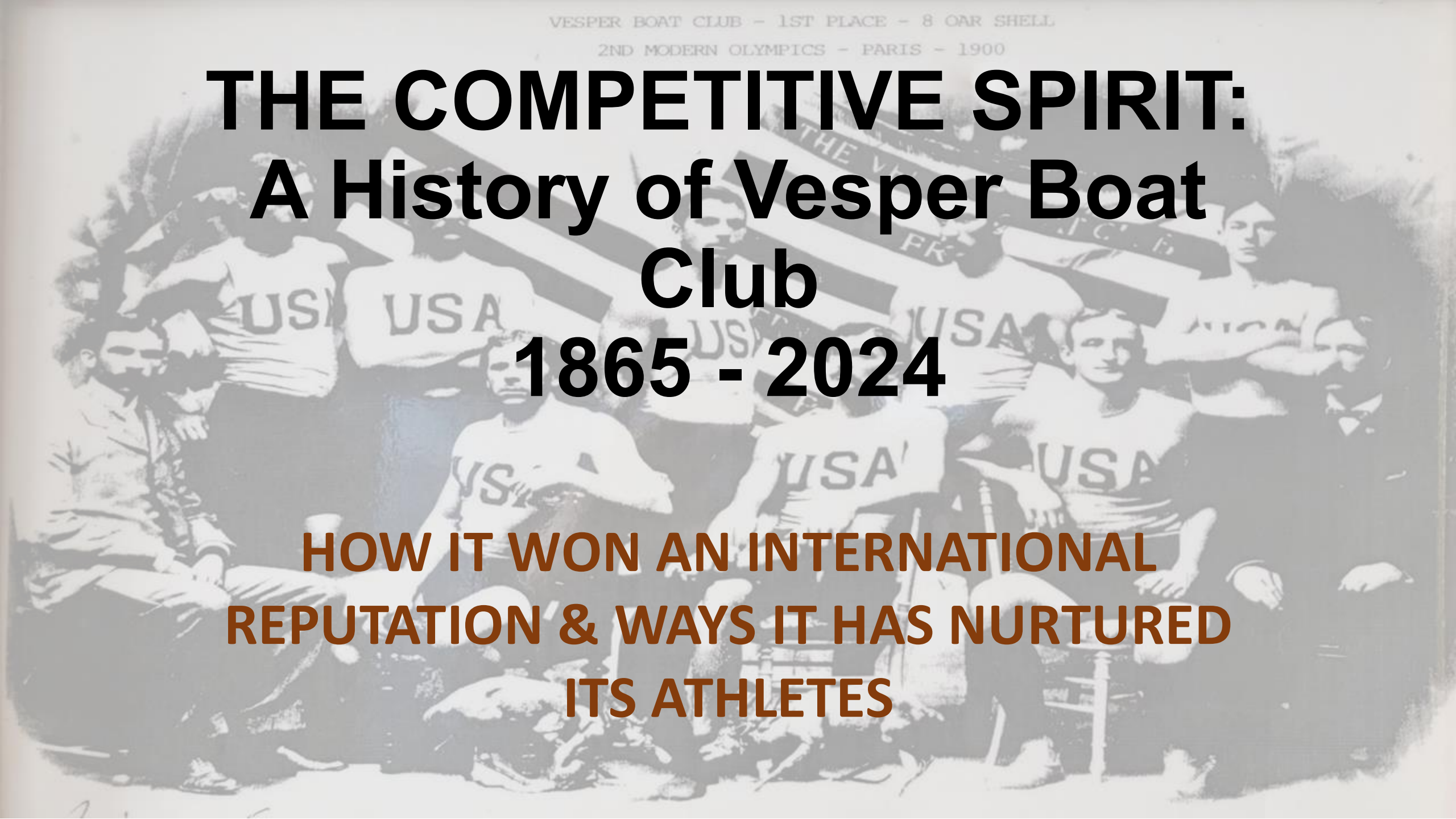


VESPER BOAT CLUB - 1ST PLACE - 8 OAR SHELL

2ND MODERN OLYMPICS - PARIS - 1900

THE COMPETITIVE SPIRIT: A History of Vesper Boat Club 1865 - 2024

**HOW IT WON AN INTERNATIONAL
REPUTATION & WAYS IT HAS NURTURED
ITS ATHLETES**



Story Hour Overview

1865-1910 – The Creation of the Vesper Culture

Dotty Brown

1910-1950's – John B. Kelly – Champion of America

1950's – Kell Ushers in a new era.

JB Kelly and Daniel Boyne

1960's – The Sixties - The Tokyo 1964 Olympic Gold Medal Eight **B**

Boyce Budd, Dietrich Rose and Stan Cwiklinski

1960's & 70's – The Rise of Vesper's International and Olympic Women

Anita DeFrantz, Sue Tuttle Hingley, Jinx Sacco, Sue Hooten

1970 – 1998 – Vesper as an Elite Training Magnet –

Dietrich Rose, John Strotbeck, Dietrich Rose, Ed Gribbin

1998 – 2023 – Vesper - A High Performance Training Center

Michiel Bartman, Ed Gribbin, John Strotbeck.

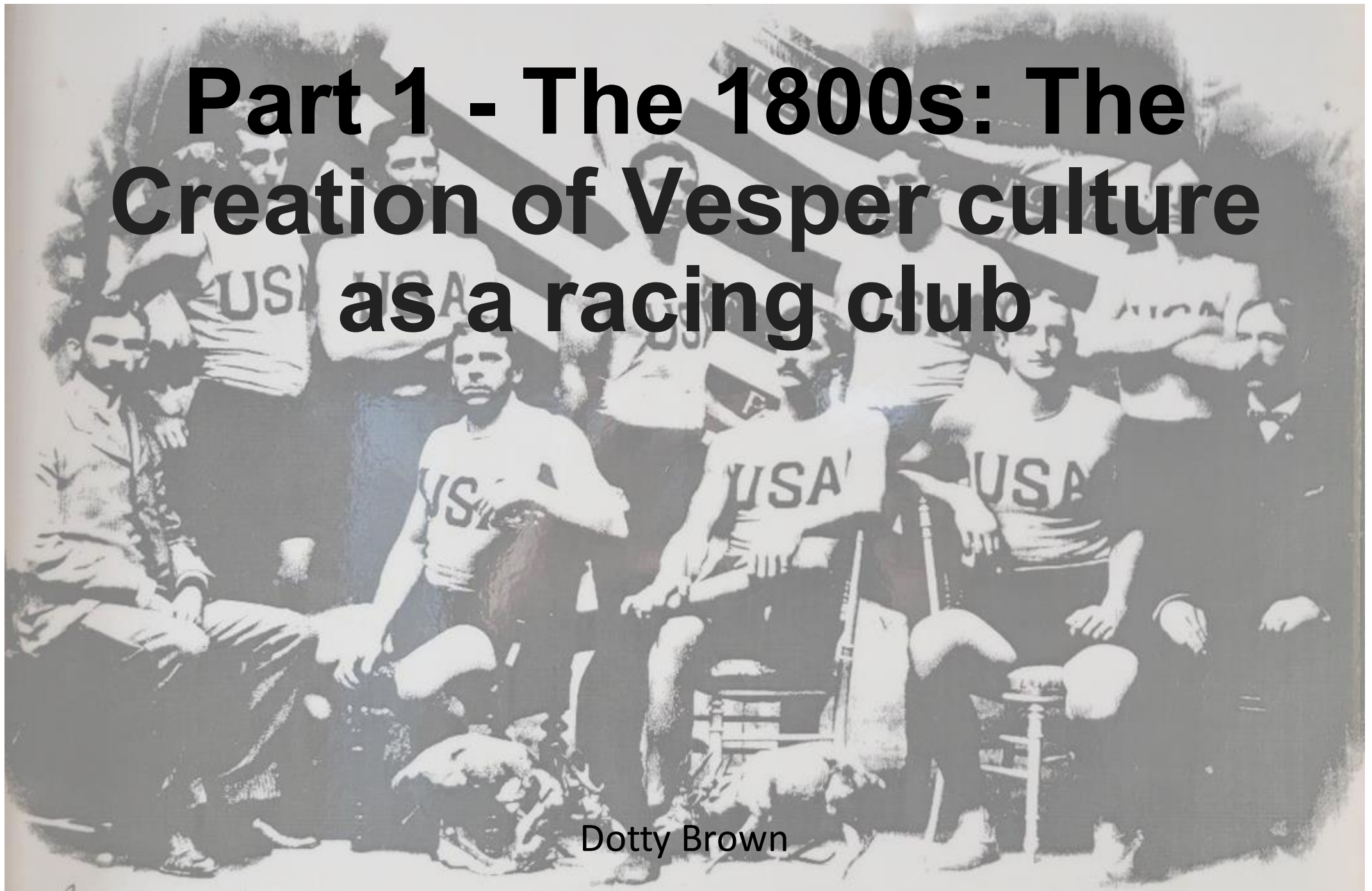
2024 – Vesper – A Senior Development Training Center

JB Kelly and Mike Orzolek, Melissa Hilton

Four Consistent Pillars

- Adherence to the Mission to develop athletes of all levels to win.
- Effective and Relentless recruitment of the best athletes and those with high ambition and desire to get better.
- Top notch Coaching that attracts athletes.
- Financial Support through club membership and leadership.

Part 1 - The 1800s: The Creation of Vesper culture as a racing club



Dotty Brown



1835



1887

Vesper 8 wins National Association
Of Amateur Oarsmen race in
Jamestown, NY on Lake Chautauqua

And they win the Schuylkill Navy Regatta

VESPER BOAT CLUB - 1ST PLACE - 8 OAR SHELL

2ND MODERN OLYMPICS - PARIS - 1900



Original 1900

STANDING - LEFT TO RIGHT, HARRY DE BAECKE #7, EDWIN HEDLEY #3, JAMES B. JUVENAL #6,
WILLIAM J. CARR #4, ROSCOE C. LOCKWOOD, BOB. SEATED - P.A. DEMPSEY, COACH & TRAINER,
EDWARD MARSH #2, JOHN O. EXLEY, STROKE, JOHN J. GEIGER #5, FRED R. FOREMEYER, MANAGER

John Exley, Jr



1900 Paris Olympics



1904 Olympic Champs



1916

John B. Kelly Sr
(standing, center)

Paul Costello
(standing, far left)

Charles McIlvaine
(standing,
3d from right)



Part 2: John B. Kelly Sr. Champion of America

John B Kelly III (JB) , Daniel Boyne



John B. Kelly Sr., Champion of America, 1919



John B. Kelly Sr. defeats Brit Jack Beresford in 1920 Olympics

Paul Costello, left,
John B. Kelly Sr., center
c. 1920s





John B. Kelly Sr. (left) and Joe Burk coaching LaSalle High School crew, 1945



John B. Kelly Sr.
with "Kell," age 8

Kell gets send off from
his sister, Grace Kelly,
14, at the Stotesbury
Regatta, 1944





Kell wins Henley Diamond Sculls in 1947, avenging his father's banning a generation earlier





1931, Vesper wins Schuylkill Navy basketball championship most years – pictured 1931 and 1946

VESPER BOAT CLUB - 1ST PLACE - 8 OAR SHELL

2ND MODERN OLYMPICS - PARIS - 1900

Part 3: John B. Kelly Jr. (Kell) Ushers in A New Era

John B Kelly III (JB) , Daniel Boyne

KELLY
FOR
BRICKWORK
AND
ROWING



JOHN B. KELLY, INC.

... and employment for rowers!



Bill Knecht and Kell, 1954



Senior Vesper Rowers – mid-1950s



SENIOR 150 lbs. DOUBLE
WON BY VESPER B.C., PHILADELPHIA, PA.
BOW-GUS CONSTANT STROKE-RICHARD MAHAN



SENIOR DOUBLE SCULLS
WON BY VESPER B.C., PHILADELPHIA, PA.
BOW-JOE TOLAND STROKE-JACK KELLY, JR.

Bow, Gus Constant; Stroke, Richard Mahan

Bow, Joe Toland; Stroke, John B, Kelly Jr

A formidable squad of competitors through the 40's and 50's



Vesper 1958 – European Championship Crew

HOW WOULD YOU
LIKE A CREW LIKE
THIS, DAD?

HEY KELLY!
W COME I AIN'T
BIG JACK'S
CHAMPION
CREW?

Part 4 – Pursuing Olympic Glory



Dietrich Rose, Boyce Budd, Stan Cwiklinski

Al Rosenberg



Emory Clark



Stan Cwiklinski

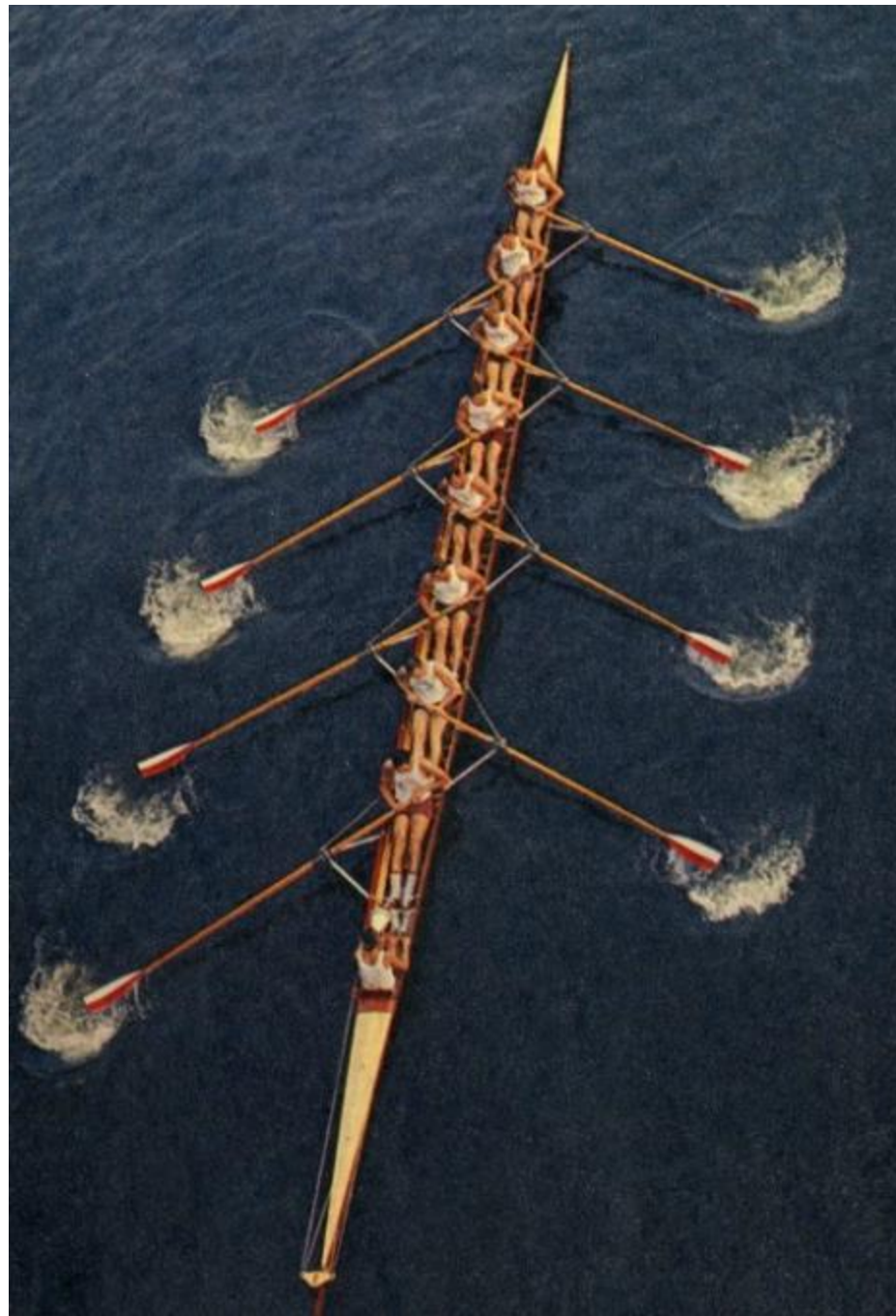


Boyce Budd





A "Motley Crew"



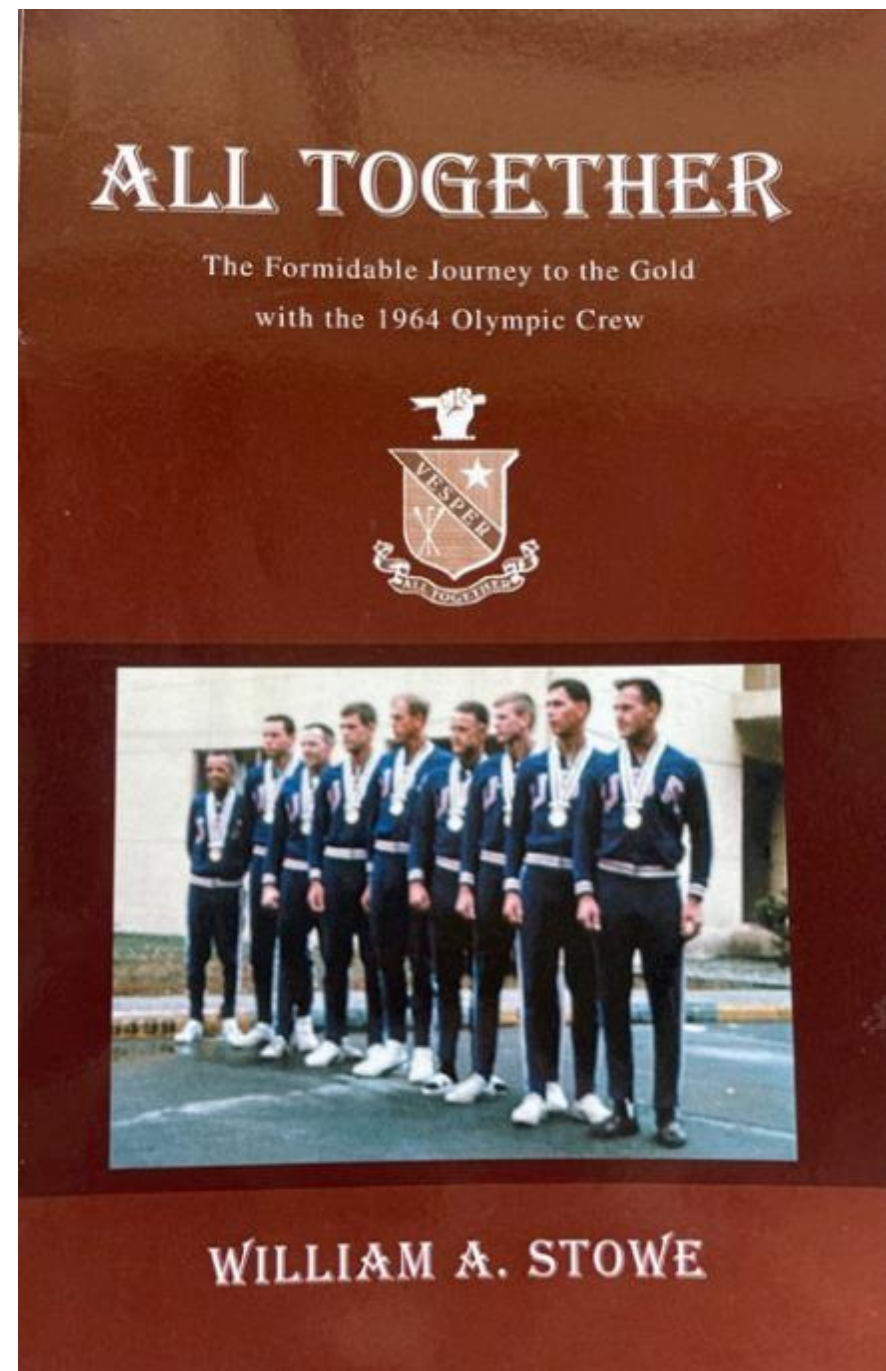
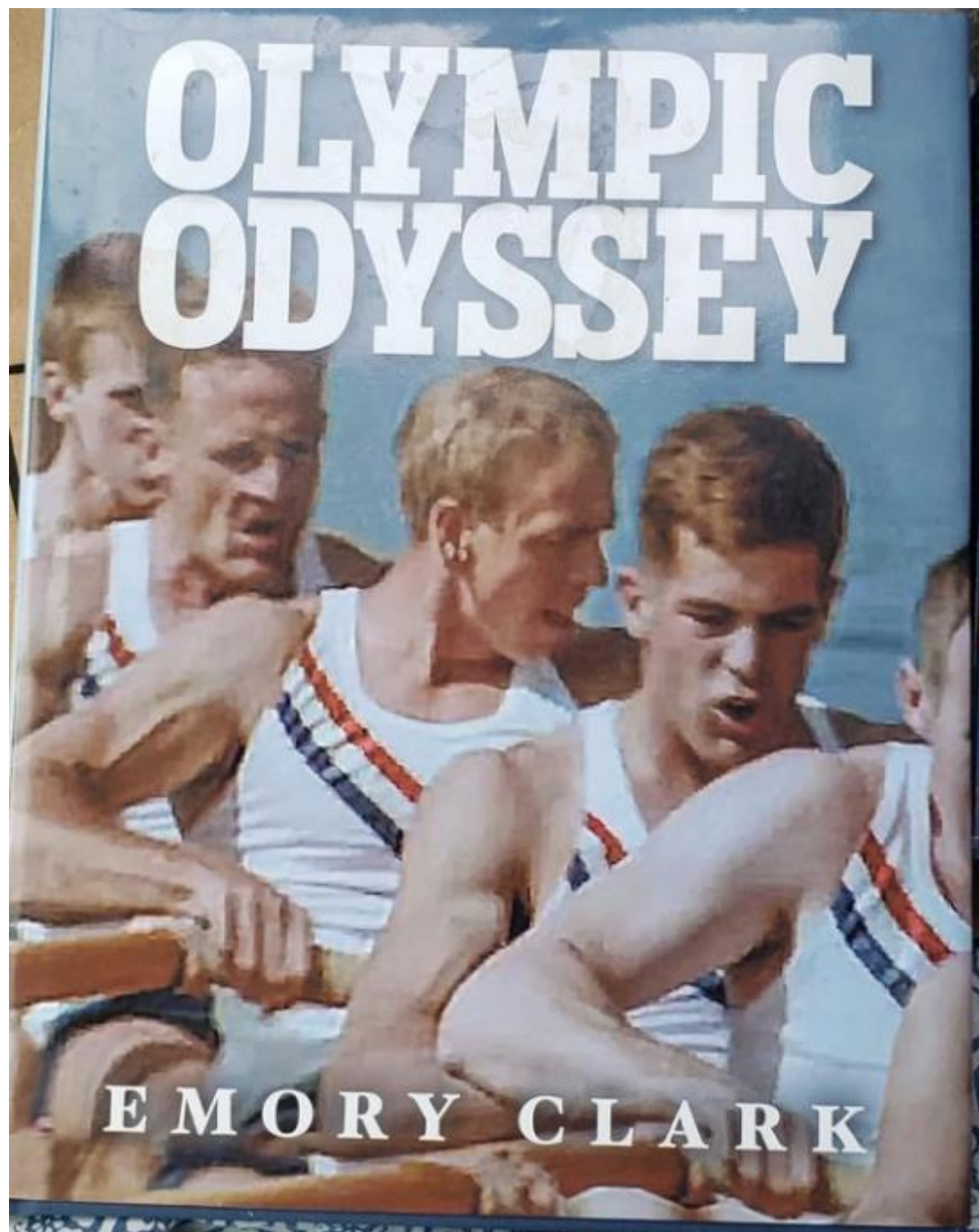


Tokyo Olympics, 1964—a finish in the dark



<https://youtu.be/IPMorgXrgUA?si=ELsy5vzJQF5f7txl>







Part 5 – The Rise of International Women's Rowing

Anita DeFrantz, Sue Hooten, Sue Hingley, Karin Constant, Jinx Sacco



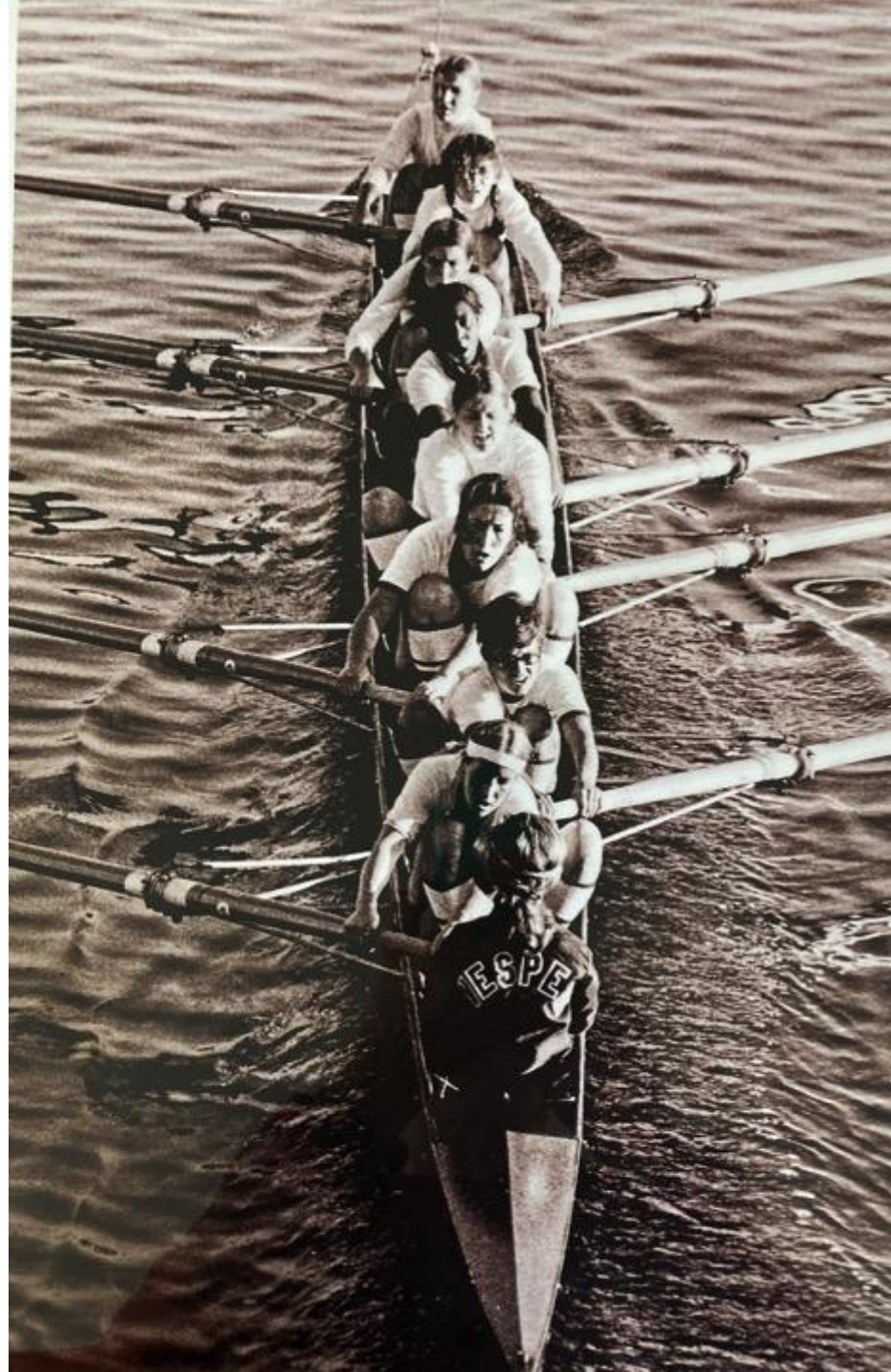
1970, from left: Jinx Becker, Sharon Pierce, Valerie Helenski, and Karin Constant³⁵



Karin Constant



Diane Braceland Vreugdenhil



1: Phyllis Soller

2: Ann Jonik

3: Beth Alspach

4: Cynthia Welcher

5: Lucile Lieb

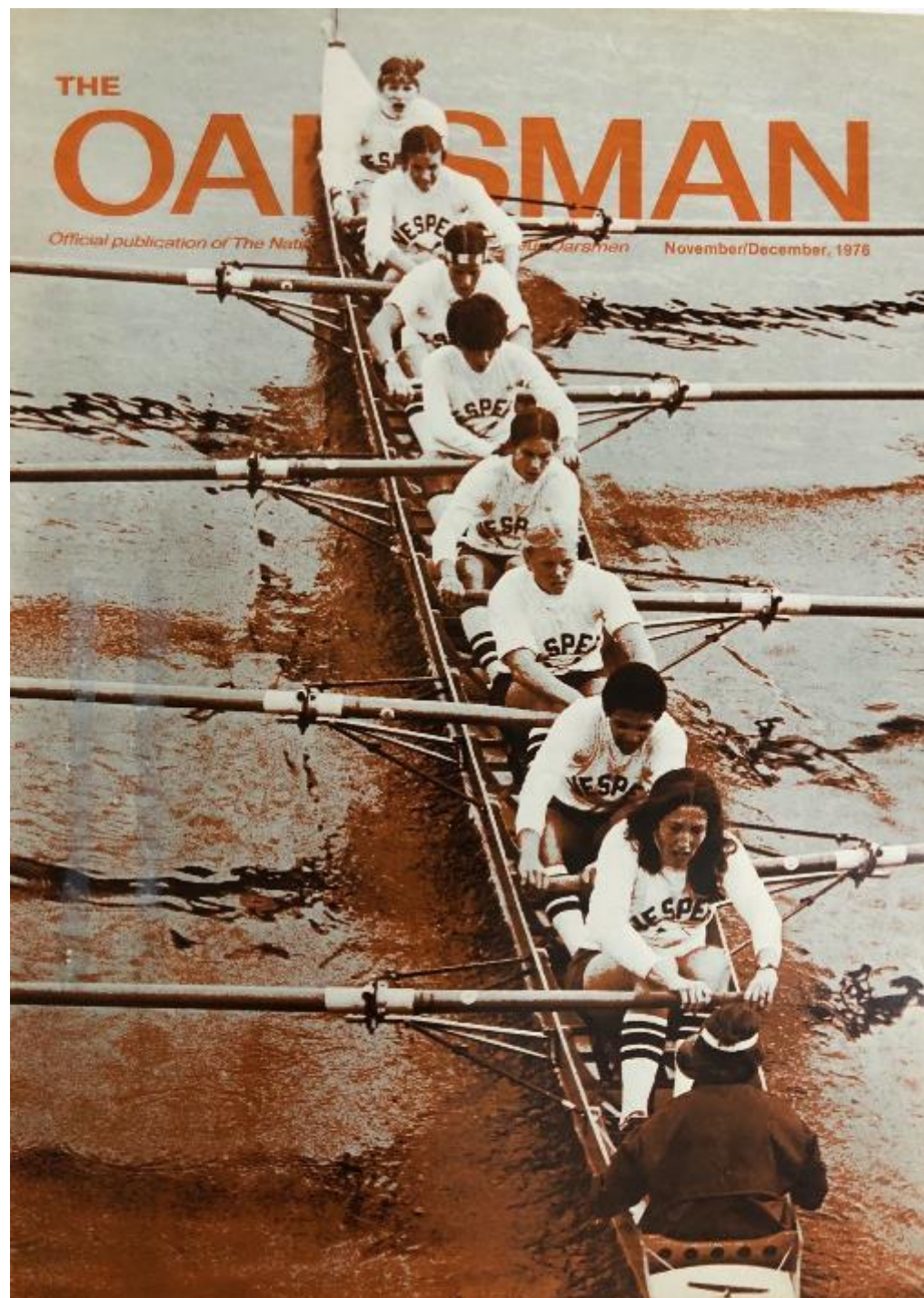
6: Pam Behrens Golding

7: Karin Constant

8: Diane Braceland Vreugdenhil

Cox :Maureen Donahue

1971 Vesper Women
Head of the Charles ³⁸



Phyllis Soller

Jane Cashin Demures

Nancy Storrs

Marie Jonik

Kathy Zagunis

Sue Hooten

Anita DeFrantz

Pam Behrens Golding

Cox Katie Cook Plumb

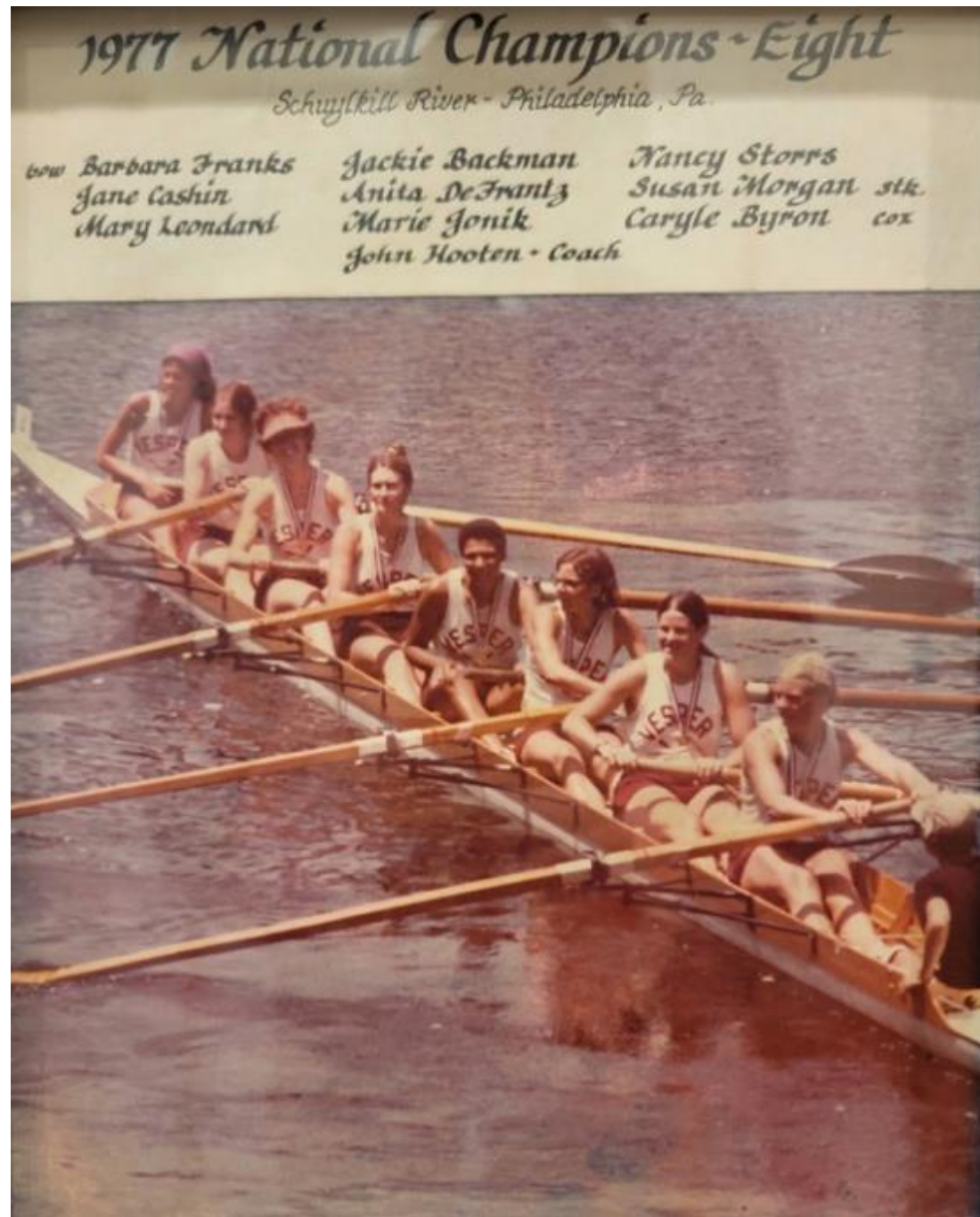
1976



Vesper celebrate victory at 1974 NWRA on Lake Merritt in Oakland



1976 Olympics: Anita DeFrantz, second rower from bottom, captains crew that won bronze



Coached by Vesper's John Hooten, the women's eight wins the 1977 National Championship



Vesper Boat Club

National Champions: 1978

Back row: Julie Eggleston, Sue Tuttle Hingley, Liz Miles, Nancy Storrs, Coz Crawford, Anita DeFrantz, Bets Kent, Ginny Pebbles Kaufman, MaryAnn Welch

Front row: Marie Jonik, Holly Hatton, Ann Jonik, Buddy (Boathouse dog), Mary (Holly's dog)

And they win the 1978 National Championship



In 1978, with John Hooten at Worlds, the women's 4+ win Silver



Women's rowing everywhere now, celebrated on stamps

Part 6: Vesper Continues as an “elite” racing club



Dietrich Rose, Ed Gribbin, John Strotbeck

Race No. 35

5.20

GRAND CHALLENGE CUP

No. 2, Bucks

VESPER BOAT CLUB, U.S.A. (6)

	st	lb		st	lb
Bow S. J. Moroney.....	13	3	5 J. Mathews.....	15	0
2 R. Dreissacker.....	13	3	6 D. Vreugdenhil.....	14	9
3 R. T. Adams.....	13	8	7 P. Hayes.....	13	3
4 W. Miller.....	13	13	Str. C. Coffey.....	14	4
Cox K. Dreyfuss.....	8	0			

Average Weight: 13 12

Colours: Maroon and Grey

No. 1, Berks

LEANDER CLUB AND THAMES TRADESMEN'S ROWING CLUB (2)

	st	lb		st	lb
Bow L. D. Robertson.....	13	0	5 R. J. Ayling.....	15	0
2 W. G. Mason.....	11	10	6 T. J. Crooks.....	14	0
3 J. Clark.....	13	8	7 H. P. Matheson.....	14	4
4 J. C. Yallop.....	13	8	Str. R. C. Lester.....	13	10
Cox P. J. Sweeney.....	8	3			

Average Weight: 13 8

Colours: Cerise/Claret and Green

Times: Barrier 1.45 Fawley..... Finish 6m 13secs
Winner Not. Squad Distance 1 length

Vesper Heavy 8 – Henley Grand Challenge – 1975 – 70th Anniversary of Vesper Disqualification in the same event as “Professionals” (They received pocket money).



Vesper Men's 8 - 1976 Head of the Charles Regatta
Elite 8 - First Place - 1976 Olympians

Stroke, Darrell Vreugdenhil (2+), John Mathews (2+), Tony Brooks (4-), Gary Piatodosi (4-), Phillip Espeseth (Spare), James Moroney (4-), Michael Staines (2-, Silver), Calvin Coffey (2-, Silver), Cox, Robert Jaugstatter

Vesper Elite 8 Winner – HOCR – all in 1976 USA Olympic boats.



USA Lightweight Team 1978 with six Vesper members



Vesper HM 4- Panam Silver – Coach John Bannan – 1983

Vesper LM 4- 1980 – Vesper LM 4- go to Worlds 1978, 1980, 1982 and 1985 – all coached by John Bannan



Mike Quinn
Mark Hanley
Bill Bater
Don Scales
Fred Michini
Kevin Saint Clair
Ed Gribbin
Mike Morrison
Mike O’Gorman – C

Vesper Lightweight 8 winning National Champs – Oak Ridge 1985

1985 World Championships

Hazewinkle, Belgium



Stk: Fred Michini, Vesper

2 : Charlie Cobbs, Princeton

3: Mike Morrison, Vesper

Bow: Ed Gribbin, Vesper

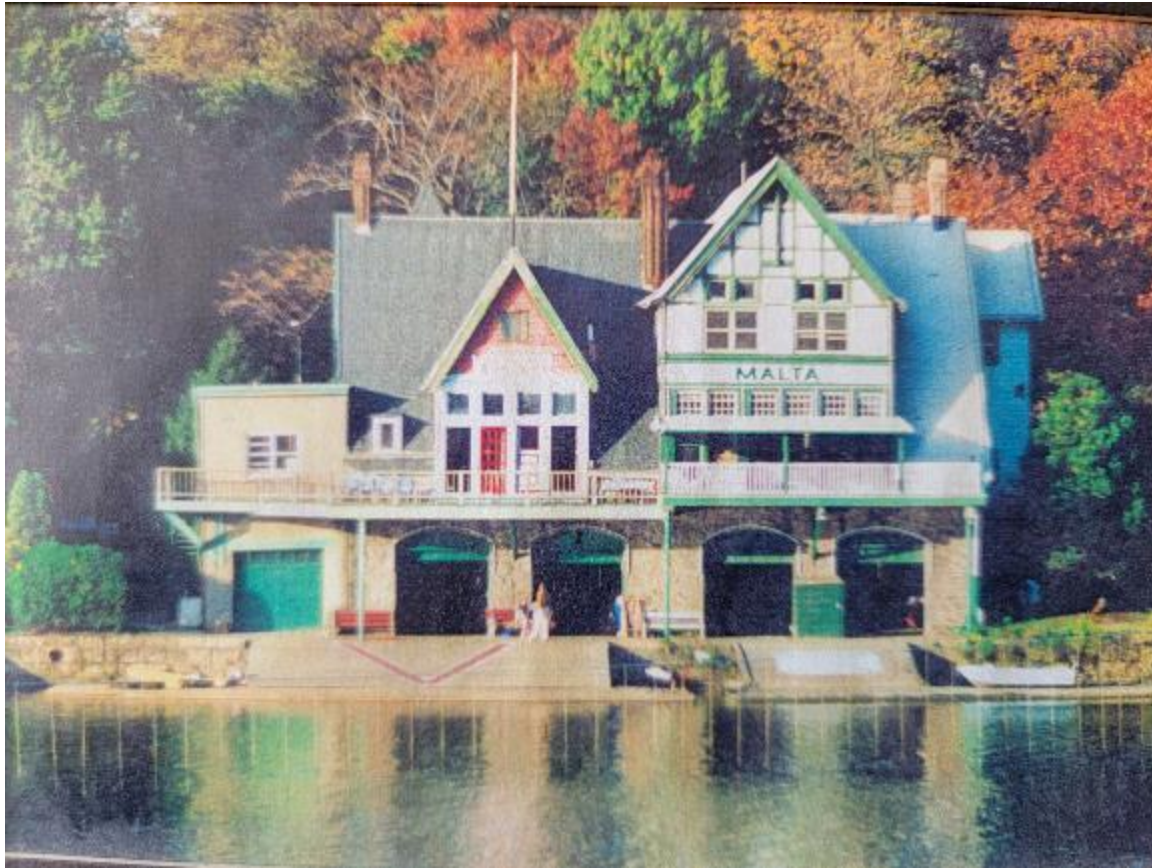


Mike Teti
 John Strotbeck
 Kevin Still
 Ed Ives
 Chris Huntington
 Greg Springer
 John Stillings
 Steve Shellans
 Mark Hanley
 Brennan Agajan
 Jenny Marshall
 Fred Loucks
 Kevin Saint Clair
 Ed Gribbin
 Brian Colgan
 Bill Bater
 Sy Danberg
 Mike Morrison
 Fred Michini
 Liz Miles
 Annette Esben Petersen
 Cindy Swope
 John Younger
 John Bannan - Coach

Vesper Rowers at World Championships in Hazelwinkel, Belgium - 1985



Petry
Danberg
Morrison
Irvine
Saint Clair
Hewitt
O'Gorman



1964- 1994

Winning Races – losing a boathouse

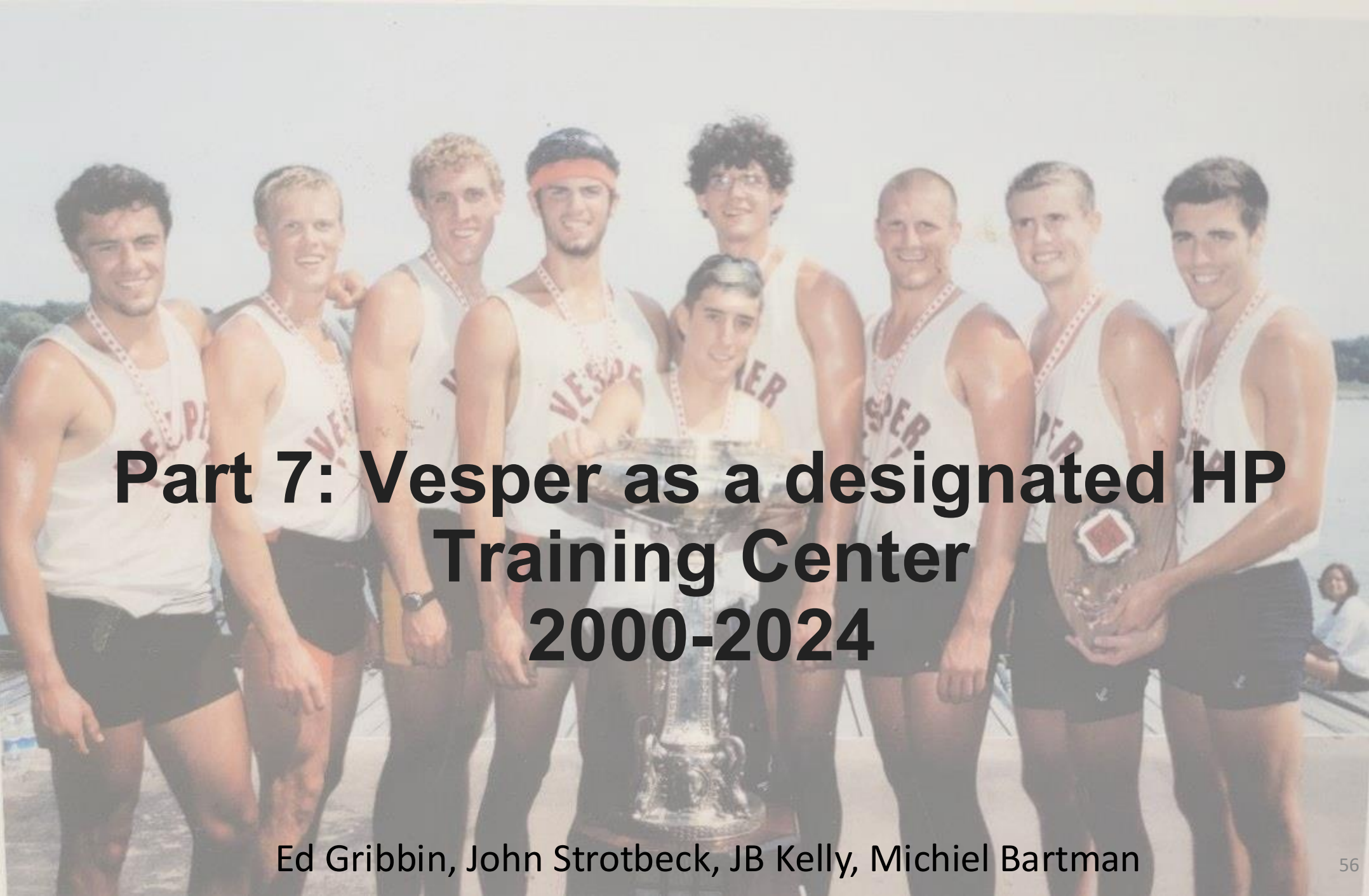


Restoration 1990s



\$1.2 Million was raised by members from members for reconstruction.

Contributing members wanted to know what they were supporting into the future – was the House going to be run into the ground again?



Part 7: Vesper as a designated HP Training Center 2000-2024

Ed Gribbin, John Strotbeck, JB Kelly, Michiel Bartman



Nicole Ritchie and Lindsay Meyer



Senior 8 with Josh Inman, center

HP club members on Multiple National Teams – Men, Women, Heavy and Lightweight



Andrew Byrnes – Olympic Gold 2008



All Vesper LW4x – Worlds Bronze 2008



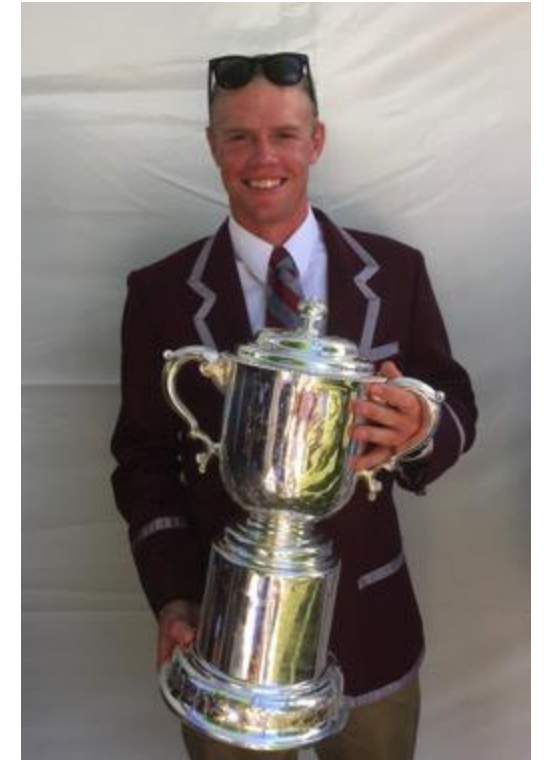
Wins with HP and Summer programs at all regattas – Points trophies in the bag for 20 years



Meg Walsh LW4x –
Worlds Silver 2009



Matt Brown and Jason Caldwell from HP group set fastest
transatlantic time ever in 2016



Schuykill Navy with JP Kirkegaard winning P.O. Wales Challenge at HRR 2016



With Sean Colgan



Former HP Team Members – Jacob Plihal, JP Kirkegaard, Dominique Williams -
Queen Mother Challenge Cup HRR 2022



Former HP Team Members – Mary Jones & Michelle Sechser – Silver LW2x 2023



Part 8: Vesper switches to Senior Development from “HP” 2024 - ?



JB Kelly, Mike Orzolek, Melissa Hilton



Racing Team takes care of Infrastructure

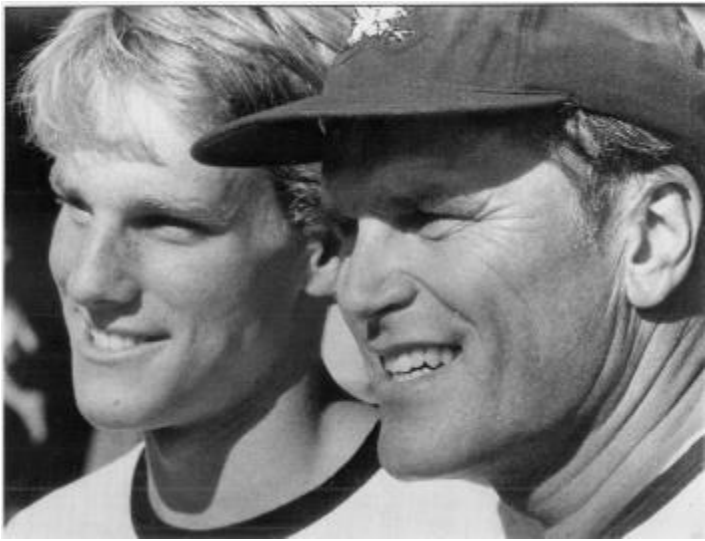


Investment in new boats and training equipment

Team/Community – Boathouse a second home.



Sweep Championship & Club Entries once again in major Head Races – Charles and Schuylkill



Vesper is Generational – Kellys, McIlvaines, Horvats, Colgans, Henwoods, Lawns, Leimkuhlers...



Whether its 1964 or 2024 – The aspirations remain the same