

# CAMBRIDGE CREW WINS OVER OXFORD

## Easily Captures Annual Boat Race on Thames by Four and One-Half Lengths.

PUTNEY, England, April 1 (Associated Press).—Cambridge easily defeated Oxford in their annual boat race over the Putney-to-Mortlake course on the Thames today, the Light Blue winning by four and one-half lengths, and thereby recording its fourth consecutive victory. The official time was 19 minutes 27 seconds.

The race was a one-sided affair, lacking the thrills of last year's contest when the rivals see-sawed the entire distance. The Oxford crew finished in an exhausted state, five of the men, including the stroke, appearing much distressed, while only one man in the Cambridge boat was visibly affected.

Cambridge won the toss and chose the northern side of the river. This gave the Cambridge crew a great advantage, with the best of the wind and water throughout nearly the whole course, owing to the strong northeasterly wind.

After a false start the crews got away, Oxford rowing 38 and Cambridge 36. At the end of the first mile Cambridge was leading by a quarter of a length.

### Light Blues Increase Lead.

When they had rowed approximately two miles Cambridge had increased her lead to a full length, rowing 37 and Oxford 36. The Light Blues were fully two lengths ahead at the end of the third mile and they gradually increased their lead to the end of the four and one-half-mile course.

The Cambridge crew averaged 179¼ pounds and the Oxford rowers 172. There were five veterans in each boat.

As a precaution against drowning or damage to the boat, Cambridge insured the life of each member of the crew for £500 and the boat for £125. This is the first time in history that such a precaution was taken.

Oxford backers before the race claimed that April Fool's Day was a good omen for their crew, as within the past forty years the race had been rowed five times on April 1 and Oxford won each time.

Early in the afternoon a bleak, biting east wind, which followed an early morning sleet and snow storm, was chopping up the river, but despite the almost arctic weather crowds assembled at points of vantage to cheer their respective favorites. The largest number assembled in the vicinity of Barnes Bridge, about a mile from the finish line.

As the time for the race drew near Cambridge seemed to be the general favorite. Besides having the heavier and stronger crew, the Light Blues had the advantage of being stroked by the veteran Hartley, who was instrumental in the previous two victories for Cambridge.

### Oxford's Star Replaced.

At the same time Oxford had gained many supporters, especially in the last two days. Oxford's strongest man, G. H. Barter, at No. 4, strained his back muscles in a practice spin, and was replaced today by J. E. Pedder.

Today's meeting was the seventy-third contest between the universities since 1829, nearly a century ago, when the same historic course was lashed by the sixteen oars of the Dark Blue and the Light Blue. The race, as an annual event, was definitely established in 1856.

Prior to today's meeting Oxford had finished first thirty-nine times and Cambridge thirty-two, the 1877 contest—the most strenuously contested in the history of the classic—being a tie. Cambridge, moreover, has now won eleven of the eighteen contests since 1900.

A month ago both crews finished training on their home waters. The Cambridge eight outweighed the Dark Blue today about eleven pounds to the man. Except for the stroke and coxswain, each position in the Oxford boat was filled by a lighter oar. Four of the Oxfordians were under 168 pounds, and only one of them tipped the beam above 180 pounds.

In addition to the intense rivalry between the two institutions, interest was stirred up this year when C. C. Drinkwater inaugurated the American system in the preliminary training of the Oxford crew. R. P. P. Howe, succeeding Harcourt Gold of prewar fame, was the coach in charge when the Dark Blue dipped in today.

Cambridge won the last race before the war in 1914, and when the series was resumed in 1920 took the measure of Oxford, repeating again last year. Oxford has enjoyed two long periods of winning crews, taking each contest from 1861 to 1869, and duplicating this record in the 1890-98 period. The best string for Cambridge covered the five years, 1870-74.

The annual Thames regatta is a feature event on the calendar of every Englishman. Since it was firmly established as an annual event the British public has taken almost universal interest in the outcome, and not once has the contest been canceled or postponed, regardless of choppy waves or high winds.

The contest of 1872, taken by Cambridge, was rowed in a raging snow-storm which at times completely obscured the crews from the spectators. In 1898 Oxford finished first after both shells had fought a gale. As late as 1912 both boats sank and a second start had to be made, Oxford winning.