

An aerial photograph of a rowing team in a shell on green water. The team consists of eight rowers wearing orange shirts, positioned in a line from the stern to the bow. The boat is dark with a white stripe along the hull. The water is a vibrant green, and the overall scene is captured from a high angle, looking down the length of the boat.

# ROWING

## ROWING QUICK FACTS

Rowing was the first intercollegiate sport contested in the United States. The first rowing race was between Harvard and Yale in 1852.

Yale College founded the first collegiate boat club in the US in 1843.

The first rowing club in the U.S. was the Detroit Boat Club, founded in 1839.

The first amateur sport organization in the US was for rowing - Philadelphia's Schuylkill Navy, founded in 1858.

The first national governing body for a sport in the United States was for rowing. Founded as the National Association for Amateur Oarsmen in 1872, it was changed in 1982 to the United States Rowing Association.

FISA, the first international sports federation, was founded in 1892.

Rowing is one of the original sports in the modern Olympic Games.

Baron Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympic Games, was a rower.

Rowing comprises the third largest US delegation (48 athletes) to the Olympic Games.

Eight-oared shells are about 60-feet long - that's 20 yards on a football field.

A women's eight, which can carry more than 1500 pounds of crew, may weigh less than 200 pounds. Modern boats are made of aerospace composite materials such as carbon fiber, Kevlar, and honeycomb cores.

Singles may be as narrow as 10 inches across, weigh only 25-28 pounds, and stretch nearly 27-feet long.

Physiologically, rowers are superb examples of physical conditioning and the rowing stand as perhaps the only true power-endurance sport. Cross-country skiers and long distance speed skaters are comparable in terms of the physical demands the sport places on the athletes.

Physiologists claim that rowing a 2,000-meter race - equivalent to 1.25 miles - is equal to playing back-to-back basketball games.