

April 7, 2013
Omaha, NE

SHOCKER ROWING TAKES TROPHIES AT UPPER MIDWEST CHAMPIONSHIP

Shocker Rowing wins the men's team point trophy for the 5th year in a row; the women's team comes in second overall despite only entering 3 events. Both teams win the varsity eights races at the Upper Midwest Championships.

KSU, KU, Creighton, Drake, Iowa, St Thomas, St Louis and Nebraska were in attendance racing in 17 events on Crater Lake. The WSU Novice Men's Four of coxswain Rebecca Baltzell '15, stroke Eric Gordon '16, 3 seat Josh Keiter '16, 2 seat Michael Keatly '16 and bow Brian Woolley '14 started the morning with a win over KSU, St Thomas, Iowa and Creighton. Adding points to the men's team standing were the Men's Varsity Four C and A by finishing second in their respective heats. The Men's Varsity Four B won it's event.

St Thomas was able to field a Men's Novice Eight, a boat the Shockers could not. Novice rowers and coxswains are those in their first year of collegiate rowing, WSU has but six novice rowers. By mid-morning, St Thomas had won the Men's Novice Eight giving it a total of 48 team points to WSU's 50. WSU needed to win the Lightweight Men's Four and Men's Varsity Eight to win the team trophy.

They won both, the Lightweight Four handily. The Men's Varsity Eight was a close race with KSU, who for the past two years have been trading wins with WSU. Team points: St Thomas 3rd with 57, KSU 2nd with 64, WSU 1st with 116.

The Women's Varsity Four of coxswain Ashley Brown '14, Stroke Rachel Tuck '14, 3 seat Shelby Fath '14, 2 seat Emily Russell '13 and bow Logan Vincent '15 won the event early in the day beating Creighton and Drake's NCAA boats. The Upper Midwest Championships, hosted by Creighton, is an emotional event for the school, as the event trophies are named for Creighton supporters who have unfortunately lost their lives early. Creighton always fields fast boats and great competition for WSU women; this year proved no different.

In the Women's Varsity Eight, the Shocker women had a great start gaining the lead, but all boats were called back for a restart due to a collision between other teams. On the second start, the Shockers did not start as well, and Creighton took the lead. By the 200 meter mark, WSU had gained back the lead, but were not able to easily shake Creighton. For every 2 seats taken by WSU, Creighton would fight back – it wasn't until the horn signaling the end of the race that WSU knew they had the win.

With a team that could field two women's novice eights and a lightweight four in addition to the events in which WSU was entered, Creighton took the women's point trophy with its large team numbers and success in those events with 155 points. But given that the Shocker Women only have ten rowers and four coxswains, it is a sign of their strength as a small squad that they were able to finish second in the women's points with 50, ahead of squads with larger teams. St Thomas finished third with 22 points.

In two weeks, the Shockers travel to Oakridge, TN to race in the Southern Intercollegiate Rowing Championships at which over 30 teams participate. The Shockers will field a Men's and Women's Varsity Eight and a Men's Varsity Four. WSU will see some fantastic competition from the East Coast, Southern States and Midwest at this two day regatta. Those athletes not travelling to SIRAs will race in doubles in Shocker Rowing's only home event on April 20, starting at 8:30 AM at the Little River, Riverside location.

