



Enquirer Photo BY DEAN RUTZ

IT WAS smiles all around the Harvard boat after the Crimson crew won the Cincinnati Regatta Saturday at William H. Harsha Lake at East Fork State Park.

Harvard Pulls Hard To Win Regatta

BY MARK BALTHAZAR
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BANTAM, Ohio—When the eight-man crew from Harvard University took to the winner's platform after its 2,000-meter race for the national collegiate rowing championships, each man was handed a plane ticket.

Well, they weren't real plane tickets—they'd get them later. But it didn't matter. After weathering 21 other races, a wait of one hour past their appointed rowing time, and their own laid-back tactics, coach Harry Parker and his band of irrepressible Ivy Leaguers could have flown back to Massachusetts without a jet.

The final standings in the Cincinnati Regatta's featured race belied their joy: Harvard besting previously undefeated Washington by two feet—just a fraction of an oar's length, with Brown and Yale finishing third and fourth.

And the post-race celebration

brightened up an overcast day for Bill Engeman, president of East Fork Water Sports, former Brown oarsman and chief organizer of the Regatta. As the crowd set for home from East Fork State Park, he summed up the day as a satisfying one. "This is what we wanted," he said.

THE RACE revealed the candor of Washington coach Dick Ericksen. On Friday, he said the race would start one way: quickly.

He was right, and for a good reason. It was his Huskies who set the pace. After 500 meters—one-fourth of the way through the course—the eight from Seattle led Yale by a length, due to some high-speed stroking that threatened to leave all three of their opponents lagging hopelessly behind.

But the Crimson had plans of their own. "We decided to let them go," said senior captain Campbell Rogers. "They were going to pay a price to get the lead.

After 500 meters, (Washington was) sitting."

The Crimson coach, Harry Parker, wasn't as confident of his team's finish after Washington's fast start. "I thought they'd be hard to catch," said the 20-year Harvard skipper. "It wasn't until the third 500 (meters) that I felt we had a chance."

It was there, after Harvard pulled even with Brown, that the Crimson began moving. They didn't stop until after they crossed the finish line.

THERE, ROGERS raised a fist in the air, sure of his squad's triumph. They got the official word moments later, and their vanquished foes paddled off to the boathouses.

For the Crimson, the victory erased the memory of a defeat to Yale in their annual race June 6. And it satisfied a hard-working Harvard crew, who'd prepared all season to wrest the Regatta from its Eastern rivals. "If we didn't win

this race," said Harvard fifth man Michael Ryan, "I don't know if I ever would have wanted to race again."

Parker said Friday that the Crimson wouldn't be able to enjoy their grand prize of the race—an all-expenses paid trip to the Henley Regatta in London—if they won at East Fork.

That all changed Saturday, however. "I'm not sure what we'll do now," said Parker, who later made plans for a team meeting at the team's hotel to talk things over. "We'll have to see."

IF THE afternoon ended with a grand flourish, it certainly didn't begin that way. It only took one event before a wayward water skier stirred up the Harsha Lake waters with waves that flooded one boat, canceled a semi-final heat and moved the day's race schedule back 30 minutes.

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