

home and abroad. “It may be the perception that jobs may be difficult to come by right now, but this year, instead of making a mistake, students are a little more willing to say, ‘To heck with these expectations of my Harvard degree and what I should do with it, I’ll do what makes me happy,’” Gilmore says. “They’re hoping that at the end of one year, they will have had the opportunity to develop interesting skills they can use for a variety of career opportunities. They may also be thinking that the economy will climb out of its hole by then.”

Interest in teaching abroad has also risen, according to Dena Rakoff, who has seen a 25 percent increase in the number of seniors contacting her about the Harvard Overseas School Teaching (HOST) pro-

gram, which places graduates in international schools around the world for a year. In fact, Rakoff says this year’s applicant pool is the largest in the five years that she’s overseen the application process, and that interest in domestic programs, such as Teach for America, has also grown.

When Angela Lin did not advance past second-round interviews in the recruiting process last fall, she felt partly relieved, knowing that she could follow her interest in education without wondering what might have been. “I’ve always had education in the back of my head, and it was kind of an excuse [to pursue it]. The companies made the choice for me,” she says. She has applied to HOST and to several other teach-abroad programs.

Lin says the difficult market has proved

an eye-opener to many seniors—especially economics concentrators who tend to participate overwhelmingly in the recruiting process—who are choosing to seek the road less traveled. “Harvard students do a million things while they’re here, so why sign away your life doing the same thing for 80 hours a week?” she says. “So many people are looking into Teach for America or the Peace Corps, which aren’t lucrative, but where talented and intelligent people are needed. Being an economics major, it’s refreshing to see people looking into different things.”

Berta Greenwald Ledecy Undergraduate Fellow Eugenia V. Levenson is a history and literature concentrator without a lucrative summer internship—but she refuses to believe that’s a bad thing.

SPORTS

Harvard-Yale Boat Race Turns 150

The oldest college sporting event in the New World reaches a milestone.

THE SESQUICENTENNIAL of college athletics in America takes place June 8 on the Thames (rhymes with “James”) River in New London, Connecticut, when the Harvard and Yale heavyweight crews line up for a race that celebrates its 150th anniversary this year. Intercollegiate sports in this country, from the bowl games to the NCAA’s “Final Four,” were born when crews from Harvard and Yale tested each other on Lake Winnepesaukee in New Hampshire on August 3, 1852. (Ironically, commerce played a larger part *then*: a publicity-minded agent for the Boston, Concord & Montreal Railroad sponsored the regatta to promote excursion trains.) Harvard’s boat *Oneida* won the first race, about four lengths ahead of the *Shawmut*, the faster of two Yale entries.

“Rowing was perhaps the most popular recreational activity in the United States at the time,” says Harry Parker, head coach of heavyweight men’s crew. “I don’t think many people realize how extensive it was at Harvard and Yale, and throughout the country. There were small rowing



Last year’s heavyweight varsity finished more than 37 seconds ahead of Yale after four miles.

clubs in just about every significant city in the United States and at many of the colleges then in existence.”

The Harvard-Yale regatta gradually evolved into a major sporting event that even attracted heavy betting. In 1925 an estimated 100,000 spectators came to watch. Special 32-car observation trains with grandstands atop flatcars rolled

along the riverbank to follow the crews. Last year, the observation trains made a comeback. It’s a ride of around 20 minutes to track the four-mile varsity event, the longest race regularly rowed in the Western Hemisphere. (Worldwide, only the Oxford-Cambridge boat race, at four and one-quarter miles, is longer. But that race takes place on a tidal stretch of the “other”

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Thames, so it's briefer than the grueling four-milers in New London.)

All other spring crew races use 2,000-meter (circa 1.25 mile) courses, the standard international distance rowed at the Olympic Games. But in 1876, long before the modern Olympics, Harvard and Yale settled on a four-mile contest, probably modeled on the Oxford-Cambridge race. (The freshman and junior varsity crews race two and three miles respectively; there's also a special two-mile event for "combination" crews.) The downstream course record in the four-miler, set by Harvard in 1980, is 18 minutes, 22.4 seconds; in 1995, Harvard recorded the up-

stream record of 18 minutes, 41.9 seconds.

Due to scheduling gaps in the early years and interruptions for the Civil War and both world wars, this year's regatta will be not the 150th but merely the 137th Harvard-Yale race. Harvard leads the series, 83-53, and on June 8, Parker's oarsmen will be looking to round out the 150-year tradition in the same way it began.

The Oddest Streak in Rowing

THE HARVARD MEN'S lightweight crew boasts one of the most consistent records

of excellence in college sports. Consider the May regatta that climaxes the college rowing season in the East, the Eastern Association of Rowing Colleges (EARC) championships (the "Eastern Sprints"). Since the Sprints began in 1946, the Harvard lights have *never* failed to make the six-boat grand final, and only once finished lower than fourth (a sixth-place result in 1955). In those 56 years, Harvard lightweighters have won the Sprints 24 times; next best is Princeton with 10 victories, followed by Cornell with seven.

Several years ago, the U.S. Rowing Asso-

Jack Barnaby: A Remembrance

There is a T-shirt in my vast collection that I take out only on special occasions: on the front it reads, JACK BARNABY'S 80TH/ SEPTEMBER 23, 1989. It's a souvenir of the birthday party at Harvard that gathered about a hundred of Barnaby's friends and former athletes, some of whom traveled hundreds of miles to see the coach who had meant so much to them. The back of the shirt bears the motto of the aging jock: THE OLDER WE GET, THE BETTER WE WERE. Jack Barnaby, who died on February 12 at the age of 92, was one of the few souls for whom those words might have been literally true. He couldn't wait to turn 80, he said, because then he'd be one of the youngest players eligible for 80-and-above tennis tournaments, where he planned to clean up.

Jack cleaned up at almost everything he did in life. He was an excellent tennis and squash player, a successful author of books like *Winning Squash Racquets*, a prosperous businessman who built Har-Tru tennis courts during the 1970s tennis boom. He was also a skillful fisherman, gardener, and gatherer of wild blueberries—his personal record for a single season was allegedly 72 quarts. But above all, Barnaby cleaned up as a coach. When he retired in 1976 after 40 years at the helm of Harvard's tennis and squash programs, he was the "winningest" head coach in Harvard history. Jack's squash teams went 346-95 (a .784 winning percentage), while his tennis squads were 371-158-3 (.697). From 1961 through the 1972-73 season, Harvard squash went 120-3, winning 11 intercollegiate championships in 12 years. In 1979 Barnaby emerged from retirement to coach the women's squash team for three years; they went 28-4 (.875) and in his last season won the 1982 national championship, earning the Howe Cup. The older Jack got, the better he was.

Barnaby never separated sports from the rest of life. "Jack passed on to me, and to many others, the idea that you don't just coach a sport, you coach the whole person," says Rocky Jarvis '69, the men's tennis coach at Brandeis. Even players from opposing teams sometimes sought him out with lists of questions, grateful to learn whatever they could from "Barnabus Rex." On

road trips, Jack would discuss world affairs, agriculture, philosophy, science, or music into the night with the athletes. His skill at the piano instilled a love of Beethoven in athletes like Victor Niederhoffer '64, who continues to play tennis, squash, and piano.

Niederhoffer was a classic example of what Barnaby could do. As a Harvard freshman, he had never hit a squash ball; four years later he was U.S. intercollegiate champion and in the 1970s he and Sharif Khan were the two top players in North America. Those awed by Harvard's success sometimes asked Barnaby what his system was. "My system is to avoid all systems like the plague," he would explain. "Adapt to the individual." If a woman had power, Jack made her a hitter; he'd encourage finesse from a fellow with touch, or steadiness from a player with great endurance. Jack also knew when to leave well enough alone. Mike Desaulniers '80, probably the fastest player ever, was already a Canadian phenomenon when he got to Harvard; after seeing him play a match, Barnaby took the freshman aside and said he wanted to tell him something about his game. "Yeah?" Desaulniers replied warily. Then came Barnaby's advice: "Don't let anybody change you."

Jack didn't need to change his own style, either: he was a natural-born teacher. Brandishing his two stimulants—a Coke in one hand and a cigarette in the other—his mind gushing with ideas and excitement, Jack was a voluble presence and a font of visual imagery. On court during practice, he might go through a complete doubles point, acting out the parts of all four players, demonstrating all the shots—return, volley, lob, then the crushing, conclusive overhead—and ending with a gasp of defeat from the losing side. It was a performance you could not forget—and that, of course, was the point.

~CRAIG LAMBERT



HARVARD UNIVERSITY SPORTS INFORMATION

ciation designated the Intercollegiate Rowing Association (IRA) regatta, which dates from 1895, as the national collegiate championships. But even before that, a weird pattern set in, starting in 1989. Since then, Harvard has won the national title every odd-numbered year. The seven Crimson championships have been sandwiched around six others for everyone else—three wins by Princeton, two by Yale, and one by Columbia—all coming in even years.

To win nationals, “You can’t just be good,” says lightweight oar Jonathan Kibera ’98. “You have to be really good *and* lucky. Because rowing races are decided by tenths of a second.” And lightweight races, where all rowers are by definition of similar size and weight, are famous for being tight. “It’s lungs, endurance, heart, and a fierce amount of determination,” says head lightweight coach Charley Butt. “How do you cope with fatigue? If the crews never give in, it’s going to be close.”

In 1996, for example, Harvard and Princeton battled stroke for stroke in the final sprint, and in a photo finish, Princeton won by two hundredths of a second, 5:36.20 to 5:36.22. “They were about two inches faster,” Butt says. No one has approached those record-breaking times at the IRA since. “Personally, I feel just as proud of them for that race as for any odd-numbered year when we’ve won,” says Butt. “They were fast, cohesive, and they never faltered.”

So why the odd-year magic? The simplest hypothesis involves the “hunger” factor. “The guys who just won nationals think they know what to do now,” says Kibera, “and they’re not quite as nervous



The 2001 lightweight varsity celebrate after beating Yale in Camden, New Jersey, to win the national championship.

as they should be.” Lightweight Noah Bloom ’01 says, “When you’re not number one, there’s a lot of drive to win that race.” Yet the oarsmen unanimously agree with Butt that from year to year, the crews have been remarkably consistent in their efforts, and hairbreadth finishes like that 1996 final, for example, suggest that none of Harvard’s even-year crews has become complacent.

We turned the mystery over to George Polsky ’91, a squash player known for his wildly original explanations of events in sport (see “Court Quotester,” March-April 1992, page 58). “Streaks like this have been noted only a handful of times in human history,” Polsky says, “and each time they have preceded natural or civil disasters. For example, immediately prior to the fall of Rome, Gregorus Homunculus, a little-followed featherweight charioteer, led his division every third season for 21 years. Mere coincidence? I think not.

“Similarly, beginning in 1342, Miles

Cavendish, a six-year-old schoolyard scratch marbles player, became legendary not only because he won every fifth game he played over the next seven years, but because his winning streak is now generally believed to have created enormous magnetic turbulence in the solar system, which not only upset the rotation of the earth but indirectly led to the Great Plague of 1349. Thankfully, the Yoda-like guidance of coach Charley Butt can keep the Harvard lightweights aligned with the need for balance in the cosmos. In a nutshell, were it not for him, the long-term consequences of this winning streak might be dire indeed.”

Yes, well, of course. But back on terra firma, lightweight oarsman Tim Cullen ’96 has a simpler theory that also bears consideration. First, he notes that Harvard crews tend to get continuously faster as spring wears on; Butt is a master at making adjustments that increase boat speed, particularly late in the season when other crews have peaked. Last spring, for example, Harvard lost to Yale at the Sprints—but, rowing a new shell, came back to win the IRA over the Eli by 0.8 seconds. Since the men’s and women’s Eastern Sprints alternate their weekends from year to year, in even-numbered years there are two weeks for Butt to tweak his crew before the IRA, while in odd-numbered years he has a three-week window.

Is this the answer to the even-year hex? *¿Quién sabe?* Even Cullen admits to being as dumbfounded by the streak as anyone else. However, he adds, “I’d like nothing more than to see it broken this year.”

~CRAIG LAMBERT

Winter Sports

Men’s Ice Hockey

In a season filled with thrilling come-from-behind and overtime wins, the icemen (15-15-4 overall; 14-9-3 ECAC; 4-5-1 Ivy) peaked in the postseason, dispatching Brown, Clarkson, and Cornell to win the ECAC tournament with three straight overtime victories. Making their first NCAA tournament appearance since 1994, the Crimson fell to Maine, 4-3, in—(what else?) overtime.

Women’s Ice Hockey

The women skaters (18-11-2 overall; 11-6-2 ECAC Northern; 5-5 Ivy) won the Beanpot and got through the ECAC quarterfinals before falling to Dartmouth, 4-2, in the semis.

Wrestling

Jesse Jantzen ’04, wrestling at 149 pounds, placed third in the NCAA tournament, the best Harvard finish since 1953.