

WHEN DID YOU START ROWING?

OLIVIA SCHNUR - *I started rowing when I was in eighth grade.*

MEREDITH BLANCHARD - I started rowing on the middle school team in eighth grade and joined the novice team in fall of my freshman year.

ALEXANDRA WILKOWSKI - I started rowing the summer before eighth grade. Greenwich Crew was offering their summer middle school sessions and after hearing how much my older sister enjoyed it, I decided to try it as well. I stopped rowing that fall but started up again during the middle school winter session. I rowed that winter and spring, and then I started as a novice that fall.

WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO ROWING?

OLIVIA SCHNUR - *I had just quit soccer, which I had played for my entire life. I was looking for something new to try before high school to keep me busy and in shape for lacrosse season in the spring. To be honest, I didn't like it initially because of the volume and type of indoor training. I thought it was super boring. I never realized it would become such a big part of my life and something that brought me so much joy and so many memories.*

MEREDITH BLANCHARD - I used to live in Maryland, and our local high school's crew team was pretty good, so people saw it as a big deal. I knew people who had joined and had always had it in the back of my mind as something I wanted to do. When I came to Greenwich in eighth grade, a few of my new friends were doing middle school crew so I thought it was a perfect way to get to know them better and also try out crew.

ALEXANDRA WILKOWSKI - I was originally brought into rowing because my sister enjoyed it so much, but that wasn't why I stayed. I had played numerous sports before beginning crew, but I had never truly felt like a member of a team until the day I walked into the boathouse. I realized that there was something about rowing that just really made it special in a way that I never experienced before, and it was that team element. I loved how rowing is the ultimate team sport. When I row, every stroke that I take directly impacts 8 other people in my boat. I'm really never alone. No matter how difficult a piece is, there's this community of trust within Greenwich Crew where I know that

everyone in my boat will always work really hard, and it inspires me to push my boundaries. Rowing at Greenwich is so special because our team is composed of so many people of differing backgrounds and experiences, yet we all come together for one purpose and it's a community that I've never been able to find in any other sport.