

The Enduring Tradition of the Northeastern University Crew Team of 1973



1973 NU Varsity at Henley – Sports Illustrated, July 16, 1973
And A Happy Loser That's No. 1

Dr. John Irving, a renowned joint replacement surgeon and Co-Director of Connecticut Orthopaedic Institute at St. Vincent's Medical Center, has an impressive background not only in the medical field but also in the world of rowing. As a member of the U.S. National Collegiate Championship Crew Team in 1973, Dr. Irving and his teammates participated in the prestigious Henley Royal Regatta in England, leaving a lasting mark on their lives. Their participation in this renowned regatta not only showcased their talent but also brought recognition to their university, United States as a whole and was showcased in Sports Illustrated that year.

The Northeastern Crew Team of 1973 competed in the Henley Royal Regatta and reached the Grand Final of the 1973 Grand Challenge Cup. Although they were defeated by the Soviet Union representative, including members of their Olympic team, the Northeastern crew team has continued to gather every ten years on the Thames River in England to row together. This tradition holds a special place in their hearts, symbolizing their shared experiences, camaraderie, and the indomitable spirit of the team. It allows them to relive their glory days, reconnect with one another, and celebrate their achievements. There are very few sports that allow athletes to continue to participate and compete after 50 years! We can't help but feel a surge of anticipation to see them row again in 10 more years!

