

SWEEP

THE WASHINGTON ROWING MAGAZINE

SPRING
2026

W
ROWING



SWEEP

Volume 36 / Spring 2026

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.'

IN THIS ISSUE

- VBC Reunion 3
- 125th Class Day Regatta 4-5
- Meet Our Seniors 6-7
- Margaret Young Profile 8
- Luke Collins Profile 9
- Messages from the Coaches 10-11
- 40th Running of The Windermere Cup. 12-13
- '87 & '88 Induction into Husky HOF ... 14-15
- Donor Profile: Alice Henderson 16
- In Memoriam: Guy Harper 17
- Rowing Round-Up 18
- Giving Back 19
- Season Schedule 20

COVER PHOTO: Alike Jenner
 WRITING: Eric Cohen, Jeff Bechthold, Teresa Moore
 DESIGN: tpda.com



Donate to the Annual Fund

Your annual support provides the resources student-athletes rely on every day: academic support, mentorship, sports medicine, mental health services, nutrition guidance and team meals.

On the Cover: The University of Washington women's team celebrating a sweep of their inaugural Big Ten Championship.

To the Washington Rowing Family,

There is a specific kind of quiet that only exists at the Conibear Shellhouse in the early morning. It's a stillness that feels heavy with history, yet electric with what's to come. Whenever we stand on those docks, we are reminded that being a Steward of Washington Rowing isn't just a title or a seat at a board meeting—it is a profound responsibility to a legacy that shaped the very foundation of who we are.

People often ask why we give so much of my time to this role. The answer is simple, yet it carries the weight of 125 years of tradition: Rowing is one of the greatest teachers we have ever had. It is a masterclass in the virtues our world needs most right now:

Team Over Self: The realization that the boat only moves when you disappear into the rhythm of the person in front of you.

Discipline: The internal engine that keeps the blade moving when the lungs burn and the finish line feels a lifetime away.

Selflessness and Determination: The iron-clad commitment to be your best so that your teammates don't have to carry your weight.

We serve as Co-Chairs because we want—we need—the next generation of young people to have access to these lessons. In a world that often celebrates the individual, this program remains a sanctuary for the collective.

As the landscape of collegiate athletics undergoes a period of unprecedented change, we are evolving as a Board to meet the shifting needs of the program. This evolution is also about you: we are restructuring to better serve the Washington Rowing community, ensuring we are well-equipped to help friends, family, and alumni get involved in the specific ways they want to.

To that end, we have implemented a new subcommittee structure focused on Events, Communication, Fundraising, and Dawgs Unleashed and Business Development. This allows for more targeted, meaningful engagement. Furthermore, we are proud to introduce the Steward Emeritus Circle, which allows us to retain the invaluable mentorship and institutional knowledge of our veteran board members.

This March, as we celebrate the historic 125th Anniversary of Class Day, we are reminded that being a Steward means being present in the "un-glamorous" moments. It's more than just the roar of a packed Montlake Cut on Windermere Cup day—it's flipping burgers at the Class Day BBQ to make sure the current athletes know we see them. It's showing up in the rain to regattas to let the team know we are paving the way for them, just as the giants before us paved the way for our own time in the shells. It's the late-night emails, navigating the complexities of modern athletics, and the constant drive to ensure that Washington remains at a championship level for the next century.

This role is, and always has been, a team effort. We are constantly inspired by our fellow board members, our classmates, and the alumni who answer the phone whenever it rings. We give our time because we owe it to the sport, to the university, and to the athletes who haven't even picked up an oar yet. We are here to ensure that the "Washington Way" isn't just a memory, but a future.

Thank you for being part of this journey with us. We will see you on the Cut this spring.

Noelle Broom & Ante Kusurin,

Noelle Broom

Ante Kusurin

CO-CHAIRS, WASHINGTON ROWING STEWARDS



CONIBEAR CALLS: Huskies Return for the VBC Reunion

Every spring, as Montlake comes alive with the energy of Opening Day, another tradition brings Washington Rowing alumni back to the center of it all. On Friday, May 1, former Huskies from every era will return to Conibear Shellhouse for the second annual VBC Reunion Celebration — an evening centered on connection, history, and the enduring legacy of the Varsity Boat Club.

For generations, Conibear has been more than a boathouse. It has served as the program's anchor: a training ground, a gathering space, and the backdrop for countless meters rowed on Lake Washington. The reunion gives alumni - especially those marking 5, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, and 60-year milestones - the chance to step back inside, revisit the footprint and reconnect with the teammates and experiences that defined their time in the program and beyond.

The reunion sets the tone for a full Opening Day weekend on the water. Saturday begins with the Stewards Enclosure opening at 9:00 a.m., followed by a full slate of races, the Women's and Men's Windermere Cup events, and the Seattle Yacht Club's Opening Day parade. It's a weekend that brings together the program's past and present: alumni lining the Cut, current athletes racing the course, and the broader community gathering around one of Seattle's longest-standing traditions.

Husky gear is encouraged throughout the weekend — VBC class shirts, purple and gold, or anything that shows Washington pride. The invitation is simple: return to the boathouse, reconnect with teammates, and take part in a tradition that continues to shape Washington Rowing.



Lynne Kalina, Kristi Stingl, Stephanie Doyle and Gail Stewart Bowser at the 2025 Alumni Tailgate celebrating the '87 & '88 Hall of Fame Inductees.

Weekend Schedule

Friday, May 1:

VBC Reunion | Conibear Shellhouse

- 5:00pm Doors Open
- 6:00pm Boat Dedications on the dock
- 8:00pm Twilight Sprints - Montlake Cut
- 10:00pm Closing

Saturday, May 2:

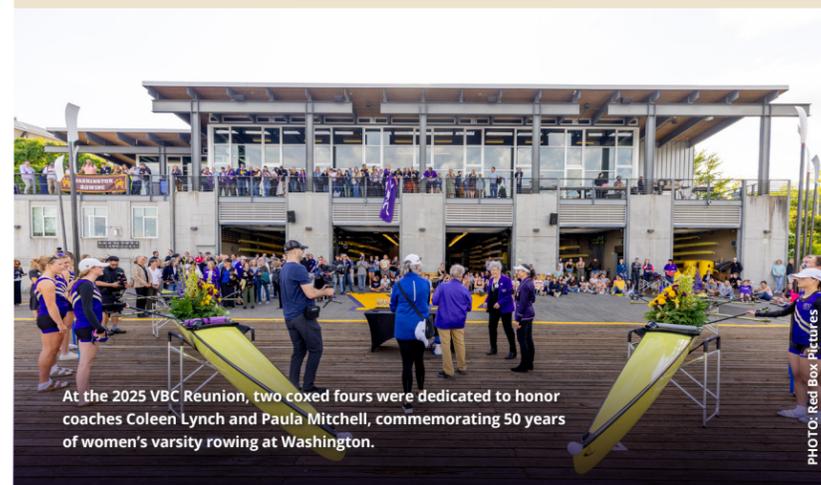
Opening Day, Windermere Cup Regatta | Montlake Cut

- 9:00am Stewards Enclosure Opens
- 10:15am Crew Races Begin
- 11:30am Women's Windermere Cup 8+
- 11:45am Men's Windermere Cup 8+

Opening Day Parade and Awards to follow racing



Bob Ernst at the 2025 VBC Reunion, celebrating his lifetime achievements at Washington and the dedication of his bronze plaque in Conibear Shellhouse.



At the 2025 VBC Reunion, two coxed fours were dedicated to honor coaches Coleen Lynch and Paula Mitchell, commemorating 50 years of women's varsity rowing at Washington.



RSVP Today

SHELLHOUSE SHOWDOWN:

The 125th Class Day Regatta

By Eric Cohen

Who will it be this year? What class will find the magic to secure the Class Day intrasquad victory on the 125th anniversary of the longest-running regatta in Washington Rowing history?

If you're a betting person, it's the seniors. If you like the underdog, it's the freshmen. Or it could be none of the above—like last year in the women's race, when the "Fifth Years" took the win. Because on Class Day, anything can happen.

That spirit is exactly how Class Day began. In 1901, Washington had just procured two four-oared, wide-body shells (what we'd call wherries today), and the men quickly took to the sport. Enough, in fact, that on May 17, 1901, the Sophomores challenged the Freshmen to an official 1.5-mile race. The freshmen won, but according to the Seattle Times, "The sophomore crew mistook the finishing post and, although they were a considerable distance ahead, stopped, and the freshmen won the race."

That's how it started—back when the 600-acre campus was only seven years old. Fewer than 700 undergrads. Horse-and-buggy travel. A campus that still resembled a forest. And yet, students were already taking to the water to row and to race.



The 2025 Class Day Champions, made up of fifth-years and juniors, celebrating their victories.

PHOTO: Red Box Pictures

Old School

Intercollegiate competition at the turn of the 20th century was limited, so students created their own. Class competition was a fixture across campus—track, swimming, canoeing, rowing—often held on "Junior Day" in early May.

In rowing, beyond Class Day, the men also raced by major. Early-year matchups included "Forestry vs. Engineering" and any other majors that could field four or eight oarsmen and a coxswain.

The women held their first Class Day in 1907—one of the only women's rowing competitions in the country at the time—and the freshmen won. These early events were judged on technique, though the women occasionally raced. The 1910 yearbook notes that the 1909 freshmen "were winners by the narrow margin of half a length; distance was one mile." This was likely influenced by coach Hiram Conibear, who encouraged women to race throughout his tenure (and was disciplined more than once for allowing women to physically compete).

It's the Seniors' Day... Maybe

Between that first race in 1901 and today, the class showdown has become one of the most anticipated events of spring, traditionally kicking off the racing season.

For the men, who race for the Varnell Trophy (dating to 1930 and named for longtime Seattle Times sports reporter George Varnell), the all-time wins since 1901 are:

Freshmen: 7

Sophomores: 18

Juniors: 28

Seniors: 43

For the women, who race for the Seattle Times Trophy (first presented in 1982 and named for the hometown paper and supporter of women's athletics), the wins since 1976 are:

Freshmen: 1

Sophomores: 4

Juniors: 17

Seniors: 24

Fifth Years: 2 (2024, 2025)

Seniors and juniors tied in 1977

They Doth Protest Too Much

For more than sixty years, classes have created their own uniforms for the race. Expect colors, themes, slogans, coordinated outfits—or no coordination at all. Sometimes there's a correlation between outfit commitment and performance, and having a coxswain in a cape may or may not increase speed (statistics inconclusive).

Protests are common, especially in the first 500 meters when inside lanes get tight. But protests are rarely entertained; historically, they result in a 2k re-row the following Monday (Ulbrickson and Erickson were famous for these). In 2023, the fifth-year/junior women's boat lodged a protest after oar-clashing with the sophomores 200 meters in. "They requested a re-row; it was not granted," said coach Yaz. "It's Class Day, and any issues will have to be settled on land."

Full Power Speed Round

Some fast facts from 125 years of Class Day:

The class of '37—including Boys in the Boat members Joe Rantz, Shorty Hunt, Jim McMillin, Chuck Day, Roger Morris, and Dutch Schoch—was undefeated all four years.

The class of '50—featuring Norm Buvick, Rod Johnson, Warren Westlund, and Al Morgan—also swept all four years.

The class of '50 was the last men's frosh team to win until the class of '09 did it in 2006, ending a 56-year drought.

In 1966, for the first and only time, a group of "unclassifieds" (men not selected for their class boats) won the men's race.

In 2024 and 2025, the "Fifth Years" won the women's event—the only fifth-year wins in history.

The men's frosh won in 2006, 2008, and 2009—an unprecedented streak that accounts for nearly half of all freshman wins.

The women's freshmen have won only once: 1990.

The class of '93 is the only women's class to sweep all four years.

Since 2010, only juniors or seniors have won for the men, with seniors taking four of the last five since the 2020 COVID break.

The last time both senior men and senior women won on the same day was 2023; before that, 2004.

Brotherhood and Sisterhood

Ultimately, Class Day—now entering its 125th year—is about building class strength, preparing for the season, and embracing healthy competition. Born from generations of students eager to race, Class Day embodies the spirit and foundational values of Washington Rowing.

"You're recruited as a class and we want you to be strong in the class you've come in with," said Michael Callahan. "We're trying to form the idea of team, the idea of selflessness. It's brotherhood and sisterhood, and team before self."

And staying true to tradition, expect the unexpected. "People asked me yesterday who I thought would win," said coach Yaz after last year's races. "I had absolutely no idea. There was overlap all the way to the finish line—it was the tightest race we've had since I've been here."

Because for 125 years, on Class Day: **anything can happen.**



Argosy cruise filled with parents, alumni, family, and friends of Washington Rowing, following the action on Class Day.

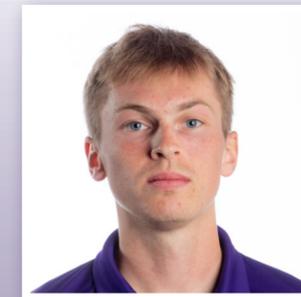
PHOTO: Red Box Pictures

Meet our Seniors

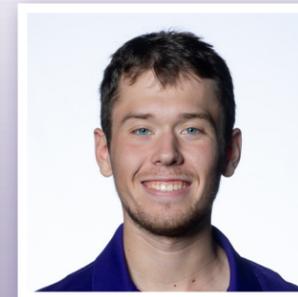
Class of 2026



Mira Calder
Victoria B.C., CAN
Chemistry



Ryan Martin
Newport Beach, CA
Architectural Studies



Ewan Morrow
Seattle, WA
Economics



Luke Collins
Poulsbo, WA
Political Science; History



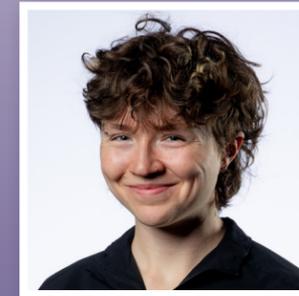
Lyle Donovan
Milton, GA
Geography; Data Science



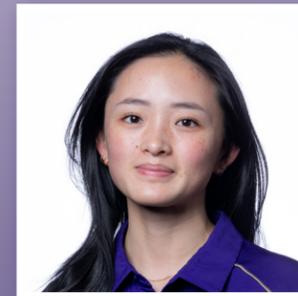
Jane Doyle
New York, NY
Masters of Public Health



Sam Ford
Bath, England
Real Estate



Cillian Mullen
Tacoma, WA
Environmental Studies



Mimi Randall
Seattle, WA
Public Health, Global Health



Aisha Rocek
Como, ITA
Communications



Sofia Sand
Rochester, WA
Biology



Jordan Freer
Lotus, CA
Environmental Engineering



Finn Griskauskas
Chesterfield, MO
International Security; Sociology



Cait Hane
Seattle, WA
Environmental Public Health



Povilas Juskevicius
Kaunas, LTU
Real Estate



Ben Shortt
Auckland, NZL
Economics



Ryan Smith
Hannover, GER
Political Economy; International Studies



Sofia Suhinin
Adelaide, AUS
Earth and Space Sciences; Geoscience



Cameron Tasker
Norwich, ENG
Political Economy



Ellen Koselka
Ann Arbor, MI
History



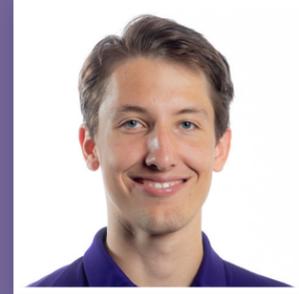
Carly Lauritzen
Nine Mile Falls, WA
Biology



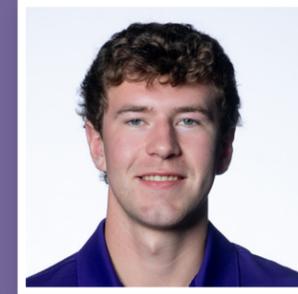
Cora Madison
Kirkland, WA
Chemistry



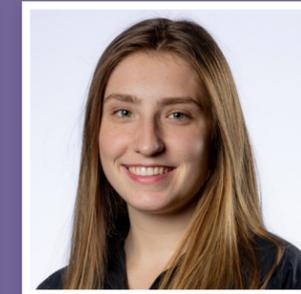
Cami Martin
Seattle, WA
Anthropology



Marc Tennesen
Seattle, WA
Chemistry; Atmospheric Sciences



Ethan Walsh
Philadelphia, PA
Real Estate



Cait Whittard
St. Catharine's, Ont., CAN
Food Systems, Nutrition, and Health



Margaret Young
San Anselmo, CA
Anthropology

Margaret Young's Long and Winding Row

HOW A SETBACK, A COMEBACK, AND A SENIOR-YEAR MINDSET SHAPED ONE OF WASHINGTON'S KEY LEADERS.

By Jeff Bechthold

When Margaret Young pulls an oar through the waters of Lake Washington, she carries more than power in each stroke. She carries perspective.

Now a senior and Commodore for the University of Washington women's rowing team, Young didn't arrive in Seattle dreaming of NCAA podiums. The Bay Area native came with a basketball background and only a vague sense that rowing "seemed pretty cool." A pre-freshman email about UW's early-start program nudged her toward Conibear Shellhouse, and almost before she knew it, she had earned a spot in the novice eight.

She loved it immediately — the endurance, the rhythm, and most of all, the team.

But rowing at Washington doesn't leave much room for comfort. Sophomore year delivered a harsh wake-up call: Young missed the team's 6K erg standard by a fraction and was cut. She went home devastated, questioning whether she belonged — or whether she should walk away entirely.

She had a choice: move on or fight back.

Young chose the harder path. She trained on her own at Pocock Rowing Center, waking early before classes and rebuilding her fitness stroke by stroke. The process was lonely, but she wasn't truly alone — coaches checked in, friends encouraged her, and former teammates showed up to watch her test. The support reminded her what she valued most: the people.

"I've found my best friends on this team," Young says. "Just the most hardworking, down-to-earth, supportive women." She missed the shared laughter, the grind, and the sense

of belonging that comes from being part of something bigger than herself.

When she earned her way back onto the roster, she returned not seeking redemption, but with a renewed sense of opportunity.

That experience now shapes how she leads.

As Commodore — a fall and winter leadership role centered on culture, communication, and daily standards — Young helps set the tone for everything from warmups to off-the-water bonding. Alongside co-Commodore Camille Randall, she's embraced a simple theme for the season: No bad days.

"There are only so many left," Young says of her senior year. "We want to make the most of every day together and be the best we can for each other." The idea isn't forced positivity — it's presence.

Rowing has taught Young how to sit with discomfort. Unlike basketball, where you react to opponents and game flow, rowing strips everything down to what's inside your own boat. No substitutions. No hiding. Progress is measured — sometimes painfully — in splits and meters. Learning to manage the mental side has been as important as building physical strength. Those are the lessons she hopes to pass on.

"I want a freshman who's a walk-on to believe they could become Commodore of Washington rowing," she says. "Because they absolutely can."

As a team, the Huskies aren't shy about their ambitions. Young talks openly about Big Ten titles and pushing toward the top of the NCAA podium. For her, wanting to win isn't arrogance — it's honesty.

After graduation, Young plans to return to the Bay Area, hoping to work with children — she has spent recent summers at Seattle Children's Playground, a preschool supporting kids with and without disabilities. Coaching rowing may also be in her future. Whatever comes next, she'll carry forward the lessons of the boathouse: resilience, connection, and the quiet power of showing up again after being told no.

Margaret Young didn't just row her way back onto the team. She reshaped her story — and became the kind of leader who reminds those around her that progress isn't always linear, growth often comes through challenge, and sometimes the bravest stroke is the one that brings you back to the start.



PHOTO: Ailka Jenner



PHOTO: Ailka Jenner

"I've found my best friends on this team — the most hardworking, down-to-earth, supportive women."

— Margaret Young '26

Built in a Barn, Refined on the Cut

HOW LUKE COLLINS TURNED SOLITARY MILES AND SELF-TAUGHT TRAINING INTO A FOUNDATION FOR GROWTH, BALANCE, AND SPEED AT WASHINGTON.

By Jeff Bechthold

By the time Luke Collins arrived at Conibear Shellhouse, he already understood something essential about rowing: progress doesn't come all at once. It comes in increments — one practice, one stroke, one decision at a time.

Collins' rowing story began on Bainbridge Island, just across Elliott Bay from Seattle. After realizing lacrosse wasn't for him, he tried rowing and felt something click. He joined his local club before his freshman year of high school, and under novice coach Harrison King — a former UW rower — Collins discovered the competitive edge that would shape his career. King delivered a message that stuck: showing up is a choice, and so is how hard you push once you're there.

Physically, Collins had advantages. He was nearly six feet tall by the end of freshman year and kept growing. But Bainbridge's small program came with limitations. Without a built-in network or clear benchmarks, there were no obvious standards for 2K times or boat speed — just water, an erg, and his own motivation.

So he built his own roadmap.

During the pandemic, Collins reached beyond his island. He attended virtual camps, sent rowing videos to coaches across the country, and hunted for technical feedback wherever he could find it. He trained alone in a cold barn, grinding through long erg sessions before homework, chasing improvements with quiet persistence. Between his sophomore and senior summers, he dropped his 2K from just under seven minutes to 6:29 — progress built almost entirely through individual effort.

That relentlessness paid off. Washington took notice, and Collins accepted an offer from a program he'd grown up admiring. His grandfather, Robert Hacker, had rowed at UW decades earlier, filling family conversations with stories from the old days when rowers lived in Conibear.

Becoming a Husky felt like a continuation, not a leap.

Still, nothing prepares you for elite-level college rowing.

"The volume was a shock," Collins admits. He arrived thinking his solo training had him ready. It didn't. The workload was heavier, the expectations higher, and the technical standards far sharper. He spent much of his freshman year relearning how to row, stripping away habits from high school and rebuilding his stroke. He also struggled with the basics — eating enough, staying healthy — and lost significant weight that first season.

But Collins stayed patient. By winter, things began to click. He learned how to apply power more efficiently, how to recover properly, how to balance intensity with rest. More importantly, he began to understand the deeper lessons Washington Rowing is known for.

"Relentlessness and balance," he says. Those are the pillars now.

Early on, Collins approached the sport with anger — a constant edge that helped him train but wasn't sustainable. Over time, he learned when to attack practice and when to step back, to spend time with teammates, to let rowing coexist with life rather than consume it. It's a philosophy that echoes George Pocock's ideals of harmony and rhythm — and one that has shaped him far beyond the boat.

His college career hasn't followed a straight line. He narrowly missed racing at IRAs as a sophomore, then stepped away during the spring of 2025 to handle a family matter. When he returned, it was with renewed clarity.

Now, Collins is focused on one goal: helping Washington go fast — however that looks. Whether that's in an eight, a four, or any lineup that makes the team better, he's ready to contribute. For him, success isn't about spotlight. It's about earning speed.

There's also a longer view. After graduation, Collins hopes to keep rowing, potentially chasing U23 selection or national team trials. And beyond that? Coaching. He imagines returning to Bainbridge someday, giving young rowers the guidance he once had to seek out on his own.

For now, Collins is exactly where he worked so hard to be — grinding through practices on the Montlake Cut, chasing marginal gains, and leaning into the daily choice to show up.



PHOTO: Scott Ecklund

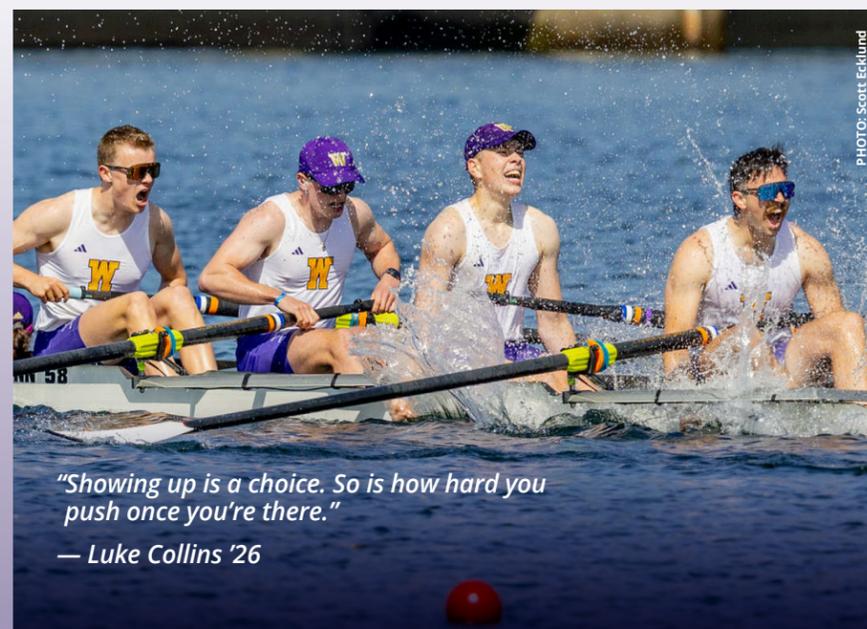


PHOTO: Scott Ecklund

"Showing up is a choice. So is how hard you push once you're there."

— Luke Collins '26

2026 Season Preview

By Michael Callahan

Head Coach, Washington Men's Rowing



Great crews are built by stepping directly into challenge. This season, our team is committed to elevating the standards at Conibear—attacking each day with purpose, embracing opportunities for growth, and returning the next morning

ready to build again. That commitment requires holding ourselves to a high standard every day. The standard shows up in how we train, how we support each other, and how we carry the responsibility of representing Washington Rowing. We focus on growth, knowing that resilience, trust, and daily discipline ultimately create speed when it matters most.

Our spring begins at home with the 125th Class Day Regatta (March 21) on the Montlake Cut — a milestone that connects today's athletes with generations of Huskies who built this tradition. Class Day is more than a race; it is a reminder that the strength of Washington Rowing has always been its people and the shared expectations that bind them together.



We travel next to Sarasota for the Benderson Cup, Bolles Cup, and Paup Cup (March 27–28) against Harvard and Stanford. Early-season racing against elite competition sharpens our identity and challenges us to live up to the standards we set for ourselves long before race day arrives.

The rivalry continues at the Dual with California (April 25) at Redwood Shores — one of the most historic traditions in collegiate rowing. Huskies traveling to the Bay Area will have an opportunity to connect with fellow alumni during the weekend, as we continue to celebrate the strength of the Washington Rowing family wherever we compete.

Seattle's Opening Day Regatta and Windermere Cup (May 2) will once again showcase Montlake as Row Town USA. The Huskies will welcome both the British National Team and Northeastern University, creating a world-class field on one of rowing's most unique stages. Few racing environments match the energy of a packed Montlake Cut, and this event remains one of the premier celebrations of collegiate and international rowing anywhere in the world.



Our season culminates at the IRA National Championship (May 29–31) at Lake Natoma in Sacramento, where the habits, standards, and trust built throughout the year are put to the ultimate test.

Washington Rowing has never been just about the crews in the boat. It is about the Pack — past and present — unified by shared values and a commitment to excellence. Your presence matters. Your support fuels this team and reinforces the standard that has defined this program for generations.

We are proud of the work being done. We are energized by the growth taking place. And we look forward to representing the W this spring.

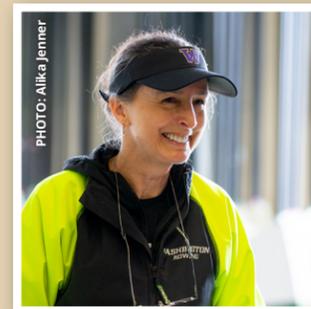
We hope to see you on the shoreline.

Go Huskies!!! Woof, Michael

Honoring the Past. Powering the Future.

By Yasmin Farooq

Head Coach, Washington Women's Rowing



As we launch into the 2026 racing season, we carry with us the extraordinary lineage that has shaped Washington Women's Rowing. Our program stands on the shoulders of women who pulled for one another, pushed boundaries, and set standards of excellence that still elevate us today. This

spring, that legacy becomes quite literally part of our daily experience on the water.

We are honored to race in a new shell inspired by, funded by, and dedicated to the remarkable women of the 1980s. Their impact—athletically, culturally, and personally—continues to echo through every generation of Huskies. Inside this yet to be named hull, the names of our 1987 and 1988 Hall of Fame inductees will be inscribed adjacent to the seats they once raced in, reminding every athlete what it means to row as one, giving yourself over to your teammates in the boat. These inscriptions serve as a bridge between eras, connecting today's strokes with the championship spirit that shaped this program.

For more than five decades, the women of Washington Rowing have given us victories to remember—and so much more. From the pioneers who first climbed into boats in the early 1900s to the champions who followed, generations of Husky women have carried forward a powerful legacy. And they've never done it alone. The collective support of our entire Washington Rowing family—women and men, athletes and coaches, alumni and a community that loves rowing—has sustained this program for more than a century.

This year we celebrate the 125th Class Day and the 110th anniversary of the Washington Rowing Stewards. Founded in 1916 by Hiram Conibear—who also coached Washington's first women's rowers in 1906—the Stewards were created to fund and stabilize the program during challenging times. Today, any friend or alum who gives annually is considered a Steward, and your support remains vital as we navigate a changing NCAA landscape.

Our athletes feel the impact of this stewardship every day. Whether through mentorship, shared stories, or investments that allow us to train and compete at the highest level, this community continues to lift us higher.

This year's team embodies the Washington DNA—tough, connected, hardworking, and a deep commitment to elevate one another and uphold Washington standards. Winter training has been intense and purposeful, and our student athletes have embraced it with energy and maturity. From the weight room to the erg room to the water, they've been building the foundation required to be at their best when it matters most.

We have an exciting season ahead and hope you'll join us whenever you can as we square off against top ranked teams. We would love to see our West Coast based supporters at the San Diego Crew Classic (March 28–29) and The Dual with Cal (March 14 at Redwood Shores). The Big Ten Invitational even comes west to Lake Natoma (April 21–22), with 20 teams from nearly every NCAA conference. On home waters, the 40th Windermere Cup promises to be one for the ages, with our squad taking on TWO acclaimed national teams—Great Britain and Canada. We then turn our attention to the championship stretch: the Big Ten Championships in Indianapolis (May 16–17), where our team will look to build on last year's historic sweep, and the NCAA Championships (May 29–31). Your presence reminds our



athletes that they are part of something much bigger than themselves. And for those who can't attend, please know that every message, every note of encouragement, and every act of support is felt.

As we prepare to line up this spring, we do so with deep appreciation for everyone who continues to invest in our program. You make possible our athletes' pursuit of excellence—on the water, in the classroom, and in life. Most importantly, you help us cultivate an environment rooted in unity, humility, and doing things the Washington Way.

Thank you for being part of the Washington Rowing family. Thank you for believing in our athletes. And thank you for setting a standard—decades strong—that inspires us every time we push off the dock.

We draw strength from that legacy every day—knowing that we are powered by generations of Huskies.

We can't wait to see you this season. Go Dawgs!

CELEBRATING FORTY YEARS ON THE WATER: The Windermere Cup Rowing Regatta in Seattle

By Eric Cohen

Every spring, as Seattle sheds the gray skies and the Cascades sparkle over Lake Washington, the city's rowing community and boating enthusiasts turn their attention to the Montlake Cut. On the first Saturday in May, more than just a race unfolds — it's the Windermere Cup Rowing Regatta, an event that has grown from an idea into one of the world's great celebrations of the sport. In 2026, the Windermere Cup will mark its 40th season, a blend of athletic excellence, community spirit, and the legacy of Seattle's deep connection to the water.

FROM COLD WAR CHALLENGER TO SEATTLE TRADITION

The Windermere Cup began in 1987, but its roots stretch back further. Rowing became part of Seattle's Opening Day of Boating Season in 1970, when the Seattle Yacht Club (SYC) and UW men's coach Dick Erickson added collegiate races to the festivities.

Fast-forward to 1987, when Erickson and women's head coach Bob Ernst partnered with Windermere Real Estate founder John Jacobi to elevate the event: bring the world's best crews to Seattle to race Washington on the Montlake Cut.

That first year, the challenge came from the men's and women's National Teams of the Soviet Union. Their arrival marked one of the few athletic competitions for Soviet athletes on U.S. soil in 25 years, and tens of thousands lined the log boom and the Cut to witness the international showdown. The Soviets won convincingly, but

the spirit of the event — athletes exchanging jerseys and rowing back together — set the tone for decades to come.

That origin story, born from Cold War tension transformed into sportsmanship, reflects what the Windermere Cup has become: not simply a race, but a global gathering celebrating competition, community, and one of the most iconic venues in rowing.

"It really is what we've always tried to do," said Jill Jacobi Wood, co-President of Windermere. "Bring real teams here to compete at the highest level. The fun is getting to know these athletes and coaches... I love the camaraderie, and how often friendships are formed. It is super satisfying and gratifying, brings us way closer to the foreign athletes, and it is so amazing for the UW."

A STAGE FOR WORLD-CLASS ROWING

Over the years, the Windermere Cup has welcomed a wide array of international competitors. Teams from Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Italy, China, and many others have come to challenge the Huskies, often bringing Olympic-level talent to Montlake's 2,000-meter course.

Racing at home in front of tens of thousands, Washington has often risen to the occasion. As of 2025, the UW men have won 29 of 38 Cups, and the women 28 of 38 — a testament to the Huskies' ability to take on elite National Teams.

Some regattas have become part of Husky lore. New Zealand's repeated appearances — including wins in 1989, 1999, and 2015 — highlight the event's global reach. In 2025, Washington defeated the Kiwi men and women, a special moment for UW rower and New Zealand native Zola Kemp. "It was awesome," she said. "It was so cool lining up against these amazing women that I've looked up to so much."

One of the closest men's races came in 2018 against Oxford-Brookes, the powerhouse British university. In a back-and-forth battle down the course, the Huskies edged ahead by two seats in front of a packed Cut. "The crowd was just epic," said head coach Michael Callahan. "Entering the Cut, it sounded like a goal-line stand inside Husky Stadium." Oxford-Brookes cox Harry Brightmore added, "When we were about 300 meters from the line, we couldn't hear anything. It was an incredible experience."

On the women's side, tight finishes have defined many Cups. Victories over Brown, Princeton, and Yale in the 1990s showcased the strength of collegiate rowing. More recently, wins over National Teams from Germany (2019), Australia (2023), Italy (2024), and New Zealand (2025) have underscored the program's depth. "The atmosphere was great," said Coach Yaz Farooq. "You see fans for all the different colleges and clubs, and it really makes you feel the strength of this community and the support of Windermere."

In 2026, the racing will once again be elite. The women will face National Teams from Canada and Great Britain, while the men will take on Great Britain and Northeastern University. Several of these crews medaled at the 2024 Olympics — a lineup true to the regatta's mission: bring the best in the world to Seattle.



UW Men Racing at the 1987 Opening Day, Windermere Cup Regatta

THE SEATTLE YACHT CLUB'S ENDURING ROLE



Washington Ship Canal opened in 1917, the festivities moved to the Montlake Cut.

SYC volunteers and members play key roles each year, managing logistics, hosting participants, and ensuring the Opening Day celebration runs smoothly. Their partnership with the University of Washington — and, since 1987, Windermere Real Estate — has transformed a local boating tradition into a world-class regatta.

"The Seattle Yacht Club has been a pillar of this regatta since inception," said Callahan. "With the 40th this year... I am looking forward to seeing the log boom once again packed side by side the entire length of the first 1,500 meters. I've been to many of the top regattas in the world and I can tell you — nothing like this exists anywhere else."

LOOKING FORWARD: THE 40TH WINDERMERE CUP

As organizers and the Seattle community prepare for the 40th regatta, there is a strong sense of pride in how far the event has come. Now a cornerstone of Seattle's spring calendar, the Windermere Cup spans an entire weekend, including the Party on the Cut and the 500m Night Sprints on Friday.

"The night sprints have proven pretty much anything can happen," said Farooq. "Rowing at rates that high... we've had some epic crabs and millisecond finishes. It's pure entertainment."

"All of it together... it's 100% about the community," said Jacobi Wood. "It's family-friendly, free, wholesome fun, and there's a pride in our hometown Huskies. But I also love being able to show off our city. The Montlake Cut is so unique — especially packed with fans — and it's a beautiful part of a beautiful city. I want our community to be proud of what we have here."



DECADE OF DOMINANCE

The 1987 and 1988 Varsity Eights Enter the Husky Hall of Fame

By Eric Cohen

For ten unforgettable years, Washington Women's Rowing didn't just win — they redefined what dominance in collegiate rowing looked like.

By the time the 1987 crew pushed off for their first race, Washington had already claimed an unprecedented five consecutive national titles from 1981 through 1985 — a run that established the program as the sport's gold standard and set the stage for the era's defining final chapters.

This past October, the Husky Hall of Fame enshrined two of those era-defining boats — the 1987 and 1988 Varsity Eights — with the Class of 2025. Their induction honors not just two extraordinary crews, but the legacy of a generation whose standards still shape Washington Rowing today.

1987 A Mission with No Misses

The 1987 Huskies entered their season with purpose sharpened by a rare sting: Wisconsin had snapped Washington's five-year championship streak the previous year. The returning athletes carried that memory into every practice and every stroke.

"We were on a mission," said stroke seat Kris Sanford — and they rowed like it.

Under head coach Bob Ernst — also inducted that evening — the Varsity Eight delivered a perfect collegiate season capped with a National Championship. But their title was only part of what made the season historic. Washington swept the entire national regatta: the V8, 2V8, and V4 — the first full-team sweep in the history of women's collegiate rowing. Nearly four decades later, Washington remains the only program ever to accomplish the feat, matched only by the Huskies' own sweeps in 2017 and 2019.

Inducted from the 1987 crew were coxswain Trish Lydon, Sanford, Alice Henderson, Lisa Beluche, Heidi Hook, Sarah (Watson) Peshkin, Fritzi Grevstad, Katarina Wikström, and bow Linda Lusk.

Speaking on behalf of the team at the ceremony, Henderson reflected on what united them:

"It was the unifying rally that we were all going to get there," she said. "The best part of me was formed as a Washington rower, and it's the sisterhood — not the medals — but the bonding experience of being together and being a part of the continuum that is the most meaningful."



1988 A New Era Begins — But the Winning Doesn't Stop

The transition into 1988 brought new leadership but no disruption. Jan Harville — already a Hall of Fame coach — took over in the fall, and her athletes felt immediate confidence.

"I knew Jan was a great coach and had the experience... I wasn't worried at all," said bow seat Trudy (Ockenden) Taylor. "You knew where you stood. There was no drama."

The 1988 Huskies carried the weight of expectation — every opponent wanted to be the ones to beat them — but the crew leaned into an identity shaped by strength, experience, and trust. Jan captured that dynamic clearly:

"They had a target on their back and they knew it," she said. "But the personality of this team was one of strength and confidence. The experience and trust they had within that team helped them maintain their focus."

The crew stayed undefeated, highlighted by a commanding victory over the Australian National Team at the Windermere Cup.

Their National Championship came in a weather-delayed surreal dawn race on Hammond Lake in Pennsylvania — a quiet, charged race remembered for its poise under pressure. In a bit of Husky destiny, Washington's current head coach, Yaz Farooq, was the Wisconsin coxswain facing that crew.

"The last 500 Washington just started walking," Farooq recalled. "Nothing appeared to distract them. As a coach now, I can tell you that team was a product of high-performance coaching. They had been trained all season for that moment and nothing was going to stop them."

A Legacy That Still Sets the Standard

For Coach Farooq, celebrating the 1987 and 1988 crews is celebrating the heart of Washington Rowing itself:

"They were tough, committed, highly trained, and motivated. But for the great crews, it never stops there. It's the unified bond—pushing the level and elevating one another with true selflessness. These teams embody that."

With their induction into the Husky Hall of Fame, the 1987 and 1988 Varsity Eights now have their permanent place among Washington's greatest crews. Yet their influence extends far beyond any plaque or ceremony. Their legacy is woven into every team meeting, every practice standard, and every boat that leaves the dock on Montlake.

They didn't just win.

They didn't just dominate.

They defined what it means to row for Washington.



PHOTO: Red Box Pictures

Title IX Legacy Endowment

Help Us Secure the \$60,000 Match from the Women of the '80s

Your support fuels our student athletes and strengthens Washington Women's Rowing for generations to come.

Make your contribution here:

<https://washingtonrowing.com/donate-to-womens-rowing/>

Alice Henderson '87: A Lifetime in the Boat

By Eric Cohen

Rower. Coach. Official. After more than forty years in the sport, Alice Henderson '87 knows her way around a regatta. Add U.S. National Team member, club founder, para-rowing coach, and now a Washington Hall of Fame inductee with her 1987 Varsity Eight, and you begin to understand why she's considered a Husky legend.



"The best parts of who I am, and my character, were forged at Washington," Alice said recently. "It had such a foundational impact on my life... and then on all of the people I coached. I knew when I was at Washington that someday I would find a way to give back."

Rowing came to her the long way around. After trying several sports in high school "unsuccessfully," a family friend suggested rowing. She enrolled at a small college with a rowing program—one that didn't mind her "mediocre transcript"—but soon realized where she truly wanted to be. "One hundred percent of the reason I transferred was rowing," she said. "I wanted to be a part of Washington. The biggest difference was Bob Ernst maximized our time. It was life-changing to have that level of intensity and focus."

She remembers her early days vividly. "I was in the bucket in the 2V in 1985 as a starboard, right behind Jane (Powers). I think he put me there just to learn how to row behind someone leaning the same way," she said with a smile. "1985 had such a powerful presence of legends like Eleanor (McElvaine), Sarah (Nevin), and Liese (Hendrie)... it was a really good year."

But 1986 brought disappointment. Washington finished third at Nationals—the first time since 1981 the team didn't win. "We felt like we let down the sisterhood," Alice said. "But from the first day of '87 practice, the entire team was galvanized. Bob didn't need to make us more on fire. We were already on fire. As a coach, he just kept giving us fuel."

That fuel carried the 1987 team to history: the first full sweep of the Women's National Championships. Washington remains the only program ever to sweep the regatta (1987, 2017, 2019). "It was camaraderie and

a commitment to each other," she said. "We said, 'We are going to push and pull each other to a place we haven't been before.'"

After graduation, Alice continued in the sport, coaching at Lakeside, Mt. Baker, and Seattle University, and helped found the Rio Salado Boat Club in Tempe, AZ. She became a U.S. Rowing official in 1992 and earned her FISA umpire license in 2013.

She returned to coaching in 2015 at Bair Island Aquatic Center, coaching para-athletes and teaching hundreds of veterans to row. That work took her to multiple championship regattas and ultimately the 2020 Paralympics in Tokyo, coaching the USA PR2Mx2x. "Those of us who have the privilege to row should help people in this growing sport," she said.

That same ethic drives her support of Washington Rowing today. "Women need to put donating on our radar," she said. "Give back in the way you can. Bob was so good at showing us we were part of this legacy."

She sees today's athletes with deep admiration. "The young women today are rowing their brains out and persevering. When I donate, it helps me feel connected to that effort, part of the same team. Just show up. Make it a habit. Support the team of today and the future. When it feels hard, lean in. You've done hard things before. This is who you've always been."

to that effort, part of the same team. You don't have to push yourself to exhaustion. Just show up. Make it a habit. Support the team of today and the future. And when it feels hard, that's your cue to lean in. You've done hard things before. This is simply a reminder of who you've always been."

Spoken like the champion rower, coach, and Washington legend she is—dedicated to growing the sport and to the Women of Washington.

"The best part of who I am, and my character, was forged at Washington."



Blackwall Duling

In Memoriam

Guy Harper ('54)

By Eric Cohen

Three-year letterman, IRA champion (1951), and Varsity stroke-oar for most of his Washington career, Guy Harper passed away in September at age 92. He will be remembered as one of the most gregarious, generous, and optimistic people many had ever met. Guy loved rowing, loved Washington, and especially cherished the lifelong bonds he formed with teammates — bonds that carried through a rowing career spanning decades.

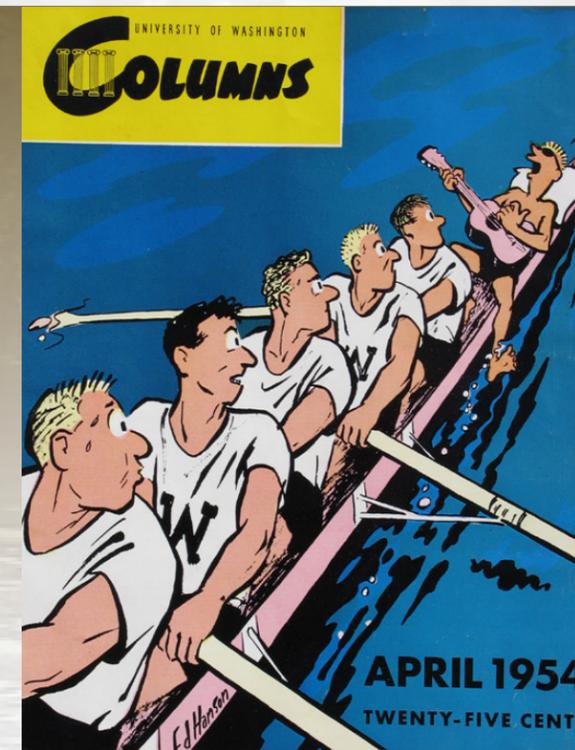


GUY HARPER, stroke

One of the original founders of the Ancient Mariners Masters program, he rowed well into his sixties, winning multiple championship titles. A talented woodworker and sculptor, Guy created beautiful bentwood cedar boxes, built fine

furniture from retired Pocock cedar shells, and collected Pocock artifacts. He was instrumental in saving and restoring many original spruce Pocock sweep oars, several of which remain in Conibear Shellhouse today.

As an athlete at Washington, Guy was a steady VBC leader and one of the first men to move into the new shellhouse. "We talked the UW into letting us move in and re-start the Varsity Boat Club," he recalled in 2017. "They gave us sleeping bunks we first put in the shell storage area... then installed a fiberglass cover on the upper deck, and we moved the beds up there. We hired a cook and had a wonderful two years of meals with Mrs. Mac."



Also an accomplished musician, Guy inspired a Columns Magazine cover his senior year. "I played the ukulele all four years and took it on almost all the long train trips," he said. "We would sing all the old songs across the country. I hope the cover wasn't a reflection on my attention to rowing duties."

Guy, along with Stan Pocock and others, also created the letterman's board on the original Conibear maple wall, still displayed in the team rooms. "The lettering was done with a pen with a little circular metal surface," he remembered. "Stan had all the names and years... and we had to correct one that still shows the change today."

Even into his nineties, Guy remained deeply connected to Husky Crew, pursuing ideas for restoring the "ASUW" lettering on the original boathouse on the Cut. His energy never waned, and his affection for the program ran deep. He often reminisced about visiting the Pocock shop as an athlete, where "George and Stan were making the shells... I spent many hours discussing rowing and just visiting."

Guy Harper's connection to Washington Rowing lasted his entire life. To his family, friends, and countless teammates, we offer our sincerest condolences on the loss of this dedicated Husky oarsman.

Forever Washington is a giving program for those who remember UW Athletics in their wills or other estate plans — your Husky spirit can live on as an enduring personal legacy. You may direct your gift to a specific purpose such as scholarships, endowments or an individual sport, or to meet the current greatest needs of student athletes and teams. Contact the UW Tyee Club today to start a conversation.

Forever
WASHINGTON

Email tyeecub@uw.edu or call 206.543.2234 for more information

Rowing Round-Up



Triathlon winners: Matteo Belgeri '27, Ben Shortt '26, Dimitri Chamitoff '27



Men's rowing takes the field on Husky Gameday, celebrating their National Championship with the home crowd.



Women's Rowing hitting Hyak Sno-Park for XC ski cross-training

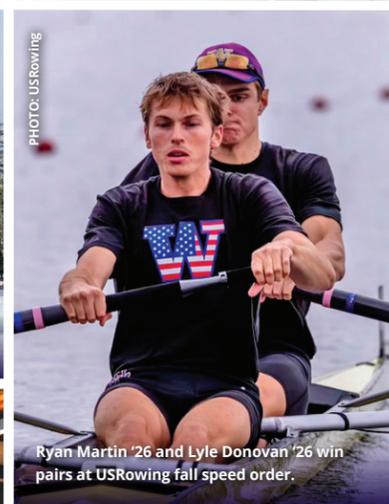


PHOTO: USRowing
Ryan Martin '26 and Lyle Donovan '26 win pairs at USRowing fall speed order.



2025 Turkey Trot Champions: Cillian Mullen '26 and Ben Shortt '26



2026 Women's Rowing Alumnae Brunch. Next brunch will be Saturday, February 6th, 2027.



2025 Pair Head Champions: Sam Ford '26 and Ben Shortt '26



Annelise Hahl and teammates winning GOLD at the 2025 Beach Sprints World Championships



Men's rowing trading oars for miles on the trail



Lisa Beluche, Stephanie Doyle, Trudy Ockenden Taylor, and Fritz Grevestad standing with President Robert Jones (center) at the 2025 UW Rowing Alumni Tailgate.



Washington women's rowing celebrated on the football field during Husky Gameday for their sweep of the Big Ten Championship.

A pictorial review of recent team, alumni and donor news

Honoring the Past, Powering the Future

A LEGACY BUILT ON BOLD IDEAS AND TIMELESS VALUES CONTINUES TO PROPEL WASHINGTON ROWING FORWARD.

1936: The Boys in the Boat Era A crew of underdogs from Washington stunned the world by winning Olympic gold in Berlin. Their story — now known globally through *The Boys in the Boat* — became a lasting symbol of resilience, unity, and quiet determination. The Boys in the Boat Program Endowment carries that legacy forward, ensuring those values continue to shape the future of men's rowing.

1903–Title IX: The Rise of Washington Women Washington women first rowed in 1903, only to be told the sport was “too violent and unflattering for women.” Over fifty years ago, a determined group pushed back, launching a program that would become one of the nation's best. They didn't just claim their place — they built a foundation for generations. The Title IX Legacy Program Endowment honors their courage and strengthens the sisterhood that continues to define Washington Rowing.

One Program, Two Powerhouse
Today, two powerhouse programs operate under one roof:
21 National Championships (Men)
16 National Championships (Women)

And a long list of conference titles — including the men's 2025 IRA National Championship and the women's sweep of the 2025 Big Ten Championship in their inaugural season. Together, Washington has produced more Olympians than any other collegiate rowing program.

“Hard work. Team over self. Camaraderie. Rowing to win.” — Coach Hiram Conibear
THE FOUNDING PRINCIPLES THAT STILL DEFINE WASHINGTON ROWING



The Boys in the Boat Endowment Program (Men's Rowing)

Your support strengthens every part of the men's program:



- State-of-the-art racing shells and equipment
- Recruiting, outreach and marketing

- Performance technology
- Sports psychology and team development
- Transformative competitive opportunities, including Henley Royal Regatta



Student-Athlete Scholarships

Washington Rowing supports more than 100 student-athletes, more than any team at UW except Football — yet only a small number of rowing scholarships are endowed. A gift toward scholarships, or the creation of a new one, directly supports deserving athletes and helps address critical program needs.

Contact Lee Grever with the Tye Club to learn more.



Title IX Legacy Program Endowment (Women's Rowing)

This endowment honors the trailblazers who built the modern women's program. Your gift supports:



- Long-term program sustainability
- State-of-the-art racing shells and equipment

- Technology and performance tools
- Sports psychology and team development
- Transformative competitive opportunities, including Henley Royal Regatta

Why Your Gift Matters

The Boys in the Boat, Title IX Legacy, and Student-Athlete Scholarship endowments — along with the Annual Drive — ensure that Washington Rowing continues to develop values-driven young men and women who carry the lessons of the boathouse into every part of their lives. Your support strengthens the program on the water, in the classroom, and far beyond.



Contact:
Lee Grever
206.685.9619
lgrever@uw.edu

WASHINGTON ROWING STEWARDS

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

ROWINGU

SAVE THESE 2026 DATES:

Husky Giving Day - April 23rd 2026

VBC Reunion - Friday, May 1st 2026

Alumni Tailgate 2026 - Homecoming Game

WashingtonRowing.com

For more information on receiving SWEEP, to submit story ideas or to update your contact information, please contact Madi Frampton at frampm@uw.edu.

Volunteer for
Washington
Rowing Events
and Regattas



At the 2025 HOCR, Washington men's rowing won the collegiate division in the Championship Eights and defended their crown in the Championship Fours.

PHOTO: Benedict Turneil

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	Sat, April 4th 2026	Seattle, WA
Women's Rowing	The Dual	Sat, April 11th 2026	Redwood Shores, CA
Men's Rowing	Oregon State	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, May 16th 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