

Careful and the slides were controlled with consummate skill, a thing which stories from the Thames, a week before, said Harvard could not do. No crew ever sat in a shell that managed them better than the Harvard University Eight of 1899. The Yale boat had not gone two hundred yards when the difficulties that has been present in a greater or less degree all the year, began to appear,—namely, a rushing of the slides and a hang on the catch. Half way down the course, less than half the men in the boat were finishing their stroke, and the ones who were finishing it were being killed by the effort. There was strength enough in that shell to win, and fight enough, but had there been twice as much of both, it would hardly have won from such a crew as Harvard's if the faults spoken of were present.

THE INCIDENTS.

Although every effort had been made by those in charge to have the events run off on schedule time, a high wind blew directly down the course at 10 o'clock, chopping the water up so badly, that the postponement of the Freshman and Four races till the afternoon was an absolute necessity. Some fearful ones began to say: "The same old story of postponements," but as it turned out it was, perhaps, well that the change was made, as it gave three consecutive hours of sport in the afternoon. For the spectators and the oarsmen the day was ideal. A brilliant sun shone, but was tempered by a cool wind from the North, and the air itself had the purity and clarity of champagne.

Contrary to expectations the race was largely attended. Over a hundred and fifty pleasure craft, large and small, were anchored along the sides of the lower course and hundreds of people thronged the wide open space at the foot of the land pier of the big bridge, which was an ideal vantage ground at the finish. The two observation trains carried more passengers than for some years past, the one on the East side, the new route, being the favorite. No expense has been spared to get the rails on this new route as near the water's edge as possible and the result is a very skilful piece of building, and an almost ideal view, though some of the most picturesque coves have been annihilated in the process. At the start the boats are at the extreme opposite side of the river from the train, and it is hard to tell much about them, as the river is here half a mile and more wide, but as they sweep on down the river on their diagonal course, train and boats approach each other until only a couple of hundred yards separate them. Three-quarters of a mile from the finish the train, this year, was gradually drawn ahead of the boats and ran onto the draw of the bridge, where an unobstructed view was had of the finish. Much praise was heard of the new train, its equipment and its management.

The best of feeling was everywhere seen between members of the two universities, and was one of the pleasing things about the regatta. Yale joined heartily in the cheers for Harvard when the observation train ran past Red Top on the way up to the start, and Harvard joined her voice with Yale in a cheer to Yale's crew before the start. After the racing was over groups of men from the rival universities talked the day over calmly and Yale acknowledged that the contests had been won on their merits by superior crews.

Four-oared Race.

The first test of strength and skill between the oarsmen was the University-Four contest, the men being substitutes of the two University Eights. This race had been set for the morning at ten, to be rowed upstream, but the high wind made it impossible and the postponement was until 3.30 in the afternoon with the ebbing tide. It was not till half an hour beyond the time set, that the two little shells were seen heading for the start. As they came along in short stretches, Harvard's powerful hold on the water was apparent to every eye. She feathered very high and her men seemed bigger than those of her rival, but that was probably due to a higher rigging, as there was actually but one pound's difference in the aggregate weight of the two crews. Yale sat low in the water.

The start was made at 4.15. The advantage was with no one at the first stroke, but it was with Harvard at the second and still more with her at the third and so on. With apparently the greatest of ease her boat slipped ahead of Yale who was rowing 38, although Harvard's stroke was two points slower to the minute. At the half, three lengths and over separated the shells, and at the mile Yale was trailing five lengths in the rear with a stroke of 35 to Harvard's 33.

REASONS.

Careful observers began at this time to look for the reason why one boat ran so well while the other did not. There was plenty of power in the Yale boat and the watermanship was surely not bad. But it was the difficulty which appeared in the University race later on—poor leg work. The men did not know how to control their slides and, at the end of each stroke, the momentum of the shell was destroyed by a weight of over 650 pounds of bone and muscle rushing towards the rear, so that each catch found the headway so much taken off that it was like starting a dead weight anew.

Harvard knew the value of a well-handled slide and without a great outlay of strength stole away with ridiculous ease until at the mile and a half flag six lengths of open water separated the shells. From here to the finish Harvard kept at it steadily at 32, while Yale at 34 made an heroic fight to close up the great gap between themselves and the leaders, and succeeded in making up two lengths. Harvard, however, had a clear lead of five lengths. The times of both were faster than the fastest that either had done in practice, by over 35 seconds, and was due in a large measure to the steady wind and a swiftly ebbing tide. Neither of the crews seemed to be tired badly, Harvard certainly not. After a few moments, her men turned up-stream and rested on their oars, watching the start of the Freshman Eight.

The official time was: Half-mile—Harvard 2 minutes 42 seconds; Yale 2 minutes 52 seconds; mile—Harvard 5 minutes 28 seconds; Yale 5 minutes 43 seconds; mile and a half—Harvard 8 minutes; Yale 8 minutes 21 seconds; two miles—Harvard 10.51; Yale 11.06.

HARVARD FOUR.

|                        | Age. | Wght. | Hght. |
|------------------------|------|-------|-------|
| Bow. Endicott.....     | 20   | 158   | 5-8   |
| 2. Perkins .....       | 21   | 175   | 6-    |
| 3. Kernan .....        | 21   | 170   | 5-11  |
| Stroke. Blake, (Capt.) | 22   | 160   | 6-    |
| Coxswain. Howe.....    | 23   | 110   | 5-6   |

YALE FOUR.

|                         | Age. | Wght. | Hght. |
|-------------------------|------|-------|-------|
| Bow. Mitchell .....     | 19   | 170   | 5-11  |
| 2. Greenway, (Capt.) .. | 22   | 173   | 6-    |
| 3. Cross .....          | 21   | 180   | 6-    |
| Stroke. Brock.....      | 19   | 182   | 5-10  |
| Coxswain. Chittenden..  | 19   | 111   | 5-8   |

The Freshman Race.

The prettiest and closest contest of the day was between the Freshman crews, and had not an unfortunate accident occurred on the last half mile by which Yale was a severe sufferer, the finish would have been a rare one in point of closeness.

As soon as the two Fours had moved away, the Freshmen Eights, with refreshing promptness, were seen making for their respective stake boats, Yale on the West and Harvard on the East side. These stake boats lay about 30 yards below the Navy Yard wharf, where the current runs very strongly and diagonally across the course, and it was ten minutes, and more, before the coxswains could get their shells pointed in the right direction. At four forty-five o'clock, however, they were ready and the starter's pistol cracked.

Yale got a magnificent start. All the oars in the boat caught the water together and, without a splash or roll, it sprang away like the wind at a 37 clip. It was a useless expenditure of energy, however, for No. 7 in the Harvard boat was in difficulty with his slide and Captain Bancroft called for a new start, it having been previously agreed that any accident within the first 10 strokes should be remedied by such a means. Yale came reluctantly back to the post she had left so superbly a few seconds before. An additional ten minutes were spent getting the boats lined up again and it was not until five

minutes of five o'clock that the starting signal was given for the second time.

This time there was nervousness in the Yale boat and Harvard had the advantage. It was not for long, however, for Yale, pulling like veterans a stroke of 37, took the lead foot by foot. Down to the first half mile the boats flashed, passing that point the official watches say, in the remarkable time of 1 minute and 49 seconds. The half was a very short one, however. Yale had a lead here of about three-quarters of a length, and the boat was jumping to the lively stroke of 35 with Harvard half a point lower.

HARVARD BEHIND.

Harvard was behind, but there was a steadiness in the way the shell ran that caused satisfaction among her friends. They were not losing a foot and although they were not so well together as Yale men were, they were beginning to find themselves as the minutes went by. The boats were at the mile in the record-breaking time of 4 minutes 35 seconds, with no change in the relative positions or in the speed of the strokes. Harvard hung desperately onto the tail of the leader and waited her chance. It soon came. As the mile and a half flag came rushing toward the boats Harvard suddenly seemed to possess herself of the unity and precision which Yale had thus far had while Yale seemed as suddenly to lose it. Before the flag was passed Harvard had advanced 20 feet on her opponent and began to raise the stroke.

STEAMER SPOILED THE FINISH.

Now came the sprint to the finish and thousands leaned forward in anticipation of a royal and exciting struggle. But at that very minute the draw of the big bridge was swinging, and swinging to their disappointment, for it let in a big excursion steamer which came sweeping directly up the course. Being warned she was able to swing out of the path of the shells just in time, but she had set in motion a rolling, tumbling wash that looked as if it would swamp the boats which were soon in the waves, but Harvard, whose course lay comparatively near the steamer, escaped in a large measure their severity. Yale met them square on her port bow and for an instant it seemed as if she had been swamped. The port side missed a couple of strokes, starboard did the same, and the boat was thrown so badly off her bottom that before she could be steadied up and put under

headway, Harvard had shot by and was leading by a length. Yale's gallant effort of a 37 stroke was unavailing to catch her more fortunate competitor and she followed as best she could to the finish about two lengths behind. Time: Harvard—9 minutes 33½ seconds; Yale—9 minutes 40 seconds. The previous record 9.41 for the two miles on the Thames was made by the Columbia Freshmen in 1889. The conditions on Thursday, were unusually fast, probably less than half a minute behind the fast-flowing Poughkeepsie course. Yale holds the record for that course of 9 minutes 19½ seconds, made by the 1900 Crew in 1897.

The official time: Half—Yale, 1 minute 49 seconds; Harvard, 1 minute 52 seconds. Mile—Yale, 4 minutes 35 seconds; Harvard, 4 minutes 38 seconds. Mile and half, Yale, 7 minutes 2 seconds; Harvard, 7 minutes 4 seconds. Finish—Yale, 9 minutes 40 seconds; Harvard, 9 minutes 33½ seconds.

HARVARD FRESHMEN.

|                         | Age. | Wght. | Hght. |
|-------------------------|------|-------|-------|
| Bow. Morris.....        | 18   | 158   | 5-10  |
| 2. Bancroft, (Capt.) .. | 18   | 149   | 5-10  |
| 3. Emory .....          | 19   | 163   | 5-10  |
| 4. Bullard .....        | 19   | 165   | 6-    |
| 5. Ladd .....           | 18   | 175   | 6-1   |
| 6. Shuebruk .....       | 17   | 172   | 5-11  |
| 7. Godell .....         | 18   | 165   | 6-    |
| Stroke. Brownell.....   | 17   | 143   | 5-7   |
| Coxswain. Boothby...18  | 108  |       | 5-7   |

YALE FRESHMEN.

|                       | Age. | Wght. | Hght. |
|-----------------------|------|-------|-------|
| Bow. Holt .....       | 18   | 155   | 6-    |
| 2. Ackley .....       | 19   | 162   | 5-11  |
| 3. Lincoln .....      | 19   | 159   | 5-10  |
| 4. Kunzig .....       | 19   | 175   | 6-1   |
| 5. Sharpe .....       | 21   | 172   | 6-    |
| 6. Hooker, (Capt.) .. | 19   | 170   | 6-2   |
| 7. Blagden .....      | 20   | 172   | 6-2   |
| Stroke. Warmoth ..... | 20   | 160   | 6-1   |
| Coxswain. Armstrong.. | 19   | 106   | 5-7   |

The University Race.

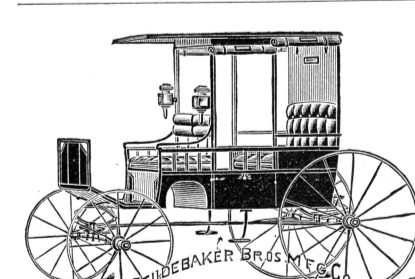
Things were beginning to wear a decided Harvard look after the Freshman race went the way of the Four, and predictions were heard that she would make it three straight. Yale began to figure hard on weights and styles, but could make nothing of it, as she found that the heavier Four had won, as had the lighter Freshmen. The only pointer was, perhaps, the Four, who might be expected to row in the manner of the Eight whose substitutes they were. Still, hopeful ones put faith in Yale's veteran Eight; their experience, they said, counted for much and even their opponents feared the strength which all admitted was in the boat.

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