

Spartan Spotlight

Doug Brubaker

By [Interviewed By: Ben Yavitt](#)

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Doug Brubaker is a junior on the Case Western Reserve Crew Club. Brubaker is from Powell, Ohio and is majoring in math.

Ben Yavitt: Welcome Doug. How long have you been rowing?

Doug Brubaker: Two years.

BY: Two years on the open water. You would make a novice pirate. What inspired you to start?

DB: After three years of swimming and a brief stint on the Case swim team, I discovered I couldn't swim, so I decided to compete on the water instead of in it. Not that I'm any better off if I fall into the river, which I have done...

BY: I hope you had on a life vest, or at least some arm floaties. Do have hobbies?

DB: Singing, reading, putting out fires on the Cuyahoga River.

BY: Only in Cleveland. Who is your favorite athlete?

DB: Patrick Delbarba. Best rowing doubles partner and worst tennis doubles partner one could ask for. It's a good thing there are no balls in our boat.

BY: Yeah, maybe stick to singles for tennis. Do you have any academic honors?

DB: Dean's List, Santa's Nice Boys List, spelling everything correctly on my grocery list.

BY: I have yet to make it onto Santa's Nice Boy List. He skips my house every year. What is your best rowing memory?

DB: Winning a gold medal against 18 boats at my hometown regatta this past weekend ranks up there.

BY: That sounds better than Case's homecoming. What is your worst rowing memory?



Observer

DB: A few weeks ago another school's boat, an eight, crashed into my double, just two of us, and snapped my oar in half. I really liked those oars and no other shaft feels quite the same...

BY: I had no idea rowing was a contact sport. What is your favorite quote?

DB: You never realize how big rowers are until you see their tiny cox (coxswain, that is).

BY: I guess size does matter. Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

DB: Probably still in school. If you know me, then you know I probably will never make up my mind about exactly what I want to be when I grow up, especially since I never plan to.

BY: Sounds like your plan is to not have a plan. If you could invite any three people to dinner, living or dead, who would it be and why?

DB: I would invite Michael Flatley with the cast of Riverdance to provide the entertainment, MacGyver since he could cook the meal with a toothbrush, a hand grenade, and a harmonica, and whichever girl is brave enough to put up with all of this.

BY: I don't see anyone lining up yet. What is your least favorite thing about rowing?

DB: The extra administrative stuff we have to do as a club sport that the school takes care of for varsity sports is actually really a hassle. We compete just as much as some of the varsity teams, beat Division I teams, and yet we can't get PE credit for it.

BY: What is the one thing that most people don't know about rowing?

DB: People don't realize that rowing is actually a leg sport more than anything else. Originally rowers just used their arms, back, and shoulders to row, but one year the Yale crew showed up to the annual Harvard-Yale race and changed the sport forever. The Yale rowers greased their boat's deck and wore leather pants so that they could slide their legs while rowing. They annihilated the Harvard crew who only used their upper body. From that point onward rolling seats were introduced to boats and the sport changed from an upper body one to a lower body one.

BY: I had no idea. Now I know that about rowing, so if I ask you this question again, you need to give me a different answer. What goes through your mind during a race?

DB: Epic Celtic music.

BY: Remind me to add that to my pump-up mix. What is the high point of the crew season?

DB: The high points come this weekend and next when we compete in Boston at Head of the Charles and in the spring when we face off against the UAA conference and Division I schools like Indiana University, Ohio University, and Penn State at the West Virginia Governor's Cup. For me personally, it was seeing our novice rowers succeed this past weekend in their first-ever regatta.

BY: The younglings are growing up. Who is the best athlete you have competed with and why?

DB: My assistant coach Bob Gannon. He is primarily a sculler (a two-oar rower), and at one point I only knew how to sweep (use one oar). The two of us jumped into a boat together for our alumni regatta and

everybody on the team but me knew that Bob had never rowed a two person sweep boat before, the type of boat most prone to flipping over. We pulled it together and took gold however, but not before he told me he had no idea what he was doing...great confidence booster before a race...

BY: We should row together. I have never been in a boat before. Any insights on the season so far?

DB: Case Crew has had an extremely successful season so far. We have two boats going to Head of the Charles, the biggest fall regatta in the country. Our new rowers, a novice class of 25, had their first regatta this past weekend. Half of the men medaled and all of the women took home silvers in their races, quite an accomplishment for a regatta as competitive as this one. Finally, we have the potential to send several boats to our version of collegiate nationals, the Dad Vail Regatta in May.

BY: Thanks a lot Doug. Keep up the good work this season!