Learn More About Men’s Crew & the UC Challenge Cup

On March 5, 2016, UC Irvine and Anfield Capital will partner together to host the UC Challenge Cup. This year’s regatta will serve as the inaugural cup with a grand prize of $5,000 from Anfield Capital to the winner of the Varsity race. The race will take place at UCI’s home course, Newport Harbor, where the Anteaters look to continue their recent run of success, winning the Western Intercollegiate Rowing Association Championship (WIRA) against UC Santa Barbara (UCSB) in 2015. The Anteaters look to defend their WIRA crown in Newport Harbor against the likes of UCSD, UCSB, and UCLA in the Varsity eight event.

This year’s Crew team returns as champions of the West Coast; although their roster is smaller in numbers due to losing six seniors from last year’s winning boat, the team has filled those slots with an impressive group of dedicated oarsmen made up of returning freshmen and younger guys with tons of potential.

Rowing was one of the five original sports when UC Irvine was founded in 1964. The team’s original coach and founder, Duvall Hecht, now coaches the freshman team this season. The program has a long track of success, with rowers becoming gold and silver medalists at the Olympics. The team remains true to its roots by rowing out of the club’s original boathouse. Six years ago, the program became a club sport due to a lack of funding.

Despite the sport being relegated to club status, the team continues to have success due to their tenacity and drive. The team practices six days a week at 5:15 A.M. along with two to three additional workouts during the week. The team practices over the course of the year and gets to see the results of their hard work during the spring. Although the sport is very demanding, victory in rowing is very rewarding. One of the perks of winning is that the losing team must hand over the shirts that they raced in. In their victory at WIRA last year, they collected sixteen teams’ worth of shirts. Although now a club sport, the program has been reinvigorated and “thriving” under Coach AJ Brooks, says President Cole McGuire. Brooks, a third-year coach, has been very successful during his tenure, placing bronze his first year, and gold the following year. Under Coach Brooks, the Anteaters look poised to go for gold next Sunday in Newport Harbor.

The race will be held Saturday morning, March 5th. Any student can attend the event. The race can be viewed on the channel of the Orange Coast College Boathouse. After the tournament, there will be a barbeque at the UCI boathouse as well as an awards ceremony.
SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 2016 // NEWPORT BEACH, CA

UC VARSITY CHALLENGE CUP REGATTA 7-9AM
BBQ & BOAT CHRISTENING PRESENTED BY
ANFIELD Captial 9-11AM

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