The stage was set. The towering span of the Throgs Neck Bridge loomed overhead. New York City's East River rushed by, sometimes in one direction and sometimes the other. Sixteen teams, over 64 skippers and crews, all top finishers in district championships across the U.S. and Canada, gathered on the docks and around the blue and red 420s of the New York Maritime Academy. Defending champion Princeton was there trying for an unprecedented fourth straight title. Yachtswoman of the Year, Allison Jolly, was there shooting for her third straight A-Division low-point title. Without a doubt, the 11th Annual Women's Intercollegiate National Sailing Championships had all the talent, drama and build-up of a first-rate sporting event. There was even a reporter and a photographer from *Sports Illustrated*.

From the start of the very first race, it was obvious that the eventual winner would have to overcome the challenges of nature as well as her opponents. As is typical around New York City, the wind didn't appear until the afternoon. Even then, the first few races were sailed in a five- to eight-knot breeze and a current that seemed even stronger. In one of these early races, it took some boats over 10 minutes to get across the starting line. With the wind filling in isolated patches, the fleet was spread out over the first two legs before the last boat cleared the line.

Only one division raced at a time, sailing two races and switching boats on the water before coming into the dock to hand the helms over to the other division. Thirty-two races were scheduled, 16 in each division. Although Allison Jolly and crew Karen Kolnick's finishes of 4-2 gave Florida State the lead after the first two races, the University of Rhode Island A-Division team of Sue Thorpe and Meridy O'Dowd finished 1-6 and the B-Division team of Becky Wood and Karen Holt finished 1-2 to give URI the lead. Coached by Kiki Saltmarsh, last year's National Women's Single-handed Champion, URI led through the ninth race with Penn State, Miami of Ohio, Washington, Florida State, Navy, Boston University, Princeton and Berkeley all challenging at one time or another.

Princeton had started slowly with finishes of 7-4-12-6 in the first four races, but a third and a first by Anne Preston and crew Carlyne Renfield in the fifth and sixth races and a first by Dorothy Bedford and crew Lucy Sutphen in the eighth race moved the defending champs into second. Then, in the 10th race, A-Division skipper Preston finished second to URI's 16th, and the lead belonged to Princeton.

As the day went on and the wind steadily increased to 15 knots with an occasional puff at 20,

It was the most talented group of women sailors ever to assemble for an Intercollegiate National Championship. Story by Major Hall and photos by Wendy Thomson.
Princeton's Anne Preston was the A Division low-point skipper while leading her team to the North American Championship.

Princeton slowly increased its lead to 15 points after 16 races at the end of the day. URI had kept the pace for a few races, but then dropped back and ended the day in a tie for second with Yale.

The second day of racing began just as the first—waiting for the breeze to fill in. There was a lot of sunbathing—the Sports Illustrated reporter (she said she had covered a lot of sailing events for SI, but knew nothing about sailing and wasn’t really interested in giving it a try) in all practical purposes, had already won its fourth straight championship.

Anyone familiar with intercollegiate racing knows that such a 17-point lead is not particularly insurmountable—just a little over one place per race. (Just a year earlier, at the men's championship, the eventual winner, Tufts, had trailed Webb by more than 30 points with fewer than half the races left to go.) That elusive thing called momentum, which Princeton definitely now had, could disappear at any time. And, as if to prove this, disaster struck in the 18th race.

With Preston leading comfortably at the weather mark, a tug towing two barges appeared under the bridge. It was obvious that it would interfere with the leaders, but for some unknown reason the judges did not immediately abandon the race and restart. Seeing that the barge would block her path, Preston began heading up for its stern. Meanwhile, those behind spotted a chance to gain and wisely held their courses straight for the jibe mark.

By the time Preston reached the stern of the last barge she had gone so high that she had given away most of her lead. In an effort to not give away any more advantage, she crossed too close behind the barge. As her bow entered the backwash, the boat was violently jibed around and pinned against the barge's broad stern. Efforts to push off were futile. At one point the turbulence threw Preston overboard, and had it not been for her hold on the mainsheet and her crew's quick, helping hand, there might have been an even greater tragedy.

Finally, as the rest of the fleet sailed by and as the Princeton boat was rapidly heading for the White Stone Bridge, one of the crash boats came to the rescue and pushed the trapped 420 out of the backwash. It was to Anne Preston's credit that she got right back into the race, and even salvaged a seventh place. However, she could not help but be shaken by the incident, as was the whole Princeton team. Out of the next five races, the Princeton boats had another seventh, a 12th and two 13ths, one of which resulted from a capsizement while leading a B-Division race.

In the 20th race, Yale took a two-point lead. Yale was a big surprise to many. They had finished third behind Boston University and URI in the New England Championships. And although the A team of Nell Taylor and Starr Cummin and the B team of Liz Hillyer and Sue Daly had been crewing in men's events all year, this Women's Nationals was only their second women's regatta of the season. Here, they had started slowly, finishing in the top five only twice in the first eight races. But from that point until they took the lead, they compiled an amazing record of 2-5-1-3-1-8-4-5-1-2. By the 23rd race, Yale led Princeton by nine points.

But the sign of true champions...
Preston had been the low-point skipper in B Division while Jolly had taken A Division. This year’s performance was a big step up and a satisfying accomplishment for the Princeton senior.

In spite of Preston’s outstanding performance, the key to Princeton’s success may have been in B Division. Most of the year Dorothy Bedford had been somewhat of a question mark. She had shown good ability, but also tended to be inconsistent. Even in the Nationals she proved erratic, starting out with finishes of 12-6-10, hitting a streak of 1-3-4-1 and then slumping again with a 13th, a seventh and a 13th. But when it counted, in the final stretch, she came on with finishes of 4-1-2-1-1 to end up second in B Division behind URI senior Becky Wood.

One reason behind Princeton’s fine sailing on the East River might be because the team traveled to New York Maritime once a week all spring to meet Princeton graduate.

“...But the team that may have the brightest prospects for the future is Navy.”

Art Ellis for practice sessions. Coaches seem to have played more of a role in women’s intercollegiate sailing this year. In addition to Ellis’ help and URI’s Saltmarsh, Skip Whyte did a fine job with fourth-place Boston University.

After Princeton, second through fourth places were New England teams—Yale, URI and Boston U. The East Coast has traditionally dominated women’s intercollegiate sailing and either a New England or Middle Atlantic team has won every national championship. Surprisingly, a West Coast team finished in the top two only once—San Diego, in 1974. This year the top West Coast team was Berkeley, in fifth place.

Princeton’s four straight wins may be a first, but dynasties are nothing new to women’s intercollegiate sailing. Radcliffe won four times, but only three in a row (first in 1968, ’69, ’70, and ’72). MIT was first or second five straight years and six out of eight years. In fact, other than 1967, when Wilson College won the first Women’s Intercollegiate Nationals, Radcliffe, MIT or Princeton have won every championship.

This isn’t to say that there isn’t talent elsewhere. All but three schools won at least one race during the series, and nine teams’ average finishes were within a mere two places of each other.

There also appears to be a lot to look forward to next year. Dorothy Bedford is just a junior, as is Allison Jolly. Yale looks good for next season with both Liz Hillyer (jr.), who finished third in B Division, and Nell Taylor (soph.) returning. Two fine junior sailors, Sue Thorpe of URI and Sandy Ray of Boston U., will make their teams’ national threats.

But the team that may have the brightest prospects for the future is Navy. Since this is the first year women have been allowed to enter the Naval Academy, the seventh-place Navy team was made up of all freshmen. Navy coach Pat Healy is looking forward to having this group, especially third low-point A-Division skipper Kathy Karlson, back for three more years.

Last year, the Men’s Intercollegiate Nationals took place just on the other side of the Throgs Neck Bridge at Kings Point, within sight of New York Maritime. After observing the sailing abilities demonstrated at that event and at this year’s women’s event, I would say that the difference between the two levels of competition is only about as far apart as the two regatta sites—and closing fast.

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1. Princeton
2. Yale University
3. U. of Rhode Island
4. Boston University
5. U. of California at Berkeley
6. University of Toronto
7. U. S. Naval Academy
8. Miami University of Ohio
10. U. of British Columbia
11. Florida State University
12. Indiana University
13. University of Washington
14. U. of California at Santa Cruz
15. University of Texas
16. University of Virginia

A-Division Leaders
1. Ann Preston (sr) Princeton
2. Allison Jolly (jr) Florida St.
3. Kathy Karlson (fr) Navy

B-Division Leaders
1. Becky Wood (sr) URI
2. Dorothy Bedford (jr) Princeton
3. Liz Hillyer (fr) Yale

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YACHT RACING
Not yet ready to burn their bridges

In a short span, coeds have won acceptance on sailing varsities, but until they are as skilled as men, women find their own regatta a dandy test, especially when it is held in New York City’s turbulent waters.

The traffic plying New York City’s crowded East River was even worse last week, being snarled by a fleet of racing dinghies manned by the best women sailors from 16 U.S. and Canadian colleges. In the murky water off the Bronx, home port of host Maritime College, they battled for the top awards in the 11th annual women’s intercollegiate championships, while trying to avoid collisions with tugs, speedboats, tankers, destroyers, yachts, fishing boats and each other.

In the mid-’60s women, who had long been barred from college sailing, decided to hold a regatta of their own. The event has not yet outlived its usefulness, though it someday may as coeds become more proficient and find increased acceptance on college varsities. In small boat racing, women can compete on an equal footing with men. Two of the skipper in the intercollegiates, Allison Jolly of Florida State and Anne Preston of Princeton, have proved that.

Jolly, America’s Yachtswoman of the Year for 1976 and defending champion in the A Division of the intercollegiates, had finished second in the Timme Angsten Trophy race in Chicago, which draws the best male college skippers. The only other woman skippering in the Timme was Preston. She did not do well on that occasion but is considered the finest sailor of either sex at Princeton and one of the top 10 in the country. She had won the B, or second, Division skipper award for two straight years at the intercollegiates. Now she was moving up to A to do battle with Allison Jolly.

The 20-year-old champion very nearly did not defend. To get to the East River races, a school had to survive regional eliminations and send an A and a B team to New York. Because it was exam time, Jolly had difficulty rounding up the requisite three women to accompany her. In the end, she convinced a 4’11”, 80-pound sophomore, Karen Kolinick, whose sailing experience consisted of a six-week beginner’s course, that she was ready for national competition. Florida State would not have depth but it had warm bodies. Next came the drive north, 20 straight hours in a car Jolly rented at her own expense. Allison’s crew would be Anne Batchelder. The B boat would be handled by Susan Stone and Kolinick.

The triangular course for the 32 races lay between the mighty Throgs’ Neck and Whitestone bridges, near where the river flows into Long Island Sound. The current is strongly affected by the tides and in the words of Commander Dick Chesebrough, Maritime’s sailing coach and chairman of the races, “It goes the way it damn well pleases.” On Sunday morning when the regatta began, it pleased to pull in the direction of the Sound, and that, combined with light winds from the north, made sailing the 12-foot 420s up to the starting line and on the windward leg a struggle for the crews.

The University of Rhode Island A team correctly assessed both wind and current and led through much of the one-mile course to win the first race. The wind was fickle: dying, springing up, then faltering again. “What can you expect when they’re sailing in the middle of the Bronx,” said one observer. The situation was further complicated by Sunday sailors who every few minutes roared through the course at full throttle, their wakes threatening to swamp the racers.

Jolly finished second in two of the first four races and Preston was well placed near the head of the fleet. By the fourth race the current had reversed. As the day progressed and the wind built, it became harder and harder for the less experienced women to deal with the conditions. The B team from the University of Texas was the first to capsize. Jeanne McCarthy of Austin came up sputtering, “Filthy water.” Her skipper, Kit Fugate, said, “It’s not so bad if you don’t look at what’s floating around you.”

Homeward-bound fishing boats, their rails lined with anglers, plowed through the racing triangle, and two U.S. Navy destroyers steamed slowly by to dock at the nearby Naval Reserve Station. The University of Washington, British Columbia, Rhode Island, Yale, Princeton, the Naval Academy and Florida State took A races. Rhode Island also won the first B race when Skipper Becky Wood of Newport gained the lead at the jibe mark and held it to the finish. Other B winners included Yale, University of California at Santa Cruz, Princeton, Miami of Ohio and British Columbia.

A brief delay occurred after the sixth race when four men and a dog in a Boston Whaler stole the large red ball used

continued
as the weather mark. Chesebrough took off after the thieves in the judges’ boat, and with the boat’s siren wailing and the dog barking, the chase headed toward Manhattan. The culprits were caught at the Whitestone Bridge, herded back to the college and turned over to the police. At the end of the first day and eight races in each division, Anne Preston led Allison Jolly by one point in the A Division, and Becky Wood, with four seconds and a first, headed the Bs.

Jolly had more to worry about than the one point, however. The 80-pound crew she had recruited was having difficulty coping as the wind increased. Watching the final B races of the day, Jolly groaned, “Oh no, Karen’s going to kill me.” The Florida State boat finished last in the two contests.

The next morning the difficulty was no wind. Chesebrough assured the women that when the haze lifted so they could see the skyline of Manhattan, a breeze would be on the way. They waited all morning, sunbathing in bikinis and shorts on the docks and balcony of the Sailing Center. The Princeton team read trash novels, while the Navy A skipper, Kathy Karlson, studied an engineering text. The Naval Academy had entered the women’s championships in style. With Navy pride at stake, the all-plebe team was determined to do well. Unlike the Santa Cruz women who showed movies on campus and tapped local merchants and their parents to raise money for the trip, or the Miami of Ohio sailors, who tried a candy sale (“It bombed”), Navy was well financed and organized by a very vocal and visible coach, Patrick Healy. Karlson’s engineering exam was to be held that evening at Maritime, a Navy professor having accompanied the team to administer final exams on the spot.

At one o’clock the haze lifted, a breeze rippled the water and the women returned to the boats. The second event of the day almost ended in tragedy. Preston and her crew, Caroline Penfield, were around the weather mark first and heading for the jibe mark when a tug, pulling two 50-foot barges loaded with sand, crossed directly in front of them. Preston, aware that as fleet leader she would be penalized the most by any delay, tried to round the end of the second barge with only 20 feet to spare, but suddenly, her boat was sucked into the wake. She was thrown overboard as the 420

continued
slammed into the barge. Luckily, Preston kept a grip on the mainsheet, or she might have drowned in the powerful undertow. With the help of her crew, she struggled back into the craft, but it took the assistance of two men from the race committee to free the dinghy from the suction of the barge. Returning to the competition, the Princeton team, demonstrating superb sailing skill, worked up through the fleet and finished a respectable seventh.

When the A crews returned to shore, one contestant berated the men for interfering—they might have caused Preston to be disqualified. Allison Jolly interrupted the coed. "A girl’s out there drowning and you’re worried about him upsetting the race? Where are your priorities?" That ended the discussion.

The wind increased until it was piping along at a brisk 15 knots, with stronger gusts. Boats began to capsize, some turning turtle, their crews being either too light or too tired to right them. The 13th A race was won by identical twins from Penn State, Carol and Mary Park, and the 14th was taken by the Navy crew of Karlson and Becky Olds after Coach Healy had shouted, "Hey, I’ve got your nails ready for dinner."

Jolly returned from that race to discover that Kolnick had given out completely, a victim of the wind, exhaustion and a dunking. The Florida State B team suffered two disqualifications when it was unable to enter the final races. On Monday evening, with only two races remaining in each division, Preston led Jolly by five points, and Rhode Island looked solid in the Bs.

The next morning a first and a second clinched the A title for Preston. The Princeton B team of Dorothy Bedford and Lucy Stuphen won the remaining races, but that wasn’t enough to catch Becky Wood of Rhode Island. For Wood, who was fired from her summer job as a waitress for attending the championships, the trophy was nice compensation. Princeton won its fourth consecutive Nancy Fowle Trophy as the top school.

When it was all over, Preston, who plans to go on to get a Ph.D. in economics at Harvard, expressed the hope that there would soon be no necessity for a women’s intercollegiate sailing championship.

But for now? "Well," she smiled shyly, "it’s nice to win."
Sports

The Women are National Champs

Princeton's women can't seem to stop winning. The latest victory comes from the women's varsity sailing team, which took first-place this summer in the Women's Collegiate Championships at Newport Harbor, Calif. Of the three national titles won by Princeton teams last year, two were won by women (squash and tennis); Princeton's men shared the national squash title with Harvard.

Princeton's sailing team, composed of Nina Nielsen '76, Marilee Allan '75, Anne Preston '77, and Alice Cooney '76, posted the top score of 75 points in the 134-team field. The teams competed in a series of 20 races over a 2 1/2-mile Olympic course. They sailed their 14 1/2-foot sloops about nine hours each day. Princeton's women reached the nationals after winning the Middle Atlantic Championships in

Two Champions

Two of Princeton's most unheralded athletes are Carol Brown '75 and Janet Youngholm '75.

Who are they? They are national champions in their field; they defeated a strong Soviet team last year; they are the fifth-best in the world.

Their sport is crew, and Carol Brown and Janet Youngholm row together in the pairs without coxswain sculls. In June, they won the national collegiate title in Oakland, Calif., with an astonishing 16-second victory over the second-place scull on a 1,000-meter course.

After that victory, they were designated by the Olympic Women's Rowing Committee to represent the United States in the World Championships in Lucerne, Switz. This summer, they finished second in the semifinal heat, one length ahead of a strong Soviet pair. In the world finals, they finished fifth out of six shells.

Summers Dismissed

The fall sports season kicked off with a controversy that had been brewing all summer long. The university has not renewed the contract of Bill Summers, Princeton's varsity tennis and squash coach. Summers has appealed the decision to a special employee grievance board.

At a time when most of the heat from the athletic department has been on coaches with losing records, the ouster of Summers was a considerable surprise. Last year, his squash team tied for the national championship and his tennis team went undefeated and won the Eastern championship. In three years as varsity tennis coach, Summers compiled a 39-4 record. As squash coach, he has recorded a 37-17 varsity record. Last year, he was one of nine men nominated by the national coaches' association as tennis coach-of-the-year.

According to the Princetonian, Summers was dismissed because several tennis players, including two team captains, complained to Royce Flippin '56, Director of Athletics, about Summers' coaching style. After meeting several times with the students, Flippin informed Summers that his contract would not be renewed one month before it expired on June 30.

A three-employee review committee will hear out Summers' grievance in a formal proceeding, the first of its kind at Princeton. Summers had originally asked that he be represented at the hearing by John H. Thatcher Jr. '53, an alumnus from Englewood, N.J., but the committee's secretary ruled that he could only be represented by an employee of the university. Summers will be represented instead by Rich Robinson, assistant track coach.

Alumni Pros

Here with our fall report on Princeton alumni in the professional football leagues. Kerry Brown '74, who set Princeton's single-game and season pass reception marks during his career here, was cut during pre-season training by the Chicago Fire of the World Football League. Doug Blake '72 and Rod Plummer '72 have also been cut by WFL teams.

Still alive and well in the pros are Karl Chandler '74 with the New York Giants, Carl Barisich '73 with the Cleveland Browns, and Hank Bjorklund '72 with the New York Jets.

* * *

Donald B. Lourie '22, a Walter Camp All-America quarterback in 1920, has become the eighteenth former Princeton player to be elected to the National Football Foundation Hall of Fame. Lourie will be formally inducted into the honor ranks at ceremonies during the November 9 Harvard game and at the annual Hall of Fame Dinner in New York City on December 10.

* * *

Despite Princeton's problems on the gridiron, the 1973-74 sports year was not so bad. Princeton's 18 varsity men's teams produced an overall .590 winning percentage during the year; the women's teams finished with an impressive .762 percentage. Princeton's men were undefeated in tennis and golf and tied with Harvard for the national squash title. Both the swimming and tennis teams won Eastern championships.

Princeton's women were undefeated in squash and tennis and won the national squash title, the national collegiate sailing title, and the Eastern swimming and Eastern tennis championships.

In all men's sports, Princeton ranks third in the Ivy League these days, behind Penn and Harvard. The chart shows the results of last year's inter-Ivy competitions.

FORMAL LEAGUE RECORDS

(Includes League contests only in football, soccer, basketball, fencing, hockey, squash, swimming, wrestling, baseball, lacrosse and tennis. Figures in parentheses indicate number of leagues in which each college participated.)

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SCHOLARSHIP