



SNP/Randy Brown (2)

Griggs Rowing Club members (from left) Tom Dillon, Seth Watterson, Torsten Krell, Vic Krell, Dena Hartman, Gene McShane, Matt Huffman and Joyce Jacobson practice under the guidance of an Ohio State University crew club member Friday evening at Griggs Reservoir.

Rowing

'Ivy League' sport finds Columbus converts

By C.J. Rush
SNP Staff Writer

Rowing neophytes in the Griggs Rowing Club know they aren't just learning how to propel an eight-man boat; they are studying the physics of relaxation.

The club, begun earlier this summer, has spawned dozens of rowing converts.

Members attended either the just-ended 6:15 a.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday morning sessions or the ongoing 6:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday evening rowing classes, taught this summer by Ohio State University rowing coach Brian Winkler.

THE CLASSES were held on the waters of Griggs Reservoir.

"It's quite a shock to realize there's a right way and a wrong way to do this," said Grandview Heights resident Gene McShane.

"They take something that seems very natural and make you start to



Grandview Heights resident Gene McShane learns the fine points of rowing.

think about it as you go through the stroke.

"Sometimes you come away so frustrated at yourself for screwing up everybody in the boat. Nonetheless, the next time, you just want to get back out there and do it again. There's no hesitation."

The time of day for classes was chosen to accommodate work

"The next time, you just want to get back out there and do it again."

schedules and to avoid motor boats and water skiers.

"ON A hot, muggy evening, it's 10 or 15 degrees cooler out there," McShane said of the river.

"It's nice to go down in the morning with the mist on the water and watch the sun come up," said Laura Mobley of the Grandview area.

"It is hard work, but the motion of the boat and concentrating early in the morning got me set for the day."

The coach is so hooked on rowing, he spent his summer volunteering his time, teaching others to row, to create a new community of rowers.

(Continued on page 5)

• ROWING

(Continued from page 1)

"In rowing," he said, "just about everything you do is wrong until you do it right."

"The oars are about 14 feet long. If you don't put the blade in the water perfectly vertically, it dives to the bottom and you get knocked over backwards."

"After awhile you get 'muscle memory,' like with playing the piano. You get really comfortable and have a hard time messing up."

The allure of boating comes from "the Ivy League mystique," said Winkler, a proponent of teaching people in eight-man boats instead of smaller boats.

"IT'S LIKE an eight-cylinder engine is a lot more smooth than a four-cylinder engine."

Boats are provided by OSU. Participants were required to join the Griggs Rowing Club or the Greater Columbus Rowing Association.

"The level of instruction was incredible," McShane said. "This was the best 75 bucks I ever spent."