



## Banner Year for the Boys



The undefeated 2006 SPU men's novice four. L-R Matt Shi (cox), Jon Dyk (St.), Casey Esmond (3), Justin Rowley (2), Zeke Schellberg (bow).

### Novice Men Undefeated in '06

The 2006 Falcon men's crew, with a total roster count of eight, displayed a remarkable season of competitive success in defiance of its small size.

The novice four combined an eclectic group of men ranging from a 5'5 coxswain all the way up to 6'6 inch stroke seat. Together however, they were a formidable group who managed perhaps the only undefeated season for a SPU men's crew in its 33-year history. Victorious in their category all the way up through the conference championship, these novices were dominant against teams from northern California on up to Bellingham.

Obstacles were minor and few had any significant impact on their finishes. The conference championship provided the best example as heavy crosswinds blew the course lanes out of line forcing lane confusion, drifting and interference. The budding Falcon champions were not to be denied even in the outside lane, and despite colliding with three buoys they managed an amazing come-from-behind conference championship win earning the NCRC Joshua Adam Cup for the first time.

### Women's 2006 Season Recap

The season began and ended with favorable marks for the female Falcon rowers as they pursued their difficult trek for Division II recognition in what is assuredly the toughest region in the country. With two-time NCAA champions Western Washington University (WWU), NCAA varsity four champion Humboldt State University, and two-time qualifier UC San Diego comprising the other regional competitors, there is little question that SPU had their work cut out for them.

The season began well enough with a good showing against Pacific Lutheran in the annual duel at American Lake that had the SPU women taking all categories except the varsity 8, but losing that by a slim one-seat margin. The SPU varsity eight, outfitted with only one experienced rower and seven novices most of the season due to injuries, had to work for each inch of every race beginning with the duel.

A consolation was found the following week however, as the SPU ladies' 8 managed a solid defeat of Humboldt State on their home course at the Blue Heron Sprints.

The remainder of the regular season rendered a sequence of trials and tribulations with the injury situation compounding many of the usual environmental hardships. These included nearly swamping in Vancouver Lake's wind and waves, and being rammed by WWU at the conference championship. There were a few highlights however, with a conference championship

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### Men's V4 Earns Blustery National Bronze

Similar to the novice men, the SPU men's varsity four enjoyed their own positive season, beginning the first portion undefeated themselves and eventually qualifying for post season competition at both the Western Intercollegiate Rowing Association Championship and the ECAC National Invitational Rowing Championship. Despite bitter losses against Washington at the Opening Day regatta and really against the whitecaps at the conference championship, the men's V4 rose up against some outstanding competition at nationals in Worcester, Mass.

Previously the site of four national gold medals from the SPU women, the 2006 regatta started out looking hauntingly similar to the disappointing 2005 event in which the SPU women's four race was cancelled due to a fluke May, nor'easter blowing through New England. Likewise, this year's men's group showed up to warm sunshine for a day of practice that was soon followed by days of the worst New England rain and flooding in decades. The winds were up significantly causing

concern as to the event happening at all, but races were begun without incident while the rough conditions affected primarily



The 2006 SPU men's varsity four. L-R Jeremy Bryant (St.), John Chevigny (3), Jon Dyke (2), Ben Zupke (bow), Jeney Wierman (cox).

the last half of the course. This provided for some challenging scenarios. The SPU men remained undaunted and, enjoying a favorable third overall seed, proceeded to win their heat in comfortable fashion over Mary Washington, North Carolina, Connecticut College and Middlebury. That afternoon wrought even nastier conditions however, causing an eventual delay to the schedule for over two hours while a deluge ran its course through the region. Eventually the men's varsity four grand final went off with calm waters and a stiff tailwind in the first half, but an abruptly quartering crosswind whipping up turbulent water for the latter segment of the narrow Lake Quinsigamond.

Making their statement right away, Mercyhurst took an early lead and continued extending to a resounding win, their first championship performance ever. Meanwhile the Falcon men, racing in third position from the outset, established a determined burst of speed to close the gap of open water to Colgate who had been up to a length ahead most of the race. With a spectacular charge the SPU four made it a genuine race for silver in the sprint but could not muster the inches to pass the Raiders.

Positive nevertheless, remaining in the medals with only a one-second deficit, this bronze medal performance marks the best this category has seen since the SPU men's four finish-

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### 2007 Season Schedule

Be sure to follow the SPU crew race schedule and all the latest information for the season on the crew website. Software upgrades now allow the site to be updated daily and everything from rower profiles to directions to the regattas remains current. We are also working on further enhancements like photo galleries and historical archives over the next few months, so stay tuned to [www.spu.edu/depts/crew](http://www.spu.edu/depts/crew).

## 2006 Women's season recap cont'd-

win in the women's pair and a solid silver medal from the women's novice 8, as well as a victory from the novice four at the Covered Bridge Regatta.

Post season for the women, now down to two regional regattas, was comprised of the Western Intercollegiate Rowing Association Championship (WIRA) and the Pacific Coast Rowing Championship (PCRC), both on Lake Natoma near Sacramento.



SPU Women's V8, Pacific Coast Ch. bronze medalists L-R: Katie Wilner, Becca Snow, Rachel Ward, Kim Leinstock, Katie Wolff, Rachel Savage, Meg Sweeney, Alicia Apple, Meg Giske.

Both outings had tremendously fast conditions with unusual mountain rain increasing the current significantly through the reservoir. Despite this, the SPU varsity eight floundered in the WIRA heat and failed to qualify. Avidly seeking a modicum of respect however, they finished first in the petite final with a time fast enough to have placed ahead of Humboldt State in the grand final.

It was at PCRC, with their varsity lineup now recovered, that the SPU women's 8 was finally able to recoup their standing from the season's start by finishing over Humboldt State for a bronze medal. While not enough to qualify for an at-large national bid, it was a positive benchmark for the ladies at the close of a very difficult season.

## Homecoming 2007!

### **2007 Homecoming Schedule – Saturday, February 3rd:**

**Row/Run** – 8:30 a.m. SPU ship canal finish line, Ewing Park behind Brougham Pavilion. Watch the varsity crew take on the current and alumni cross country runners over 3 miles.

**Alumni/novice Crew Race** -10:00 a.m. (sign up early in the shellhouse). This year the 2003 women's varsity four challenges any and all other ladies crews to a reunion duel over 1000 meters. With only bragging rights at stake, it should promise to be a terrific time. Although lots of fun, participation in Homecoming races is not required.

**Fellowship time/brunch** – 11:00 a.m. stay as long as you like and get caught up! Family members are of course welcome. Falcon Lounge, upstairs in Brougham.

## Year End Giving

As you consider your options for charitable contributions near year's end, we ask that you keep SPU crew in mind. We have certainly been blessed by the generosity of our friends and alums, yet the program remains in a high state of operational and capital need.

The crew has a typical operational requirement of approximately \$50,000 in annual travel budget and assistant salary looking for backing. The teams' capital needs likewise remain consistent as we seek to upgrade from the second generation racing hulls, and even the third generation rowing ergometers are reaching the end of their service lives. Our replacement is a constant issue with design advancements occurring almost annually, and even electronics for the latest in measurement and assessment have become a huge factor in rowing. Staying current is a consistent challenge on our limited resources.

We genuinely appreciate your help in keeping us afloat and on the cutting edge of competition.

Remember, for 2006 tax credit, all contributions must be postmarked by December 30<sup>th</sup>.

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## Men's Rowing Endowment Launched

In addition to an amazing Homecoming weekend, February 2006 highlighted several other historical benchmarks, not the least of which was 33 years of program success.

This year however, a significant effort and solid investment was made on behalf of the program through the initiation of an endowment fund designed solely to benefit men's rowing at Seattle Pacific University. Through the efforts of a handful of supremely generous donors and donor families, the *David Godfrey Men's Rowing Endowment* is the latest effort to expand the opportunities for men's rowing at Seattle Pacific. The endowment is named in memoriam of David Godfrey, a Seattle Pacific rower known for his generous Christian character as well his competitive spirit. David Godfrey was a superb example and leader for his teammates and was instrumental in the recruitment of his roommate and future Olympic rower John Terwilliger.

Godfrey succumbed to cancer in 1979 a year after graduation, yet his name and character still marks the program's highest honor with the *Godfrey Oarsman of the Year* awarded to the individuals with the most complete measure of excellence in all aspects of their participation.

This new endowment, joining the *James & Pam Schultz Crew Endowment*, is hoped to provide a pivotal foundation for the future advancement of men's rowing which remains completely funded through fundraising efforts and generous supporters like you.

Contributions can be designated in part or fully to this endowment by simply marking your contribution check accordingly.

For more information on how you can help the program specifically please check out the crew website at [www.spu.edu/depts/crew](http://www.spu.edu/depts/crew) and click on the FRC page.

## Men's V4 national bronze cont'd-

ed fourth at IRA nationals in 1995. The last medaling MV4 for SPU was the 1981 bronze medal Dad Vail Championship crew, while the highest medal so far being silver from the '00 lightweight varsity men.

Retaining three of these five individuals for '07 as well as three from the undefeated novice four portends well for the men's varsity group this year, and the hunt is still on for the first national level championship for Seattle Pacific men's crew.

*\*For full results and championship history, go to [www.spu.edu/depts/crew](http://www.spu.edu/depts/crew).*

## Coaches' Corner



First year assistant Andi Martineau departs the coaching staff in '07 to pursue her career with the U.S. Forest Service as a fire fighter. Andi is one of only three 3-time national champion rowers to come out of Seattle Pacific Crew

Meanwhile, Jessie Pennington returns for her fifth year coaching after a year off to work on her Masters Degree at Seattle University. Kip Wassink also returns for his second year as assistant coach for SPU novices, and '06 grad Meg Sweeney provides invaluable volunteer coaching and office support as well.