

Washington Women's Coach Bob Ernst

On the Huskies' No. 7 ranking

Polls are nice for the middle of the season but the bottom line is that we settle it all on the last day (of the season). And if you're not there, you don't get to be a part of it. It's going to be awesome racing two weeks from tomorrow (in the Pac-10 Championships).

On getting better boat speed

We're still looking for the right combination of people in the boat. We're getting closer and closer. We've had a couple of injuries; we've had a couple of freshmen in the varsity boat as well. They're learning to row with each other. I think it's been fitting together very well.

How does the UW well-regarded in European rowing circles because of the Windermere Cup?

Not only because of this event but how many foreign kids that are on our team right now. All of our kids have facebook buddies and friends that are on the national team ... Their buddies at home think, 'Hey, I can go to one of the best universities in the world, I can get a great bachelor's degree and I can be prepared to row on my country's national team ... It's a great bridge between a great high school rower to an elite junior rower to being a world-class rower and having a degree.

When your crews lineup against Oxford, do they get pumped up because of the tradition?

They do, of course. I mean, Ante (Kusurin), the kid that stroked Oxford, he was here (rowing) just three years ago. And our kids wanted to beat his brains out. You know, one of the other guys asked me what was one of the special things about watching the Huskies race today, particularly the guys. I said there haven't been a lot of crews who are any better than these guys.

On the atmosphere

It's the biggest (Windermere Cup) event I've seen in more than a few years. It was really, really good. I'm so happy about that, because there's so much work on the Seattle Yacht Club's part, Windermere's part, the UW's part and now we're going to have it on TV, there's a jumbotron, an electric helicopter. It's going to be a really good spectacle. It's just too cool.

Washington Men's Coach Michael Callahan

On coming off the Cal

"After last week I was saying that we were on an emotional high. We raced California, which is a long-standing duel and one of the most important races we have all year. We really wanted to focus on improving this week and we really wanted to improve on getting into our base rhythm off the start and being pressed by a competitor because we knew that Oxford and Syracuse were going to be a good challenge for us. We were trying to get into our base rhythm off the start and hopefully that would carry more speed into the last 500 which I think we did. I saw some power shift in the last 500 that were

really effective. I'll check with the guys, the GPS is in the boat but I'm sure we were bringing more speed at the end."

On what pleased him the most:

"That last section. I wanted to see in that last 250 the change in the boat speed and the increase. I could see the power go into the boat but I'm not sure the splits responded."

On whether the race was encouraging:

"Very [encouraging]. It was a great day for us for sure. I think for how hard we trained this week the guys are going to be pleased with this race. We came back and got to work. It was a pretty heavy week."

On whether he is confident for Pac-10s:

"I think so. We'll have an off-week and we'll have to keep the intensity going. We have some things we'll be working but it's going to be a lot of fun to get going."

Husky Rower Mathis Jessen

On the Race:

"It went really well. We talked before the race, our goal was to have a good base rhythm to stride with a good base rhythm. We had a good start. We went off well and kept going. We had a good push at the 1,000 and a good final sprint today."

On the crucial point in the race:

"When we went down to the base rate, that's always a really important point. When we were at that point, I knew it was going well. When you have the feeling that the boat is sticking together, you can never say that the race is won at that point, but I had a confident feeling there."

On keeping their edge after the Cal victory:

"It's always hard when we get back from a race like that against Cal to keep up the focus for the week. We focused [this week]. It went well."

Husky Coxswain Michelle Darby

On keeping the focus:

"It's a pretty good group of guys. They take care of themselves pretty well but we just kept the focus this week and kind of looked forward to our goals and go to the next level."

On the opponents and any sort of intimidation from rowing against Oxford:

“Both crews are really good and we are grateful for the opportunity to race this weekend. I think it’s a great regatta that they put a lot of work in and we’re just happy how it turned out.”

Husky Rower Hannes Heppner

On Oxford’s reputation in Europe:

“The Boat Race is always pretty famous. Everyone watches it. It’s not just England that watches, it’s also Germany. Oxford has a good reputation and really good rowers that are experienced from World Championships.”

On his race:

“The goal in the six-seat is always to copy as well as you can the stroke seat. That’s what I tried to do today, to support him to get the pressure off him so that he can focus on keeping the rate high. That’s what I did and I think it worked pretty well. The guys behind me supported me.