

Rowing teams arriving in Clemson



FILE PHOTO

Members of the U.S. Women's National Rowing team, shown here, won't be returning to Clemson this year. However, 11 rowing teams consisting of more than 600 combined rowers have already or will be arriving within the next several weeks to begin training and competition.

BY GREG OLIVER
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CLEMSON — Eastern Michigan University has arrived in Clemson, the first of 11 college and university rowing teams expected to do so over the next several weeks to begin training and competition on the waters of Lake Hartwell.

Lindsey Newton, tourism director for the Clemson Area Chamber of Commerce, said Monday that Sacred Heart and Northeastern will arrive in town Saturday. Next Saturday, Syracuse, Purdue, Indiana, Rhode Island, Boston and Iowa universities and Marist College will come to Clemson, followed by the University of Kansas on March 18.

"We are expecting more than 600 rowers, with Kansas and Iowa being the new teams," Newton said, adding that North Suburban, which had originally reserved the last week of March, canceled since milder weather allowed them to remain at home.

Newton said more rowing athletes are expected to arrive in Clemson this year compared to last, although she's unsure

as to the exact economic impact that it will bring. Last year, Chamber officials estimated the economic impact for the Clemson community was \$100,000 per rowing team, but Newton said she feels that number will be higher this year.

Unlike a year ago, Newton said there are no Olympic rowing teams coming to town this spring. In addition to the women's team that arrived last year, Newton said the men's Olympic team trained in Clemson three years prior to that.

Newton added she is making Hartwell "Lake" mix (trail mix) for all the visiting athletes and is working with Chamber members to create coupons for rowers to use at establishments in town.

Rowing teams in recent years have cited the manmade body of water that is Lake Hartwell; the 10-foot-by-60-foot prefabricated dock, including a 12-foot gangway and anchoring; and the ability to accommodate a number of rowing teams on the water as major factors in their decision to train in Clemson.