan Ullrich Auckland, NZL Food Systems Nutrition and Health



Blake Vogel Pittsburg, PA Real Estate



Kieran Joyce Hamilton NZL Economics



Helen Latting



Megan Lee Natick, MA



Dani Lohrenz **Excelsior, MN** History and Philosophy of Science



Ava Meuleman Seattle, WA



Jonathan Wang-Norderud Oslo, NOR



Emma Waters Galway, IRL Master of Communication in Communities and Networks



Scout Wilson San Antonio, TX Food Systems, Nutrition, and Health



Lucas Woodruff Costa Mesa, CA Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering



Elizabeth Wu Anthropology

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From Reluctant Rower to World Champion

RYAN MARTIN '26 ALMOST WALKED AWAY FROM THE SPORT—BUT NOW HE'S SETTING THE PACE FOR WASHINGTON AND TEAM USA.

By Jeff Bechthold

ower **Ryan Martin** '26 may have a habit of leaving things until the last minute, but when the stakes are highest, he always comes through.

What began as a reluctant nod to his parents' insistence that he join a high school sport has turned into a meteoric rise through the ranks of rowing. Today, Martin is not only a national champion with Washington, but also a world champion for the United States—a journey that almost didn't happen.

Martin's rowing story began at Pacifica Christian High School in Newport Beach, Calif., where he joined the team simply as an extracurricular activity. When the school cut the program, he moved to the Newport Sea Base rowing club. Even then, rowing wasn't love at first stroke.

"I didn't like rowing at all until my senior year," Martin admits. "By then, I figured, 'I'm stuck doing this anyway—I might as well try to be good at it.' And through actually trying, I found enjoyment in it."

That decision changed everything. Martin capped his youth career with a gold medal at Youth Nationals, a breakthrough that opened doors to collegiate rowing. Soon after, he was on a plane to Seattle to visit Washington—and committed on the spot.

"Right after Youth Nationals, I flew straight out to Seattle," he says, "and then just committed when I was there."

Martin arrived at Conibear Shellhouse with modest expectations and little knowledge of what lay ahead. As a freshman in 2023, he earned silver in the Freshman 8+ at the Pac-12 Championships. A year later, he struck gold

in the Third Varsity 8+ at IRAs. But the real leap came this past spring.

Throughout the season Martin anchored the Huskies' Second

Varsity 8+ from the stroke seat, leading the crew to an undefeated season and a win at the inaugural MPSF Championships. Then came the call: just weeks before the IRA National Championship, Martin and two teammates were moved into the Varsity 8+. Their task? Blend seamlessly with the top boat and defend Washington's national title.



UW wasn't the favorite, but the Huskies rose to the occasion. With Martin setting the rhythm from stroke seat, Washington captured its 21st national championship.

"The move was definitely a surprise," Martin says. "It's a big switch, especially in stroke, but the guys in that boat row at such a high level—they were able to adapt and respond quickly. We knew if we executed the race the way we needed to, we could win."

And win they did. But Martin's summer held another twist: an invitation to the U.S. Under-23 National Team, where he reunited with former UW assistant coach Sergio Espinoza, who had helped recruit him to UW. Once again, Martin delivered. In his first international appearance, he and Husky teammate Lyle Donovan powered the U.S. men's four to gold at the World Rowing Under-23 Championships in Poznań, Poland.

Not bad for someone who once dreaded the sport.

With a national title and a world championship under his belt, Martin's future looks bright. Could the senior national team be next?

"If the chance comes, I'd do it for sure," Martin says with a grin.

From reluctant rower to world champion, Ryan Martin's story is proof that sometimes, the best things happen when you finally decide to go all in.

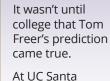


A Father's Hunch / A Daughter's Journey

HOW JORDAN FREER FOUND HER PLACE IN ROWING — JUST AS HER DAD IMAGINED By Jeff Bechthold

hen **Jordan Freer** was growing up in Lotus, Calif., her dad often told her she would make a good rower. She lived just half an hour from Lake Natoma, one of the West Coast's premier rowing venues, but she stuck with swimming and water polo

instead.



Barbara, Jordan headed to the recreation fair planning to sign up for club water polo. The water polo tent happened to be right next to rowing's, and she was pulled over to try an erg test. "It didn't look very

fun, but I tried it anyway," she says. "Then they handed me a schedule and said, 'See you at practice tomorrow."

She showed up — and kept showing up. Before long, she was hooked.

When she called home to tell her parents, her dad's response was simple: "Yeah, I have a good feeling about this."

Jordan thrived in her new sport, surprising even herself. By the end of her freshman year, she had made close friends and was competing at a high level. A teammate suggested she might be able to row for a Division I program.

Skeptical, she sent a few emails to West Coast coaches. One, almost as a joke, went to Washington. "I thought, 'They won't want me. I'm not good enough.""

But Husky head coach Yasmin Farooq replied immediately. "I knew she had the raw ingredients and was going to be an outstanding teammate," Farooq says. "Her work ethic was clearly there. We had to get her."

Leaving UCSB was not an easy choice, but Jordan couldn't ignore the opportunity. "This is probably the one chance I'll have to be an athlete at this level," she says. "Life is about experiencing everything you can. So why not go for it?"

She transferred to Washington just before fall quarter, moving in with her aunt to ease the transition. Less experienced than her new teammates, she wasn't sure where she'd fit. But within weeks, she realized that hard work could close the gap.

That spring, Jordan raced in the second varsity eight at the San Diego Crew Classic and later in the varsity eight against Cal. She finished her first season with a Pac-12 championship and fourth place at NCAAs.

Since then, she's become a mainstay in the Huskies' second varsity eight and a three-time CRCA Scholar-Athlete. She earned bronze at the 2024 Under-23 World Championships in the U.S. women's four, helped UW sweep the Big Ten Championships, and claimed NCAA silver this past spring. Always eager for new experiences, she even tried out for the U.S. Beach Sprints Team over the summer.

Now, with her senior season ahead, Jordan's focus is squarely on her teammates.

"The thing I want most is to help the team succeed," she says. "Wherever I am, I just want to push the level of the people around me as much as possible."

From water polo recruit to international medalist, Jordan's path has been anything but conventional. But as her dad saw long ago, rowing was always the right fit.



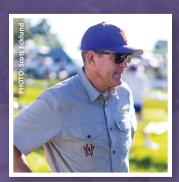
Relentless Men of Washington Defend Varsity Challenge Cup and Ten Eyck Title

BUILT FOR TURBULENCE: WASHINGTON MEN'S 2025 CHAMPIONSHIP RUN

By Michael Callahan

Head Coach, Washington Men's Rowing

s the 2025 season closes, we reflect on a campaign defined by challenge, growth, and the unwavering standard of excellence that defines Washington Rowing. After our unforgettable 2024 championship, we knew repeating would demand even more.



The night before finals I reminded our crews: the best oarsmen will win on Sunday. Mastery of your oar, unity in your boat, and the mental strength to block out what you can't control—that's our DNA.

They say that repeating a championship is harder than winning the first. The pursuit of that first title is electric—like the takeoff of an airplane, full of energy and promise. But sustaining success? That's more like cruising at 500 miles per hour: steady, quiet, focused, and requires handling unavoidable turbulence. As a coach, your role becomes clear—keep everyone calm, focused, and locked on the process.

We won the Varsity Challenge Cup in 2024 by just 0.57%. That margin sharpened our focus. Our 2025 mantra was simple: be 1% better in every area—small boats, erg scores, grades, nutrition, sleep, and speed. It sounds small, but across the board, it's monumental. VBC Commodore and varsity eight champion Harry Fitzpatrick led by example.

We had the tools. Olympians Logan Ullrich (silver in Paris) and valiant Olympic contender Nick Dunlop returned, along with seven of nine from our 2024 Varsity 8. But we knew that wouldn't be enough. The target was on our backs, and we had to raise the standard.

Fall and winter training were strong, despite a brutal flu season. We defended the Bolles Cup against Harvard, then faced Cal in The Dual on Montlake—a classic. If you weren't there, I hope you caught the replay. The final strokes in front of a roaring home crowd showed us what's possible. We won, but the message was clear: we needed more base speed.

We fell to Cal at MPSF's—not the result we wanted, but clarity gained. We trained through it, knowing the final battle was ahead and we needed to be at our best.

Leading into IRAs, we made tough lineup calls. Our Varsity 8 was fast but tight—lacking the run and relaxation needed to let the shell breathe at top speed. Meanwhile, Ryan Martin and Klass Lass were showing beautiful rhythm and ease in the second varsity. We moved them to stern pair in the top boat. On fast water like the Cooper, every change matters.

The final weeks saw fierce internal competition and extraordinary camaraderie. Team captain Kieran Joyce led with grace. Athletes embraced lineup shifts with humility—putting team above self. That's Washington Rowing. This group pulled for one another, every day.

At IRAs, chaos reigned on the Cooper River—tailwinds, chop, unpredictability. It was a coach's stress test and a rower's proving ground. But we train for this. From cold singles on Lake Washington to relentless small boat work, our crews know how to win on their worst day. The night before finals, I reminded our crews: the best oarsmen will win on Sunday. Mastery of your oar, unity in your boat, and the mental strength to block out what you can't control—that's our DNA.

And they delivered.

- The Varsity Four and Second Varsity Eight stormed to dominant, record-breaking victories.
- The **Third Varsity Eight** also broke a course record but finished just behind 0.03 seconds Harvard in one of the most thrilling races of the regatta.
- Then came the **Varsity Eight**. In a field stacked with speed and fueled by history, they rowed a masterclass—covering every move, and launching theirs in the third 500 to take the lead for good. It was an extraordinary display of precision, rhythm, and courage—earning Washington its 21st Varsity Challenge Cup.

Our full team point total sealed the championship. On the awards dock, we sang "Bow Down to Washington" together, victorious, proud.

To our alumni: thank you. Your belief, presence, and steady support remind us we row not just for the name on the jersey—but for the legacy behind it. From winter training to championship Sunday, that legacy fuels us.

We can't wait to write the next chapter—with you by our side.

Seven Boats, One Team

WASHINGTON'S BIG TEN BREAKTHROUGH

By Yasmin Farooq

Head Coach, Washington Women's Rowing

A Season Defined by Depth and Unity

ur inaugural year in the Big Ten brought new challenges. Unlike the Pac-12, the Big Ten counts points from seven boats—not just four. That meant expanding our depth, building two lineups for first-year rowers, and preparing every athlete to contribute.

We embraced our tenet: "All of Us or None of Us." Our most experienced rowers began the year by sharing lockers with first-years—a gesture that sparked mentorship, deep friendships, and an inspiring culture of selflessness. Transfers and newcomers were embraced by their teammates and Husky Nation, and felt the love.

These are remarkable women who embody everything historic, joyful, and resilient about this program they've inherited from you. They are passionate, gritty, and committed to advancing the legacy of Washington Women's Rowing—not just through results, but through character.

We also have the most supportive alumni and community—people who know that rowing is about more than the excitement of the races on the water. It's about developing leaders in the boat and beyond.

And we have loyal supporters like you who understand that sustaining this legacy requires a new kind of philanthropy.

Leading Again: The Future of Washington Women's Rowing

The expanded Big Ten Conference is a natural fit for Washington Rowing. Our legacy has always been built on walk-on development—cultivating raw potential into championship-caliber athletes. This includes kids who grew up rowing in area programs who dreamed of one day racing as Women of Washington. Today, more than 50 compete in the Big Ten Championships, supported by 20 scholarships divided among them.

But the landscape is shifting. With the passage of the House Settlement in June, our roster will eventually shrink to a cap of 68. Under the new rules, programs may offer scholarships up to that limit. Our top competitors—across the Big Ten and nationwide—are already awarding more scholarships and investing more heavily in program funding. The gap is growing—and without increased support, we risk falling behind.

I'm beyond proud of our team's return to the NCAA podium, with two silver medals and a fourth place team finish. That said, we're eager to get back to the top.

In many ways, we've come full circle. Washington Rowing led during the rise of Title IX, fueled by a fierce desire to compete and succeed. Now, our future depends on leading again.



To stay competitive, we must evolve:

Develop homegrown talent faster, retain top athletes, and offset college costs in creative ways

Unity wins. Legacy endures. With your support, Washington Women's Rowing will lead again.

You Can Help Us Rise to Meet This Moment

- Support the Annual Drive and donate to current student-athlete scholarship funds. Scholarships help us recruit and retain top rowers and coxswains who align with Washington's values and culture.
- Connect our student-athletes with fair market value business opportunities. Each "Dawgs Unleashed" partnership can function like a scholarship—providing essential support.
- Contribute to the Title IX Legacy Endowment to secure the long-term future of Washington Women's Rowing.

This team is proud of its adaptability and growth. Our sport is evolving by the minute—and with your support, we'll continue to contend for the top of the NCAA podium.

Thank you for believing in our women—and in the future they're building.

To make a gift, turn to page 14 or visit

WashingtonRowing.com/Donate

Learn more about Dawgs Unleashed opportunities on page 12.

BY THE NUMBERS, A SEASON OF FIRSTS

Bailestone	Achievement
Milestone	Achievement
First Big Ten Championship	For the UW
All seven boat categories	Swept
Conference records	5 new
NCAA finish	4th place
Roster size	95 athletes
Scholarships	20 shared
Future cap	68 athletes

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Dawgs Unleashed

ICONIC SEATTLE BRANDS FUEL STUDENT-ATHLETE SUCCESS, EASING COLLEGE COSTS AND STRENGTHENING HUSKY TRADITION.

When Local Legends Partner with Husky Rowers, Everyone Wins



amburgers and the Huskies—a match made in Seattle heaven. When beloved burger chain Dick's Drive-In

decided to explore student-athlete endorsement opportunities with Washington rowers, it felt like a natural pairing—celebrating "the great camaraderie between two classic brands."

"The qualities we look for in our employees include a strong work ethic, tenacity, and teamwork," says Olivia Shjeflo, Director of Marketing for Dick's. "We see Washington rowers the same way. They're pleasant and helpful with impressive work ethics and they know how to have fun. They help bring what Dick's is doing to life."

Whether tossing burgers to sailgaters before a Husky football game, handing out coupons at gymnastics meets, or promoting Dick's through posters featuring Husky rowers, the partnership with Dick's doesn't just help sell fries and milkshakes. It helps student-athletes afford a world-class UW education while competing at the highest level.

For **Megan Lee** '25, fair market value opportunities made all the difference. Already holding a bachelor's degree from Duke and a master's from Cambridge, she came to Washington to pursue graduate work in digital marketing and row for one of the nation's premier programs.

"I definitely couldn't afford another year of college, but I really wanted to be part of Washington's legacy," says the Massachusetts native. "There wasn't enough scholarship money, but these opportunities made it possible."

Lee powered the Varsity 8 to a Big Ten title this season while also using her broad social media reach to champion the lifesaving importance of blood donations through her personal brand collaborations. Her experience competing at Washington ultimately helped her earn her way into the stroke seat of the U.S. women's eight which finished fifth at the World Championships in Shanghai this September proof that with support from alumni and local partners, these partnerships make it possible for Huskies to pursue

excellence on the water, in the classroom, and in the community.

To make these collaborations seamless, the Athletic Department

created Dawgs Unleashed, an internal marketing team connecting businesses with athletes.

"It's so great to have UW staff guide us through these endorsement opportunities," Olivia says. "It's simple, effective, and gives us the chance to showcase these incredible student-athletes."

Together, alumni, businesses, and student-athletes are writing the next chapter of Washington's proud legacy.

opportunity to row at Washington, continuing her athletic journey at one of the nation's premier rowing programs

Inside Dawgs Unleashed: WHERE COMMUNITY MEETS OPPORTUNITY

What It Is

UW's in-house **student-athlete** marketing and partnership team, led by Executive Director Joe Knight '16, connects Husky student-athletes with local businesses for authentic, fair market-value collaborations.

Powered by Learfield

Working alongside UW's longtime multimedia partner, Dawgs Unleashed leverages advanced tools like "Compass NIL," influencer marketing, and video production to build high-impact campaigns.

Why It Matters

These partnerships fuel Husky traditions, ease college costs, and give Washington a recruiting edge by creating meaningful opportunities for student-athletes who want to compete at the highest level while preparing for life beyond sports.

Get Involved: Learn more at gohuskies.com/feature/dawgs-unleashed

Rowing Through Generations

TOM AND ELLIE NADEN BUILT A LIFE—AND A LEGACY—AROUND THE SPORT THAT BROUGHT THEM TOGETHER

By Teresa Moore

he UW crew program inspired Tom Naden as a little boy in the 1930s, introduced him to his wife nearly 65 years ago, and ignited a legacy that will live long after he's gone.

Tom (BA Chemistry, 1953, Doctor of Dentistry, 1960) and his wife, Ellie (BS Home Economics, 1949), are more than passionate about crew. They've practically built their lives around the program.

"I met my husband in a boat," Ellie laughs.

In the 1950s, Tom was a member of the lightweight crew team and was training for a Canadian regatta with three teammates.

"We had to get a coxswain every time we turned ou,, so I'd go down to the Laurelhurst Beach Club and find a really good-looking girl and get her to come and cox the boat for us," Tom recalls. "My eyes lit on Ellie. We shanghaied her and that's how we met. Now, 64 years later, she's not sitting behind any boat but she's still giving directions!"

Tom's Husky roots run almost a century deep. Both his parents earned UW degrees. His uncle managed the basketball team in 1920, the year Husky Stadium was built, and bought tickets for that inaugural football season. Tom's been a die-hard fan since he was 10 years old and still owns his uncle's same seats.

His connection to crew began early, too. Tom's fifthgrade pal, Dale, was the younger brother of Don Hume, the stroke of the "Boys in the Boat" UW crew team that triumphed in the 1936 Olympics.

"Dale and I went up to Don's attic bedroom one day, and there above the window was the white-tipped University of Washington oar. That was impressive," says the Korean War veteran.

Fast forward to the 1970s. The Nadens' two sons rowed crew for the Huskies and Tom served as team dentist when they competed in the Henley Royal Regatta in England.

Today, Tom and Ellie are giving back to the program that brought them together. They have endowed a scholarship to give a men's rower from the Pacific Northwest a full ride to Washington. The couple also has remembered the crew program in their wills, ensuring that their legacy will live on.

"It was a signature time of my life to be part of that program," Tom says. "I'm enthusiastic about paying back for what the University did for me."

"It just makes us feel good," Ellie adds.



Forever WASHINGTON

Let your Husky spirit live on.

Forever Washington is a giving program for those who include UW Athletics in their wills or estate plans. It's part of the University's Henry Suzzallo Society and offers many ways to create a lasting legacy:

- Make a bequest in your will
- Name UW Athletics as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy or retirement account
- Donate personal property or stocks
- Establish a trust with potential tax benefits

You can direct your gift to Washington Rowing, scholarships, endowments, or wherever it's needed most.

Inspired by Tom and Ellie Naden's legacy?

Start your own.

Contact Lee Grever - Igrever@uw.edu - (206) 685-9619

This article originally appeared in Sweep in 2015. Sadly, Ellie passed away in March 2019. Tom continues his passion for Husky Rowing.

WASHINGTONROWING.COM **SWEEP** The Washington Rowing Magazine

Add to the Legacy FOR ANOTHER 50 YEARS AND BEYOND

Washington Rowing is built on bold beginnings and enduring values.

In 1936, a crew of underdogs from Washington stunned the world by winning Olympic gold in Berlin. Their story—immortalized in The Boys in the Boat—became a global symbol of grit, unity, and quiet strength. The Boys in the Boat Program Endowment honors that legacy and ensures those values continue to shape the future of men's rowing today.

Washington women first rowed in 1903—only to be shut down after the sport was deemed "too violent and unflattering for women." Fifty years ago, a fearless group of women defied that judgment and launched a powerhouse program. They didn't just demand a seat in the boat—they built bridges across generations. The Title IX Legacy Program Endowment celebrates their courage and connects the Washington Rowing sisterhood through shared purpose and pride.

Two Powerhouse programs under one roof: 21 National Championships for the men, 16 National Titles for the women, and countless conference crowns—including the men's 2025 IRA National Title and the women's sweep of the 2025 Big Ten Conference Championship in their inaugural appearance. Together, they've sent more rowers to the Olympics than any other college program.

Coach Hiram Conibear—who coached both men and women—believed in four core principles: hard work, team over self, camaraderie, and rowing to win. These values still guide Washington Rowing today.



Title IX Legacy **Program Endowment** for Women's Rowing

Washington's women rose to prominence at the dawn of Title IX, launching a legacy of championships that continues today. Your gift funds a new boat annually, supports technology, sports psychology, recruiting, travel, and more—



ensuring the sisterhood thrives for generations to come.



"The Boys in the Boat" **Program Endowment** for Men's Rowing

Support the purchase and maintenance of state-of-the-art boats and equipment. Your gift fuels recruiting and marketing, invests in cutting-edge performance technology, and supports team-building, sports psychology, and life-changing



trips to England's Henley Royal Regatta and other elite competitions.



Student Athlete Scholarships

Washington Rowing supports more student-athletes—over 100 across the men's and women's squads—than any team at UW except Football. Yet only a handful of rowing scholarships are endowed. Your gift to support scholarships, or to establish a new one, provides deserving student-athletes with the opportunity to learn, grow, and compete—while helping offset critical budget priorities across the program. Contact Lee Grever with the Tyee Club to learn more.

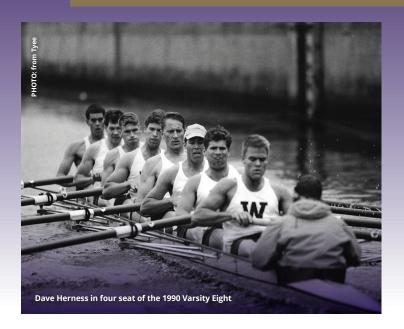


Why Your Gift Matters

For rowers and non-rowers alike, the Boys in the Boat, Title IX Legacy, and Student-Athlete Scholarship endowments illuminate life lessons learned on the water—resilience, unity, and purpose. By donating to one of these endowments or supporting the Annual Drive, you help ensure that Washington Rowing continues to build generations of values-driven young men and women who will change the world.

With your support, these four funding opportunities honor the legacy of Washington Rowing by meeting the greatest needs of this historic program—on the water, in the classroom, and far beyond.

Contact: Lee Grever: 206.685.9619 | Igrever@uw.edu You can Find the QR code for the Annual Drive on Page 2 "If you're in the middle of the boat, sometimes they tell you to pull harder. When it's time to lean, let's lean in. That's my message. Let's lean into this together." – Dave Herness



ave Herness is a self-described "middle of the boat guy". At 6'6" it was likely his destiny to become a rower, but as a young man growing up in Bellevue, he had no idea his future would be so heavily impacted by the sport and by his experience at Washington.

"I had never rowed until my first day at the shellhouse when – along with about a hundred others – I came down to try out," Dave said recently. "I wasn't great, but thankfully Yerka (Jiri Zaplatel, frosh coach from 87-92) and Bob Ernst (in his first year as head coach) gave me a little space to figure it out. I made it into the second frosh boat that year, and I was hooked."

With the goal to "get better every day", Dave made it into the V4 as a sophomore, a boat that was undefeated on the season. "Physically, I didn't show up on day one as a guy that could make a varsity boat, so it took a lot of work to get there. Charlie Fix, who I had first met in high school, really encouraged me to try out. It was incredibly rewarding to row with the person that got me there in the first place."

His last two seasons were spent as a mainstay in the Varsity 8, and his teammates, throughout his four years on the team, remain a central part of his life. "If I call or text, no matter how busy they are, I know that the first thing that they want to do is catch up. It is hard to articulate that kind of bond. This sport creates bonds that last a lifetime and I feel tremendous gratitude for it. If I can help empower another generation to have that experience, I want to do it. Yes, the wins are great, and the races... but like so many others who come through this program, what you take away is more powerful than that."

Dave is in the process of setting up a matching program to support the values of Washington rowing that he experienced, and he hopes that all current and future rowers at Washington have the same opportunity. "This was

DONOR PROFILE

Middle of the Boat, **Heart of the Team**

DAVE HERNESS ON ROWING, LEGACY, AND THE FUTURE OF WASHINGTON ROWING

By Eric Cohen

the most meaningful experience of my young life and I want to enable that for everyone who is willing to show up, work hard, and get better every day. Create the opportunity for someone who feels they can do something awesome but they don't know what it is yet. That was me, and I want that for everyone who is willing to commit."

When it comes to endowing the program into the future, Dave is

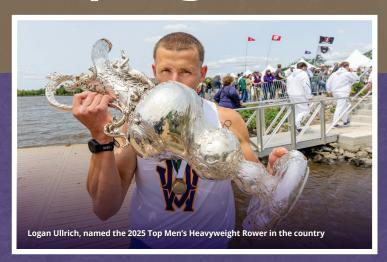


optimistic. "If you feel the same way, there is an opportunity. If you want to make an impact, reach out to me. Let's do this together. There are a lot of alums out there who want to help and I want to say – let's do this together," Dave continued. "If you're in the middle of the boat sometimes they tell you to pull harder. When it's time to lean, let's lean in. That is my message. Let's lean into this together."

Power Ten

Help Dave Herness empower the next generation of student-athletes. If you're interested in helping with his matching gift initiative, reach out to Dave directly and help carry the legacy of Washington Rowing forward.

Award Winners Spring 2025



MEN'S TEAM AWARDS

IRCA:

Inaugural "The Oarsman" (top heavyweight rower): **Logan Ullrich**

IRCA ALL-AMERICA:

1st Team:

Harry Fitzpatrick Sam Ford Logan Ullrich

2nd Team:

Ryan Martin Ben Shortt

IRCA SCHOLAR-ATHLETE:

Marius Bjørn-Hansen Ahlsand Ian Burnett Lyle Donovan Nick Dunlop Harry Fitzpatrick Sam Ford Alex Gonin Nikita Jacobs Kieran Joyce Ben Shortt Ryan Smith Cameron Tasker Jonathan Wang-Norderud

MPSF AWARDS

All-MPSF:

Logan Ullrich Harry Fitzpatrick Blake Vogel

ACADEMIC ALL-MPSF:

Matteo Belgeri Giuseppe Bellomo Marius Bjørn-Hansen Ahlsand

Dimitri Chamitoff

Lyle Donovan

Nick Dunlop Harry Fitzpatrick

Sam Ford

Maggie Gibbons

Alex Gonin

Finn Griskauskas

Quinn Hall

Nikita Jacobs

Kieran Joyce

Klas Ole Lass

Kiefer Law

Ryan Martin

Rory McDonnell

Ewan Morrow

Billy Osborne

Henry Ramstad

Ben Shortt

Connor Shoup

Addison Smee

Ryan Smith

Cameron Tasker

Marc Tennessen

Logan Ullrich

Blake Vogel

Ethan Walsh

Jonathan Wang-Norderud

Lucas Woodruff

VARSITY BOAT CLUB AWARDS:

2025 Team Captain:

Kieran Joyce

Richard G. Erickson Award (Outstanding Men's Walk-On Rower):

lick Dunlop '25 launched by the victorious men's

varsity eight at the 2025 Windermere Cup regatta

Lyle Donovan receiving the Richard G. Erickson Award as the team's top walk-on

Lyle Donovan

Schaller Award (Highest GPA):

Cameron Tasker

Pigott Award (Most Inspirational):

Dimitri Chamitoff

WOMEN'S TEAM AWARDS

CRCA AWARDS

Crca Athlete Of The Year Finalist:

Aisha Rocek

CRCA ALL-AMERICA:

1st Team:

Megan Lee Aisha Rocek

2nd Team:

Marilou Duvernay-Tardiff Zola Kemp

CRCA SCHOLAR-ATHLETE:

Jordan Freer
Olivia Hay
Sophie Houston
Taylor Inouye
Sally Jones
Zola Kemp
Megan Lee
Perry McLoughlin
Cillian Mullen
Leah Nash
Camille Randall
Sofie Sand
Sofia Sunhinin

BIG TEN AWARDS

Athlete Of The Year:

Aisha Rocek

Emma Waters

ALL-BIG TEN

1st Team:

Aisha Rocek Zola Kemp Marilou Duvernay-Tardif

2nd Team:

Megan Lee Cillian Mullen Sophie Houston

ALL-FRESHMAN TEAM:

Chloe Sheppard Izzy Michaelson Violet Holbrow-Brooksbank

SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD WINNER: Olivia Hay

ALL-ACADEMIC TEAM

Zoe Bischoff Carmel Bollag Luella Bowersock Paris Burbine Mira Calder **Mia Carter** Jordyn Costello lane Cox **Alexandra Dessart** Jordan Freer **Caitlin Hane** Olivia Hay **Brianna Hoffman** Olivia Howe **Taylor Inouye Allison Jakeway** Zola Kemp Ellen Koselka Lilly Kurtz **Carly Lauritzen Dani Lohrenz Cora Madison Camille Martin Perry McLoughlin** Cillian Mullen **Grace Murdock Leah Nash** Madison Ohm **Eliza Perry Izzy Peters Camille Randall Aisha Rocek** Megan Romesberg Kathryn Russ **Sofie Sand Isabelle Tinsley Victoria Trentin** Kalee Verd **less Weir Cait Whittard**





VARSITY BOAT CLUB AWARDS:

2025 Team Captain:

Margaret Young

Scout Wilson

Elisabeth Wu

Olivia Hay

Katy Wallace Memorial Award (Outstanding Women's Walk-On Rower): **Caroline Law**

Schaller Award (Highest GPA):

Allison Jakeway

Pigott Award (Most Inspirational):

Evan Park

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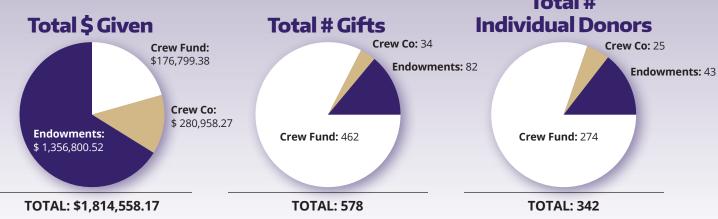
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Market Value of Washington Rowing Endowments



70 gifts were counted for Husky Giving Day, for a total of \$33,716 to support rowing student-athletes.





Washington Rowing Endowments

Our endowments create long term sustainability and permanence for our Championship level programs in a rapidly changing college athletics landscape. The principal of your endowment gift remains intact, while the interest gives us perpetual annual funding that we can rely on. You may choose to set up an endowment to honor the legacy of a loved one or to highlight someone's passion for UW Rowing. To learn more, contact Lee Grever at 206.685.9619 or lgrever@uw.edu.

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE OUR EXISTING ENDOWMENTS AND THEIR DONORS

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Boys in the Boat Endowed Fund

John D. Bracken Scholarship Fund

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Class of '76 Endowed Men's Crew Scholarship

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Jean K. Lafromboise Scholarship for Men's Crew

Michael S. LaFromboise Fund

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Naden Family Endowment for Husky Crew

Blake W. Nordstrom Endowment, Men's Rowing Coach

Blake Nordstrom Memorial Endowed Rowing Fund

The Kari Osterhaug Endowed Scholarship for Women's Crew

Ron and Jayne Ranheim Men's Rowing Endowed Fund

Ion Runstad 2008 Endowed Scholarship for Men's Rowing

Jon Runstad Endowed Scholarship for Men's Rowing

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Charles L. Spence Athletic Fund

Title IX Legacy Endowed Fund for Women's Rowing

Alison and Brian Urback Crew Endowment

Willard Wakeman Endowed Men's Crew Scholarship

Washington Rowing Stewards Endowment

Warren Westlund Men's Rowing Endowed Fund

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John W. Zevenbergen Jr. Endowed Scholarship for Men's Rowing

Market value of Washington Rowing endowments:

\$22,947,267

Annual endowment payout:

\$745,688

To support an endowment, go to **UWTyeeClub.org**, click on **DONATE** at the top right, then search for the endowment by name.

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SWEEP The Washington Rowing Magazine

Annual Donors

JULY 1, 2024 - JUNE 30, 2025

We value every donor, from recent graduates to our faithful alums for supporting these championship level teams. Thank you for your contributions to the Annual Drive, Endowments and Special Projects that make Washington Rowing the Championship program that it is.

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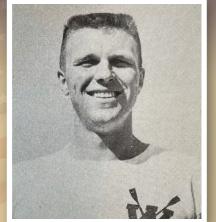
Trevor Vernon (1992)

In Memoriam

Charles "Chuck" Alm ('58)

Charles "Chuck" Alm — four seat and captain of Washington's legendary 1958 varsity — passed away at 87, leaving a model of Husky leadership. With UW barred from the IRA in 1957–58 due to infractions imposed on the football team, Alm helped galvanize a demoralized squad and led the crew to Henley and then Moscow, where they stunned the Soviet National Team on the Khimki Reservoir at the height of the Cold War. On that trip, George Pocock's famous "Reach for the Stars" message was sent in a hand-written note to the athletes, enclosed with the oars.

Chuck later rowed in the 1960 Olympics and carried that same drive into service to his alma mater and community: Chair of the Washington Rowing Stewards, executive director and later president of the UW Alumni Association, and president of both the WAC and the 101



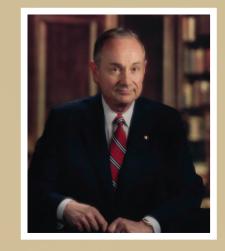
Club. Alm and his '58 teammates earned multiple civic and national honors and a place in the Husky Hall of Fame. "I got to know Chuck on our trip to Moscow in 2008 when we visited to commemorate the 1958 race," men's head coach

Michael Callahan recalled. "I will always think of him as a friend. He was a giant amongst us who inspired generations of Husky oarsmen and coaches."

Everett "Pete" Paup

Everett "Pete" Paup was a pillar of the Pacific Northwest maritime world and a steadfast friend of Washington Rowing. A Roosevelt High School graduate, he first coxed at LWRC before enrolling at Stanford, where he steered the varsity for four seasons. After military service — ultimately retiring from the Marine Corps Reserves as a Lieutenant Colonel — he built a distinguished career at Manson Construction, serving in leadership for 35 years, including as longtime chairman.

Paup's connection to rowing ran deep at Washington: the men's UW/Stanford Dual Race Varsity 8 trophy bears his and his wife's names as the Andrea and Everett Peter Paup Cup. Each spring, a giant red-and-white Manson

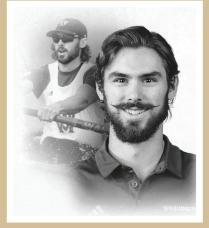


barge helps set the Windermere Cup log boom — a working reminder of Pete's lasting commitment to the sport and its community. "Pete and his family are synonymous with the sport of rowing on the West Coast," said Callahan. "He valued this sport for the development of young people."

Austin Regier ('20)

Austin Regier '20, a young man with a passion for life and an instant friend to all who knew him, passed away last year in a free-diving accident in the Philippines. He was 27. A standout in Track and Field at Mt. Rainier High School, Austin arrived at Conibear as a true walk-on and quickly embraced Washington's team-first culture. Through relentless work he became a Pac-12 and IRA Champion in the Varsity 4 in his fifth year and was a member of the legendary 2021 IRA Sweep team. "He was a tremendous athlete," Callahan said. "I think he really helped to find the character of that team, the work ethic of the team."

After graduation, Austin joined Husky teammate Madison Molitor '19 with NYYC American Magic as a cyclor, powering the hydraulics of America's Cup foiling monohulls. His sailing teammates praised his unique combination of engineering insight, athletic ability, and



determination.
Yet more than his
accomplishments, it
was his heart that
defined him. His
faith, his ability to
connect, and his
genuine care for
others left a mark on
teammates, classmates, and friends
across the athletic
village. "Austin
was a Washington
oarsman to his core,"

said Callahan. "His faith and care for people were evident every day, and to all who knew him."













The University of Washington men's eight leads

New Zealand Rowing down the Montlake Cut

during the 2025 Windermere Cup

Kenzie Waltar '17 named head coach of the Seattle Pacific University rowing program



Following their victory over Cal in the 113th edition of The Dual, the men's crew marked their Schoch Cup win with a coxswain toss



A pictorial review of

recent team, alumni

and donor news





Freshmen in the water celebrating the sweep of their first Big Ten Championship

WASHINGTON ROWING STEWARDS

University of Washington Box 354070 Seattle, WA 98195-4080 USA



SAVE THESE 2025/26 DATES:

Turkey Trot - Friday, Nov 21st 2025

Women's Alumnae Brunch - Saturday, February 7th 2026

VBC Reunion Night - Friday, May 1st 2025



2026 Washington Spring Rowing Schedule

SQUAD	EVENT/OPPONENT	DATE	LOCATION
Men & Women's Rowing	Class Day	Saturday, March 21st 2026	Seattle, WA
Women's Rowing	San Diego Crew Classic	Sat & Sun, March 28-29th 2026	San Diego, CA
Men's Rowing	Bolles Cup (Harvard) - Sarasota Invitational	Fri & Sat, March 27th-28th 2026	Sarasota, FL
Men's Rowing	Husky Open (Stanford)	Sat, April 4th 2026	Seattle, WA
Women's Rowing	The Dual	Sat, April 11th 2026	Redwood Shores, CA
Men's Rowing	Oregon State Dual	Sat, April 11th 2026	Vancouver, WA
Women's Rowing	Big Ten Invitational	Sat & Sun, April 18th - 19th 2026	Rancho Cordova, CA
Men's Rowing	The Dual	Saturday, April 25th 2026	Redwood Shores, CA
Men & Women's Rowing	Opening Day, Windermere Cup Weekend	Fri & Sat, May 1st-2nd 2026	Seattle, WA
Women's Rowing	Big Ten Championships	Sat & Sun, May 16th - 17th 2026	Indianapolis, IN
Men's Rowing	MPSF Championships	Sat & Sun, May 16th - 17th 2026	Rancho Cordova, CA
Women's Rowing	NCAA Championships	Fri - Sun, May 29th - 31st 2026	Gainesville, GA
Men's Rowing	IRA Championships	Fri - Sun, May 29th - 31st 2026	Rancho Cordova, CA

Check **www.gohuskies.com** for schedule updates