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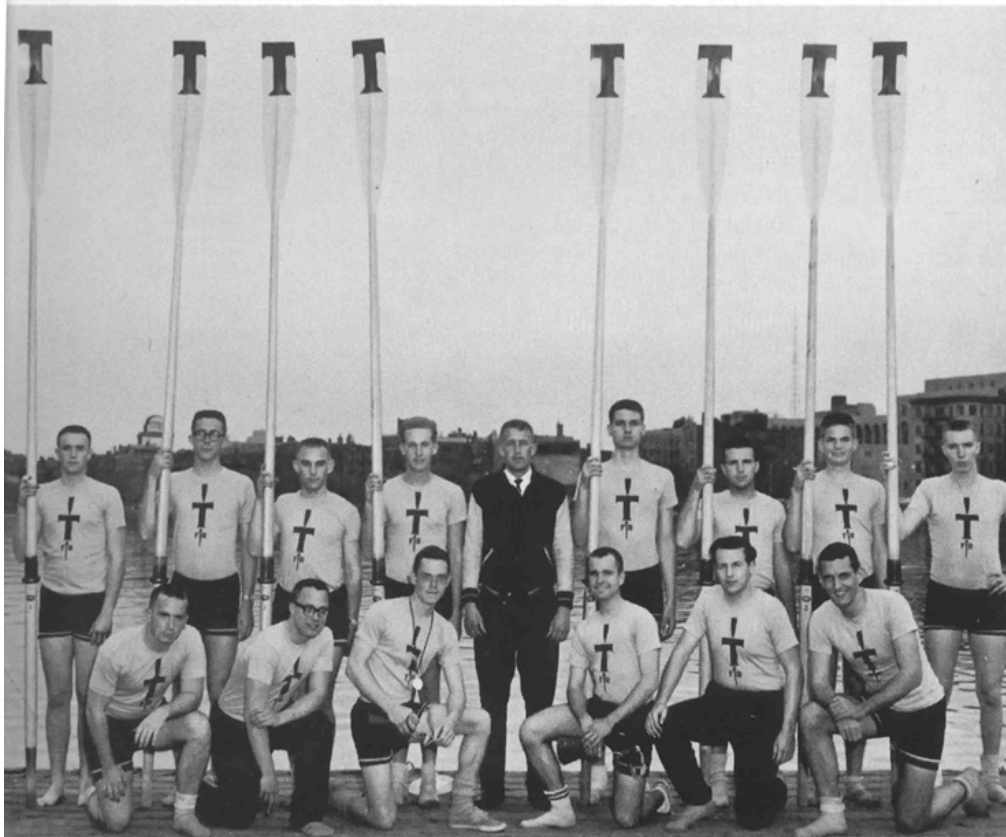
CLASS OF 1964 MIT CREW FRESHMAN SEASON

Fall 1960 to Spring 1961

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Class of 1964 Freshman Heavyweight Crew Squad



Freshmen Heavyweights, l to r: Joseph Blew, James Monk, Donald Beck, Roger Parks, Coach Richard D. Erickson, Gary DeBacher, Peter Gerstberger, David Fahrland, Norman Davis. Kneeling: Harvey Schorr, Christopher Whorton, Bill McClure, Bud Boring, Dan McCarthy, Joe Caldwell.

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[Class of 1964 Freshman Lightweight Crew - 1st Boat](#)



Left to Right Standing: Bow - Dennis Smith, John Barton, Tom Perardi, Steve Richards, Dave Evans, Herb Herrmann, Don Siefkes, Stroke - Mark Barron. Kneeling: Coach Gary Zwart, Cox Julian Adams

TOP

Following are articles about crew in The Tech during the freshman year of the Class of 1964. The content was transcribed from .pdf files located at [The Tech Archives](#). A description of the LtWt Frosh EARC Sprints follows the May 17 The Tech issue. Three photos of the LtWt Frosh after winning the championship follow that narrative.

The Tech - Nov. 18, 1960

Class Race Ends Fall Crew Activity

The MIT crews ended their fall rowing season last Friday with four races in the afternoon on the Charles, and a steak fry at the Boat House in the evening. In the first event of the afternoon, the living group race, Burton House jumped out to an early lead, and swept to victory better than two lengths ahead of Lambda Chi Alpha, Sigma Nu, Sigma Chi, and Theta Chi. The freshman race provided the day's closest finish with the heavyweights prevailing over the lights by inches in a disputed finish. The class race, the highlight of the day, saw the class of '63 capture the Richards Cup, defeating four other class boats and an alumni boat.

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The Tech - April 19, 1961

Heavyweights Open Saturday - Meet BU, Columbia

Saturday marks the opening of the 1961 season for the MIT heavyweight crews as they oppose BU and Columbia on the Charles. Tech oarsmen are given excellent chances to pick up a few wins against these two, which they have beaten consistently in recent years.

Frailey Has Problems

In his third season as head rowing coach, Jack Frailey will take into action a squad loaded with question marks. Can the three sophomores be equal to their varsity assignments despite their relative inexperience? Will Dick Millman's arms stay in good shape? The fiery junior now at number two in the varsity was sidelined all last season with strained tendons. Has the bad weather this spring significantly hurt the crew?

Hurt by Graduation

The squad will be affected by the absence through graduation of the fine class of '60 oarsmen - Dean Webber, stroke; Co-captain Don Morrison, No.7; Irv Weinman, No. 5; Ed Neild, No. 4; Bill Peck, bow; and the unforgettable co-captain and coxswain, Bill Anderson.

Also missing from this year's eight are Will Taylor '62, who alternated with Neild in the

varsity four seat, and Jed Engeler '62, who rowed a race at No. 3, neither of whom has come out this season.

Marks Still at Six

Returning are the gigantic "Lizard" Dave Marks '62, at 6'7" and 200 pounds, holding down his usual position in the "engine room" at No. 6 oar; Captain Chet Riley '62, rowing in the three seat with a year's varsity experience; and letter winner Mike Lawton '62 in the bow.

Sophomores Big Help

Rowing in the stroke and seven seats are the stern pair from last year's fine freshman eight, sophomores Chris Miller and Ron Cheek who led their squad to the first Tech victory over Harvard in four years and to second place in the country at the IRA national championships in Syracuse last June. Bill Weber '63, in his first full rowing season, has grabbed the No. 4 seat and will be getting his baptism-under-fire this Saturday. Rounding out the varsity are lanky (6'7", 185 pounds) Bruce Anderson '62, at No. 5 where he rowed in the 1960 JV; and Pete Buttner '61, the little man with the big voice, finally getting his chance as Varsity coxswain after the three year reign of Bill Anderson.

Pushing the varsity from the JV have been Tony Fiory '63, and Ken Anderson '63, two other members of last season's freshman boat; Mike Gockel '61, a letter winner in 1959; and Sandy von Kuegelgen '62, currently on the injured list.

Yale A New Opponent

The schedule this season is more varied than previously, and has limited competition with Harvard to just two races out of seven. Yale has been added to the slate, with Tech traveling to New Haven next Saturday. Also included is the bi-annual flight to Wisconsin for the varsity, the Eastern Sprints at Worcester, and the IRA at Syracuse on June 17.

Frosh Look Promising

Always an unknown quantity until the first race, the freshman crew has looked remarkably good in pre-season workouts. Dick Erickson's yearlings are big- averaging about 6'3" and 185 pounds -- and fast, having beaten the JV in a mile time trial last Friday. The former great Washington oarsman claims his squad is potentially better than last year's eight, and there's only one slot higher than second in the country!

Junior Varsity 150's Top Harvard Easily; Varsity, Freshmen Crews Downed By Crimson

The MIT junior varsity 150 pound crew picked up the lone Tech victory as the Charles River rowing season was opened Saturday with eight races, in five of which MIT was represented.

Varsity, Freshman, and third varsity shells bowed to their Harvard rivals, although all showed promise for a good season. The Crimson first boat, national champions and undefeated in the last three years, extended their winning streak to 32. Harvard has also won the Thames Challenge Cup in Henley, England three times in a row. The JV victory was the first defeat of Harvard by a Tech lightweight crew in five years. The junior Beavers had no trouble with the Crimson, winning by about three lengths.



MIT's freshmen lightweights, foreground, closing in on their Harvard rivals last Saturday on the Charles. The squads have just passed the mile mark, near the Sailing Pavilion. The Crimson stood off the Techmen's spurt and won by a half a length.

JV's Row at High Rate

Starting out at 42 beats per minute, the Tech JV's, stroked by Roger Rowe '62, the 1960 varsity stroke and captain of the '59 freshmen, and coxed by Bob Vernon '63, fought off an early challenge by the Crimson and won going away, as Rowe kept the pace up to a grueling 35 compared to the 32 maintained by Harvard.

Desire Made the Difference

The spirited Techmen made up for their relative lack of size with determination and fire. Printed on each man's sweatshirt was the single word which seemed to describe best their performance - GUTS. Other members of the victorious eight were Steve Aldrich '63, #7, Dennis Buss '63, #6, John Lynch '63, #5, Loren Sompayrac '63, #4, Bror Hultgren '62, #3, Mike Greata, '63, #2, and Dick Resch, the lone senior in the boat, in the bow seat.

In preliminary races Harvard's second freshmen crew beat the Tech 2nd and 3rd frosh boats, and the BU second freshman heavies swept past the 3rd varsity lightweights of Harvard and MIT. All the times of the day were extremely fast because of a strong tail wind blowing directly up the 1 5/16 mile course, which begins at the Sloan Building and ends at the Boathouse. The best time was 7:03.7, turned in by the Harvard varsity. The Tech JV had the next best mark with a fine 7:06.2.

Season Outlook Good

Despite Saturday's loss, the Tech varsity has good prospects for a successful season in 1961. Only one man was lost through graduation, and even he, Captain Jim Allen '60, was not rowing in the first boat at the end of the season. Last year's entire varsity is back and Coach Val Skov also has a fine bunch of sophomores up from Garry Zwart's freshman squad which was third in the nation in 1960.

As indicated by the JV victory, the varsity boat is definitely not set, and there are probably eight men out now who can produce a Harvard beater. Val's job -- and a big one -- find them.

TOP

The Tech - April 26, 1961

Tech Wins Five Races - Both Varsity Crews Victorious

MIT crews came out victorious in six of nine races last Saturday, on the Charles against BU and Columbia, and on the Housatonic at New Haven with Dartmouth and Yale.

In the heavyweight regatta here the Tech varsity, stroked by sophomore Chris Miller, easily won their first race of the season and the junior varsity, with John Wasserlein '63 in the No. 8 seat, likewise had no trouble with their rivals.

In New Haven the lightweights managed three victories in five races, with the varsity eight beating Yale by about ten feet and Dartmouth by several lengths. The JV's also had a tight race, but although leading most of the way, seemed to run out of gas with a quarter of a mile to go and finished second to Yale by three seconds, with Dartmouth again far back.

The freshmen lightweights fought neck and neck with the Big Green all the way, only to lose out by about a half-length, with Yale bringing up the rear.

Here on the Charles, the heavyweight freshmen were disappointing in their first appearance. Dick Erickson's big yearlings were led all the way by BU, although they did manage to leave Columbia far in the rear.

With four sophomores in the boat, the varsity heavies spurted ahead right at the start and never relinquished their lead, finally beating BU by about a length of open water. The Engineers turned in the second best time of the day, 8:55.2, only four seconds off the mark of Harvard, which raced later with Syracuse and Brown.

At New Haven, Tech picked up two other victories by convincing margins when the second freshman lights beat Dartmouth by two lengths and Yale by five, and the third varsity came to the finish line a full six boat lengths in front of its only opponent, Yale.

Next week the lightweights meet Harvard and Dartmouth on the Charles. The Crimson finally met their first defeat in four years last Saturday at Navy as the Middies came home well in front of them.

The heavyweights travel to New Haven to meet Yale, which last week beat an always strong Rutgers eight.

TOP

The Tech - May 3, 1961

Undefeated Tech Crew Beats Yale Varsity; Harvard Edges Lights

Rapidly emerging as a strong power in national rowing circles, the MIT crews added to the esteem placed on them by outstanding performances against Yale on the Housatonic River in Connecticut, and against Harvard and Dartmouth here on the Charles.

In Saturday's races the Tech varsity heavies swept past Yale in a dual race at New Haven by the convincing margin of 2-1/2 lengths, and in Cambridge the lightweight varsity came within five feet of upsetting the Harvard eight, while leaving Dartmouth far in the rear.

In other races on the Yale waters, the Eli freshman and junior varsity crews came home ahead of the Beaver contingent in two close contests in which the winning margins were just a half-length and a length, respectively.

Two Lightweight Wins

On the Charles, MIT picked up victories in two preliminary races as the second freshmen and third varsity shells won their races for the second week in a row. Tech's only undefeated lightweight eights easily overcame Harvard and Dartmouth.

In later races, the freshman crew of Gary Zwart lost to the Harvard yearlings by a little less than a boat length as Dartmouth, which beat the Tech frosh last week, was a distant third, a position they were to maintain throughout the entire regatta.

Fast Start Does It

Jumping out to their usual early lead, the MIT heavy varsity, coached by Jack Frailey, easily won its second race of a so-far undefeated season. Conqueror of BU and Columbia last week, the Engineers beat Yale for the first time in 10 years, with one of the fastest times produced on the Housatonic in recent seasons - 9:37.4, just five seconds off the course record for the two mile run.

Rowing the longer course presented an initial disadvantage to the Tech eight, since the longest straight run available on the Charles is a mile and three-quarters, but the spirited Beavers were undaunted. The varsity has now rowed together for 2-1/2 weeks and looks forward to the Compton Cup on the Charles next week with Princeton, which beat Pennsylvania last week, Dartmouth and Harvard. The Crimson heavyweights last Saturday suffered defeat at the hands of both Cornell and Rutgers. A very interesting fact is that the same Rutgers eight which overcame Harvard bowed easily the week before to Yale. "Harvard can look forward to a good race," said sophomore stroke Chris Miller after his crew's defeat of the Elis.

Harvard Given Scare

On the Charles, the Harvard lightweights, undefeated for three years before last week's beating by Navy, very nearly came away with their second loss in a row. The MIT lights, trailing throughout the race, gradually narrowed the margin and were within a half-length of their rivals as the crews came through the Harvard Bridge, which is the three-quarters mark. At Howard Johnson's, with a quarter mile to go, both crews were rowing the same beat and the Engineers were gaining markedly with every stroke. The finish line came up before they could catch the men from Harvard, however, as the shells sailed past the line with a margin of about five feet separating them.

The lightweights meet Cornell and Columbia next week on the Harlem River in New York, as they will defend the Geiger Cup which they won in 1960. On the strength of last week's showing, the Engineers have to be favored to repeat last year's performance.

Tech Nationally Ranked

The recent feats turned in by the MIT crews have put them in a prominent position nationally, and both the heavies and lights are expected to be among the top contenders in the national championships May 13 at Worcester.

MIT Boatings

Varsity Heavy

8 - Chris Miller, 7 - Ron Cheek, 6 - Tony Fiory, 5 - Mike Gockel, 4 - Bill Weber,
3 - Chester Riley, 2 - Dick Millman, B - Mike Lawton, C - George Dotson

Varsity Light

8 - Tom Alexander, 7 - Steve Aldrich, 6 - Dennis Buss, 5 - John Suhrbier, 4 - Jerry Manning,
3 - George Zimmerman, 2 - Ken Blanchard, B - Chas Bruggeman, C - Barry Speyer

JV Heavy

8 - John Wasserlein, 7 - Tom Taylor, 6 - Dave Marks, 5 - Bruce Anderson, 4 - Bob Kurtz,
3 - Herb Doepken, 2 - Bob Brady, B - Alex Vonkuegelgen, C - Roger Gans

JV Light

8 - Roger Rowe, 7 - Dennis Cook, 6 - Bob Blossey, 5 - John Lynch,
4 - Lauren Sompayrac, 3 - Bror Hultgren, 2 - Mike Greata, B - Dick Resch, C - Bob Vernon

Freshmen Heavy

8 - Mike Lardner, 7 - Al Luebbers, 6 - Bob Sandel, 5 - Kim Sloat, 4 - Norm Davis,
3 - Bob Wild, 2 - Carey Mann, B - Bill Julitz, C - Bill McClure

Freshmen 150

8 - Eric Jorgenson, 7 - Dennis Smith, 6 - John Barton, 5 - Dave Evans, 4 - Herb Herrmann,
3 - Jim Craig, 2 - Mark Barron, B - Norm Wagoner, C - Julian Adams

Third Varsity 150

8 - Jim Draper, 7 - Steve Schmelling, 6 - Lynn Whelchel, 5 - Stan Yeager,
4 - Lou Taff, 3 - Jim Dressler, 2 - Dick Joos, B - John Larson

Second Freshman 150

8 - Kerry Weinhold, 7 - Bill Carithers, 6 - Steve Richards, 5 - Den Seifkes, 4 - Paul Holland,
3 - Tom Perardi, 2 - Mark Kovacs, B - Bill Ribich, C - Rudy Hoffman

TOP

The Tech - May 10, 1961

Crews Second in Varsity; JV Heavies Win by Sandy Wagner '61

The MIT Varsity heavyweight crew tasted defeat for the first time in the 1961 season on Saturday, as it bowed to a completely revamped Harvard eight in the Compton Cup Regatta on the Charles. The junior varsity shell won its second race of the year, beating Harvard, Princeton, and Dartmouth by about a length and a half. The Engineer freshman split two races, the second boat beating

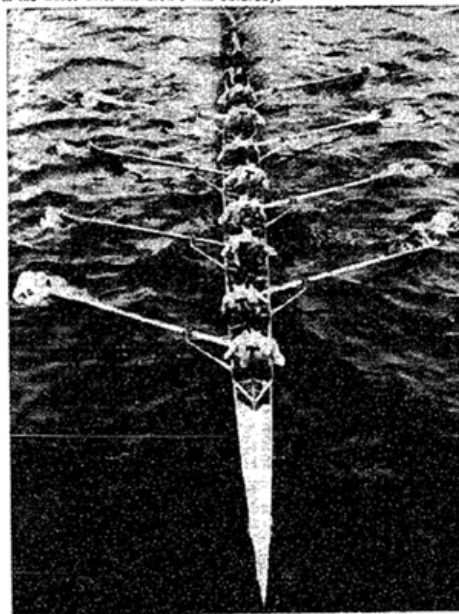
Dartmouth, before the first eight finishing third behind Princeton and Harvard, and coming home ahead of Dartmouth.



— photo by John Eulenberg '64
JV coxswain Pete Buttner '61 sails high in the air as he is thrown in the water after his crew's win Saturday.



Several hundred spectators were on hand on the banks of the Charles last Saturday for the crew races. The day was sunny and spirits were high, as Tech won two out of four races and was a strong contender in the others.



— photo by Conrad Grundlehner '64
The MIT varsity crew passes under the Harvard Bridge in Saturday's Compton Cup Race.

Cornell Regains Cup

In the Geiger Cup competition with Cornell and Columbia on the Harlem River in New York City, all of the Tech lightweight crews came in second behind Cornell and in front of Columbia.

Also in New York, the second freshman 150 pound crew still undefeated in three weeks of competition, beat Columbia by their usual wide margin of about six lengths.

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Leading most of the way in the heavyweight varsity race here in Cambridge, the MIT Crew, looking for its third straight victory, rowed higher than the other crews and piled up a lead

of a full length at the Harvard Bridge with about three-quarters of a mile to go in the 1-3/4 mile course. About then the over-stroking of the Tech crew started to hurt as the Crimson made a successful bid for the lead. Their spurt carried them over the line by a length with MIT second, ahead of Dartmouth and Princeton, in that order.

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The JV race was Tech all the way as the Engineers picked up a half a length with a jack rabbit start and increased their margin throughout the race. Stroke John Wasserlein '63 kept his crew at an unusually high beat of 34 strokes per minute and when the other shells realized that the MIT eight was not going to tire at their high stroke, it was too late to make up the large lead they already had. The Beavers finished a length and a half up on Princeton and two ahead of Harvard. Dartmouth was a distant third.

At New York the lightweight crews experienced rough water due to both nature and to the high

incidence of pleasure boats running up and down the Harlem. A huge sight-seeing craft also contributed to the great waves which delayed the races all day.

The Tech lightweight varsity, caught in some bad water at the start, lost a half a length then, a margin which they managed to make up by rowing a very high stroke until they had a half-length lead on Cornell at the 1/4 mile mark, while rowing a very high 36. Right then the crew seemed to run out of gas, as the Big Red surged ahead and won by less than two seconds. Columbia, close to the leaders only in this race, was a deck length back of MIT.

High Stroking Hurts

The JV also practiced the dangerous policy of high stroking throughout the race, and although they led most of the way they gave out towards the end, as Cornell won by a length.

Next week the varsity heavies travel to Madison, Wisconsin to meet Dartmouth and Wisconsin, while the JV's and Freshmen go to Hanover for a dual race with the Big Green. The lightweights will be at Annapolis to race Navy and Pennsylvania for the Callow Cup.

Varsity Heavy

8 - Chris Miller; 7 - Ron Cheek; 6 - Tony Fiory; 5 - Mike Gockel; 4 - Bill Weber;
3 - Chester Riley; 2 - Dick Millman; B - Mike Lawton; C - George Dotson

Varsity Light

8 - Tom Alexander; 7 - Steve Aldrich; 6 - Dennis Buss; 5 - John Suhrbier; 4 - Jerry Manning;
3 - George Zimmerman; 2 - Ken Blanchard; B - C. Bruggeman; C - Barry Speyer

JV Heavy

8 - John Wasserlein; 7 - Tom Taylor; 6 - Dave Marks; 5 - Herb Doepken; 4 - Bob Brady;
3 - Ken Anderson; 2 - Bruce Anderson; B - V. Von Kuegelgen; C - Pete Buttner

JV Light

8 - Roger Rowe; 7 - Dennis Cook; 6 - Bob Blossy; 5 - John Lynch; 4 - Lauren Sompayrac;
3 - Stan Yeager; 2 - Mike Greata; B - Dick Resch; C - Bob Vernon

Freshmen Heavy

8 - Mike Lardner; 7 - Al Luebbers; 6 - Martin Poe; 5 - Kim Sloat; 4 - Bob Sandel;
3 - Bill Julitz; 2 - Carey Mann; B - Dave Fahrland; C - Bud Boring

Freshman Light

8 - Eric Jorgenson; 7 - Dennis Smith; 6 - John Barton; 5 - Dave Evans; 4 - Herb Herrmann;
3 - Jim Craig; 2 - Mark Barron; B - Norm Wagoner; C - Julian Adams

TOP

The Tech - May 17, 1961

Varsity Crew Wins Cochrane Cup - By Sandy Wagner '61

With action spread out from Madison, Wisconsin down to Annapolis, Maryland and up to Hanover, New Hampshire, the MIT crews turned in winning performances everywhere they went. On scenic Lake Mendota the Varsity heavyweights won the Cochrane Cup race with Dartmouth and host Wisconsin, for the first Tech heavyweight cup victory since 1950.

On the Connecticut River, where the course runs past long stretches of wilderness, the Junior Varsity heavies, fresh from a conquest of Harvard, Princeton, and Dartmouth the previous weekend, had no trouble with the Big Green in a dual race. At Dartmouth the freshman heavies finally won their first race of the season, while the second boat was losing for the first time.

Lights Bow to Navy

Against Navy and Penn on the Severn River where races are run according to the tides, the varsity lightweights met their stiffest competition of the year in the Midshipmen, who have also beaten Harvard and look like a favorite to replace the Crimson as the U.S. representative at Henley, England in July.

The JV's finished third behind Navy and Penn, but the day was saved for MIT by a spirited freshman eight who won their first shirts by coming from behind to eke out a bare margin over the plebes and Penn yearlings.

Ahead from the Start

The heavyweights' third victory of the season came in ideal conditions with flat water and almost no wind, very much unlike the heavy winds on the Charles the week before.

Off the stake-boats in their usual jack rabbit start, Jack Frailey's fine eight rowed a lower stroke than their opposition all the way and maintained a slight lead until the three-quarter mile mark, when Dartmouth made a strong bid for the lead and then tired, leaving the race entirely to Tech, by a margin of about two lengths. Wisconsin, national champions two years ago, was a surprisingly far-back third, three lengths off the pace.

At Dartmouth the JV and freshmen won going away while rowing a very low stroke all the way with the Green never offering any opposition.

Rowing their best race to date the varsity lightweights bowed to a strong Navy contingent

and beat Penn by a wide margin. The midshipmen took advantage of their superior conditioning and used a very long racing start before settling to a high beat. The Engineers did well to finish as close as they did, losing by only three-quarters of a length.

In the thriller of the day the MIT freshmen lost ground at the start just as the varsity did, but pulled up throughout the race until the last twenty strokes, when they made up the last bit of the deficit and squeezed over the line about 5 feet in front of the Plebes. "It was a good race," said coxswain Julian Adams '64, "the first time we really rowed together as a unit".

Navy's victory over Harvard on the Charles last Saturday puts Tech in a position to be seeded fourth in both the light and heavy divisions of the Eastern Association of Rowing Colleges Sprint Championships next weekend at Worcester. Both crews should be rated behind only Cornell, Navy, and Harvard.

In the Junior Varsity race the Tech contingent stands to be seeded third, behind Cornell and Yale. Harvard and Navy cannot be discounted here either.

Always highly unpredictable, the freshman race, judging from previous showings should be hotly contested between Harvard, Dartmouth, Navy, MIT, and Yale in the lightweight division; Tech's heavy freshmen, although likely to be unseeded, should produce some surprises.

The varsity heavyweights showed that the mean to be right up there next Saturday, when they took an unprecedented extra work-out on Sunday morning just after arriving from Wisconsin. The only other crew this reporter has heard of rowing on Sunday was the Cornell sprint champions of 1960. The spirit and enthusiasm the Tech crew has shown are the ingredients of a winner.

Whatever the results next week on Quinsigamond, the crews can look forward to another great season next year since only one senior, Mike Gockel, will be leaving the heavies, and just three, Bob Blossy, Captain John Suhrbier, and Ken Blanchard will depart from the lightweight ranks.

Varsity Heavy

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Varsity Light

8 - Tom Alexander; 7 - Steve Aldrich; 6 - Dennis Buss; 5 - John Suhrbier; 4 - Jerry Manning;
3 - George Zimmerman; 2 - Ken Blanchard; B - Chas Bruggeman; C - Barry Speyer

TOP

May 17 was the last issue of The Tech published in the spring of 1961, which was the Wednesday before the Eastern Sprints. The MIT lightweight freshmen won that race, the only MIT freshman lightweight crew to have ever done that, according to the EARC records. Following are the recollections of Julian Adams, who was coxswain for that memorable race.

"We were all very nervous (including Gary) about the race. After all, we had won only one race that year and that was with Navy and Penn the week before. I think most of us had the feeling that things were starting to work well and that we had a chance to do well. Needless to say, there was plenty of tension. Gary had convinced us that we were capable of a fast race and that the fastest way from the start to the finish was to do our best and most efficient start, row the body of the race at our most efficient stroke, and use up all that we had left in the 20 stroke sprint to the finish line.

There were some preliminary goals that needed to be met before we would get a chance to use his strategy. We did a light workout on Friday evening to familiarize us with the course. This was especially important for the coxswain as the last 20 needed to be called from the right place on the course. Starting the sprint too soon would consume everyone's energy, and starting it too late would mean crossing the line without "using it all". A major goal for lightweights was making weight. That went well with an ounce or two to spare. There was a qualifying heat which needed to be successfully navigated. With several qualifiers in each heat, the idea was to be sure to finish well enough to qualify but not with so much enthusiasm that we would be exhausted for the finals. My memory is a bit foggy here. I can't remember whether our heat was on Friday afternoon or Saturday morning. [Editor's note - The heat was on Saturday] In any case, we did very well in the heat. I think we did so well that Gary and several of the oarsmen thought that we had hurt ourselves by using up too much energy. So we all worried until time for the finals.

Mark was a great stroke from a coxswain's perspective. He could hit the rate for which he was asked with great accuracy. The real talent that he regularly displayed was the ability to hold the required stroke and then discuss how it felt and what his thinking was about how much and when it should be adjusted up or down. Having the luxury of discussing the stroke was a tremendous asset to the boat. He and I made a pact that we would row the race according to Gary's plan, no matter what. After a couple of false starts (apparently some of the coxswains had never been in a shell before), the race was set in motion. We did our 3 and 10 start and settled to our racing stroke. At that point, we were dead last by open water on the nearest competitor (Dartmouth, I think). [Editor's note - At this point Julian yelled out to the boat, 'we are right where we want to be!']

As usual, there were some unpleasant comments made by someone near the bow of our boat. A quick consultation with Mark determined that we were both concerned about our position but that we were going to stick with the plan as it was the fastest way that we knew for getting to the finish line. I noticed that several of the other crews had stayed at a high stroke much longer than we had. As soon as they lowered the stroke for the body of the race, we started to ease past them. It was a coxswain's dream. For most of the race there was one crew or another along side of us

providing targets for counting off their seats as we passed them, one at a time.

As was the custom, there were several opportunities to comment on the crews we were passing. The gang in the bow yelled that they couldn't hear. The reply was that I wasn't talking to them at that time. It seemed only fair to give members of the other crews a few pointers on their rowing techniques as we passed them while taking strategic power tens. Some of the competition looked a little tired so I gave them a couple of jokes across the water to raise their spirits. I hope it didn't cause them to lose focus. Throughout the body of the race Mark held the stroke right on the chosen number. We adjusted slightly a time or two but kept to what we thought was our optimum stroke. It was encouraging that the crews ahead of us (as well as many of those we had passed) were rowing at a higher rate. That meant that we might have a little more room for picking up a few seats in the sprint.

All of the other boats dropped behind during the body leaving Harvard and Cornell in the lead as we approached the last quarter mile. They seemed to be totally occupied with racing each other and paid no attention as our boat closed the open water and then started to move slowly up alongside. With 20 strokes to go, Harvard and Cornell were about even with each other and had about a four-seat lead on our boat. In the sprint, we seemed to move up about one seat every three or four strokes. The boat had never shown such power. There was a lot of spray too. Our technique got a little rough in the last few strokes but the power never slowed. It was hard to tell the absolute position of the finish line so we took a few extra strokes to make sure that we crossed before stopping.

The bow contingent was sure that we had won. If their eyes were on the stroke's oar (and I'm sure that they were), I don't know how they could be so confident that we were victorious. I was hopeful but not confident enough to celebrate. The expressions on the faces in the Harvard and Cornell boats supported the opinion of our bow contingent. Everyone was pleased with our performance but there was enough uncertainty that we rowed back to the Shrewsbury boathouse wondering what had really happened. The judges conversed to verify which group of guys were the winners, and all concluded that the MIT boat had pulled ahead in the last few strokes. The team executed the plan and it worked to perfection."

The Class of 1964 Lightweight Frosh surprised everybody by winning their race to become Champions of the Lightweight Freshman division. It was the first and last time that the MIT Lightweight Freshman have won the EARC Sprints. The photos below show the team receiving the trophy with shirts of the other teams in their arms.

TOP



MIT LtWt Frosh receiving championship trophy. From left: Julain Adams(cox) holding trophy, Tom Perardi(3), Dennis Smith (Bow), John Barton(2), Steve Richards(4), Dave Evans(5), Herb Hermann(6), Don Siefkes (7), Mark Barron (Stroke)

TOP

Having won only one race during the regular season, the Frosh LtWts were thrilled with the win, and they stuffed some of the competitors' shirts into the trophy cup as seen in the photo on the left. The look on all of the faces is testimony to how everybody felt about the win.



Don Siefkes
Julian Adams
Mark Barron
Dennis Smith
Steve Richards



Individual Pewter Cup to each Frosh LtWt

TOP

Throughout the season many different oarsmen had their turns rowing in the 1st LtWt Frosh boat. The configuration shown rowing below is the final version of 1st Frosh Boat. These are the guys that won the trophy, but many of the other members of the Class of 1964 LtWt Freshman crew team could have been in the boat that day. They were responsible for the win just as much as the 9 guys who were able to enjoy the victory.



TOP

The Tech - Sept. 15, 1961

Crews Excel in Spring Regattas; Frosh First, Varisty Third in U.S. - By Sandy Wagner '61

In championship regattas at Worcester, Mass., and Syracuse, New York late last spring, MIT crews turned in what has been estimated as one of the finest overall performances in the history of rowing at Tech.

Frosh 150's Champs

At the Eastern Sprints in Worcester, Engineer crews qualified in all heats, and unprecedented feat for MIT, and one matched that day only by Cornell. Outstanding performances were turned in by the freshman lightweights, who were crowned champions of

the East, and in effect the nation since 150 pound crew does not exist in the West. The varsity heavyweights rowed their best race of the year to come in third behind Navy and Cornell.

Heavyweight Varsity in Fine Race

At the Intercollegiate Rowing Association's annual championship in Syracuse in June, Tech produced its best showing in 10 years in the varsity competition, finishing third behind Cornell and California and ahead of Washington, Penn Navy, Brown, Wisconsin, Syracuse, Princeton, Dartmouth, Rutgers and Columbia in that order.

Getting away from the start slowly, Jack Frailey's oarsmen were next to last as the crews settled from their racing starts. Then something clicked in the shell, and with sophomore stroke Chris Miller holding the beat to 31, Tech gradually crept by shell after shell. With three-quarters of a mile to go the Engineers poured on the steam and surged away from a knot of crews consisting of Washington, Penn, and Navy.

Tech crossed the finish line three full lengths ahead of the favored Huskies from the West and even more up on the sprint champion Middies, both of whom went to the starting line with a two inch and 12 pound advantage-per-man over Tech. Also, both of these crews had logged about twice as many practice miles as MIT.

TOP

