

UCD Rowers in unique head-to-head at Henley

UCD A (Senior) and UCD B (Intermediate) Rowing Vlls met in July in the last 16 of the Temple Cup at Henley Royal Regatta in what was a unique head-to-head for the saffron and blues. The Seniors had a comfortable win and went on to face the overall winners of the event, Princeton.

The Senior VIII suffered a setback earlier in the week when Sean O'Neill was knocked from his bike by a car after rowing and sustained a badly broken collar bone. Luckily, Colm Pierce who was in the 2008 Gannon-winning crew was able to fly from Spain to Henley to replace O'Neill. Their first round win over Eton by 2¼ lengths confirmed the quality of the crew and justified their seeding among the top 8 in the 32-crew competition.

In an outstanding first round performance, the Intermediate VIII beat Shrewsbury by 1 length. Their original aim was to qualify for one of the 14

available places in the main draw and did so by being one of the top 6 fastest qualifiers among 39 crews.

The Senior VIII UCD A crew: Stroke, Anthony English, 7 Richard Skelly whose father Jim was in the 1974 UCDBC Ladies Plate winning VIII (UCD's only ever win at Henley), 6 Finbarr Manning, 5 Tom Doyle, 4 Dave Neale, 3 Dylan Finnerty, 2 Colm Pierce, Bow Daragh O'Reilly, Cox Naoise Grisewood.

The Intermediate VIII UCD B crew: Stroke, Richard Murray, 7 Alan Murray 6 Emmet Feeley, son of Martin who was also in the 1974 UCD BC Ladies Plate winning VIII, 5 Simon Craven, 4 Travis Greene, 3 Peter Murphy, 2 Pat Courtis, Bow Philip Craven brother of Simon and Cox, Jenny Lynch.

Coaches: John Holland, Colm Daly & Conor Walshe. Only 4 of the 16 students rowed pre-university.

In the Prince of Wales Challenge Cup event two UCD alumni, Sean Jacob and Con Collis, representing Old Collegians BC along with two

rowers from London Rowing Club competed against Sir William Borlase's & King's School, Ely in quadruple sculls. Seeded among the top four in the event, the OC/London crew went on to the semi-final of the competition, which was ultimately won by Durham University & Oxford Brookes.

Considered the most prestigious rowing club regatta in the world, Henley attracts top crews from Europe, the US, New Zealand and Australia. The standard is always particularly high the year after an Olympics and this year is no exception. Unlike multi-lane international regattas, Henley still operates a knock-out draw with only two boats racing in each heat. This entails the organisation of up to 100 races on some of the five days of the regatta. The length of the course is 1 mile 550 yards, which is 112 metres longer than the standard international distance of 2,000 metres and takes approximately seven minutes to cover.

Moving up in League of Ireland

UCD currently sits proudly atop the First Division League of Ireland after a record-equalling 5-0 win against Finn Harps in mid-September propelled them to the top of the competition. A subsequent win over Kildare County and a draw with Shelbourne secured the position.

In the decisive match on 14th September against Donegal, a Ronan Finn penalty was added to by Evan McMillan on the stroke of half time. Ciaran Kilduff added a goal on 46, with Dave McMillan and Kilduff adding further goals to seal UCD's joint biggest away win in senior football, equalling 2000's famous 5-0 win in Drogheda which secured InterToto qualification.

Harps started well and Michael Funston was twice denied by UCD goalkeeper Gerard Barron early on, while Christy Conaghan darted into the box only to see a decent shot blocked on the line by Andy Boyle.

But it was UCD who took the lead on 34 minutes following a controversial penalty award. Referee Phil Caschera adjudged that David McMillan was fouled as he became sandwiched between defenders Ian Rossiter and Packie Mailey. Harps protested furiously but the decision stood and UCD captain Ronan Finn made no mistake from the spot.

Suddenly UCD found a spring in their step and started knocking the ball about with more authority. And, on the stroke of half-time, they increased their lead as John Reilly crossed from the left and Evan McMillan rose to firmly head into the net.

Harps' problems were compounded less than 90 seconds into the second half when UCD made it three with Ciaran Kilduff letting fly with a cracking, swerving 25-yard effort that Ciaran Gallagher got a touch to, but could not prevent from going past him.

UCD then took full control and David McMillan made it four with a spectacular effort on 67 minutes while Kilduff skipped past the advancing Gallagher to tap into an empty net for the fifth on 74 minutes.

UCD: Barron, Shortall, Nangle, Boyle, E. McMillan, Corry, Reilly, Finn, Kilduff, McMahon, D. McMillan. Matthews for Shortall (56 mins), Mulhall for McMahon (58 mins), Purcell for Reilly (72 mins).



UCD mid-fielder Ronan Finn in action

UCD student excels under guidance of the High Performance Centre

Second Year Science student, Steven Colvert achieved remarkable double success over the summer at the Athletic Ireland National Senior Championships, winning bronze in both the 100m and 200m with times of 11.08 and 21.99 respectively.

Steven took up Athletics when he came to UCD in September 2008.

He says, "Before coming to UCD the only Athletics I ever took part in was the School Sports Day 100m. During freshers week last year I signed up for UCD Athletics club along with two or three other sports clubs. At first I found athletics very difficult but very rewarding. My coach (Hugo Leeney) was fantastic. He spotted my talent and pushed me to Silver in the interschools in April. After getting the Silver I was invited to train with Lisa Regan and her staff in the UCD High Performance Centre. After a very brief time under their guidance I ran a new PB of 10.77, after this time I was chosen to run for the Irish Senior Team in the 4x100m relay and the guest 100m out in Slovakia at the European Team Championships. Soon again after this with the help of UCD High Performance Centre's programme I ran my current PB of 10.65. In terms of Athletics at the moment I am currently ranked 3rd in Ireland for both the 100m and 200m after taking double Bronze at the National Seniors in Santry this year along with All Ireland Junior 100m Champion. It really has been a fantastic first year in Athletics and I hope with the help of UCD Athletics I can lower my times and achieve my full potential."



UCD Sailing Club member Annalise Murphy, 2nd Year UCD Science student, is a member Irish Sailing Association's development squad of sailors. In July 2009, Annalise, who is currently on a break from UCD, competed in the World Laser Radial Women's Championship in Japan and was successful in winning the world under-21 laser title. This Olympic Class female single handed discipline class attracted 30 Nations and 87 world class sailors who had all pre-qualified in their regions