The background of the slide is a black and white photograph of three rowers in a canoe. They are seen from behind, their silhouettes dark against the lighter, choppy water. The rowers are in a synchronized stroke, with their oars raised and dipping into the water. The water has a textured, wavy appearance.

The Canoe Era



CULVER ACADEMIES

North American Canoe & Kayak Races 1966

With the arrival of Kalman Blaho the US Olympic Canoe and Kayak Coach, Culver announces they will host the North American Canoe and Kayak Races in September 1966.

Background and History



ULVER VEDETTE

e 72 Culver Military Academy, Culver, Indiana, March 4, 1966 Number 11

Continental Canoe Races Here; Blaho U.S. Coach

Top canoeing and kayaking competitors of North America meet at Culver for the North American Championships Aug. In conjunction with the canoeing finals, Kalman Blaho, recently appointed to the staff of the Academy, was named coach of American team at a recent meeting of the American Canoe Association in New York.

Blaho, a native Hungarian, won the canoeing championship in his own country 22 times before he went to Italy to coach the team to Gold and Silver Medals in the 1964 Olympics. Prior to coming to Culver last October for a canoeing clinic, Blaho conducted similar clinics at universities throughout the nation. He has been noted for his work in physical education and has played an important role in the training of many international athletes.

The competition on Lake Maxinkussee will involve a flat water course of 500 meters for women and 1,000 meters for men. In addition, there may be a 500 meter race. The competition will bring the three top canoeists in each of seven different categories from Canada and the United States. Ray Dodge, former commodore of the association, expressed hope that Mexico will also send a team to Culver.

The North American Championships will immediately follow the World Championships in Berlin. The Academy will host the third 60-mile Tippecanoe River race under the direction of Mr. Blaho and William H. Henson, Academy history instructor who originated the race.

Mr. Dodge said, "For the first time in history, the United States has a great canoeing coach in America. All of us feel that he will bring our country into a stronger position in canoeing and kayaking at the international level, and it is regarded as a major credit." Selection of Culver as the site of the North American Championships came as part of

a program being developed by Mr. Blaho in all phases of canoeing, especially in flat water racing.

Blaho served last year as a consultant to the U.S. Olympic Committee and The American Canoe Association, which are trying to strengthen American participation in the sport.

Scan Me





Messenger

volume 9, No. 3

March 1966

North American Canoe Races Here in August

Athletes of the North American canoe and kayak teams will head for Culver and Lake Maxinkuckee after the world championships in East Berlin next August.

The presence of top American canoeists at the Academy next summer was assured when the American Canoe Association selected Culver as the site of the North American championships Aug. 26-28. Meeting in New York, the association also selected Kalman Blaho, recently appointed to direct the canoeing program at Culver, as coach of the American teams.

Ray Dodge, of Niles, Mich., former commodore of the association, said after the meeting:

"For the first time in history, the United States has a great canoe coach in Blaho. All of us feel that he will bring our country into a stronger position in canoeing and kayaking at the international level where it is regarded as a major sport."

The North American championships will bring to Culver the three top canoeists in seven different classifications from both the U.S. and Canada. In addition, Dodge said, it is hoped that Mexico will send a team to Culver. The North American competition on Lake Maxinkuckee will involve a flat water race course of 500 meters for women and 1,000 meters for men. Additionally, there may be a 10,000 meter race.

The North American championships here will follow immediately after the world championships in East Berlin. The Academy also will sponsor its third annual 60-mile canoe race down the Tippecanoe River April 16-17. The race will be under the direction of history instructor William Garrison, who originated the race, and Blaho.

Selection of Culver as the site of the North American championships is part of a new program being developed here by Blaho in all phases of canoeing with special emphasis on flat-water racing. Blaho until last year was coach of the Italian Olympic canoe and kayak teams, and he served during the past year as a consultant to the U.S. Olympic Committee and the American Canoe Association, both of which are attempting to strengthen American participation in the sport.

A native Hungarian, Blaho won the national canoe championship in his own country 22 times before he left for Italy in 1957. In Rome, he was professor at the College of Physical Education while at the same time leading the Italian teams to a gold and silver medal in the 1964 Olympics.

Since he came to the U.S. last year, Blaho has worked closely with the Olympic Development Committee by giving many canoe and kayak clinics mostly on university campuses. Blaho also is an expert in physical development.

1966 North American Canoe Championships

September 17-18

Culver Military Academy

Culver, Indiana

Scan Me



Our mutual goal:

**A
Strong
America**



Culver is proud to serve as host for the North American Canoe Championships and it is my privilege to extend a hearty welcome as you gather here for this important competition.

As I write this message, it occurs to me that the American Canoe Association and Culver Military Academy basically have one and the same objective in mind: the building of a strong America to meet the complex challenges of the future. Together we can do this with young Americans who are mentally and physically strong.

Though Culver academically has become one of the nation's top college preparatory schools, the Academy is also vitally interested in making certain its students are physically fit. We accomplish this goal through a myriad of varsity and intra-mural sports, and I am happy to say that during the past three years, canoeing and kayaking have been upgraded at Culver through the efforts of history instructor William Garrison and more recently your ACA Coach Kalman Blaho, now a member of our staff.

It is our hope that through a small, but exciting group of youngsters active in canoeing, Culver will someday contribute to long-awaited American victories in the sport at the Olympic level.

I welcome you and extend my good wishes for an enjoyable visit to Culver and a successful championship competition.

DELMAR T. SPIVEY
Major General, USAF (Ret.)
Superintendent

14th North American Canoe Racing Championship Regatta

Time and Place—

September 17th and 18th, 1966

Culver Military Academy (Lake Maxinkuckee)

Culver, Indiana, U. S. A.

THE COURSE—

The lake is approximately 2 by 3 miles of still water. Water depth of the course is 3-15 meters. The course runs from west to east. The prevailing wind is southwest-northeast.

The short distance racing course (500 and 1,000 meter) will be divided into 9 lanes of 10 meter width. The lanes will be marked with buoys at every 166 meters along the length of the course.

The long distance racing course (10,000 meter) shall be of four laps of 1,112.5 meters straight away between the center of the turns. The radius of the turns shall be 15 meters. For detailed sketch of the course see inserted map.

CLASSES AND DISTANCES OF RACES

North American Canoe Racing Championship

K-1, K-2, C-1, C-2—10,000 meter—men

K-1, K-2, K-4, C-1, C-2—1,000 meter—men

K-1 K-2—500 meter—women

All participating nations (Canada, Mexico, and U. S. A.) in the Continental Championships are allowed three entries per event.

Scan Me



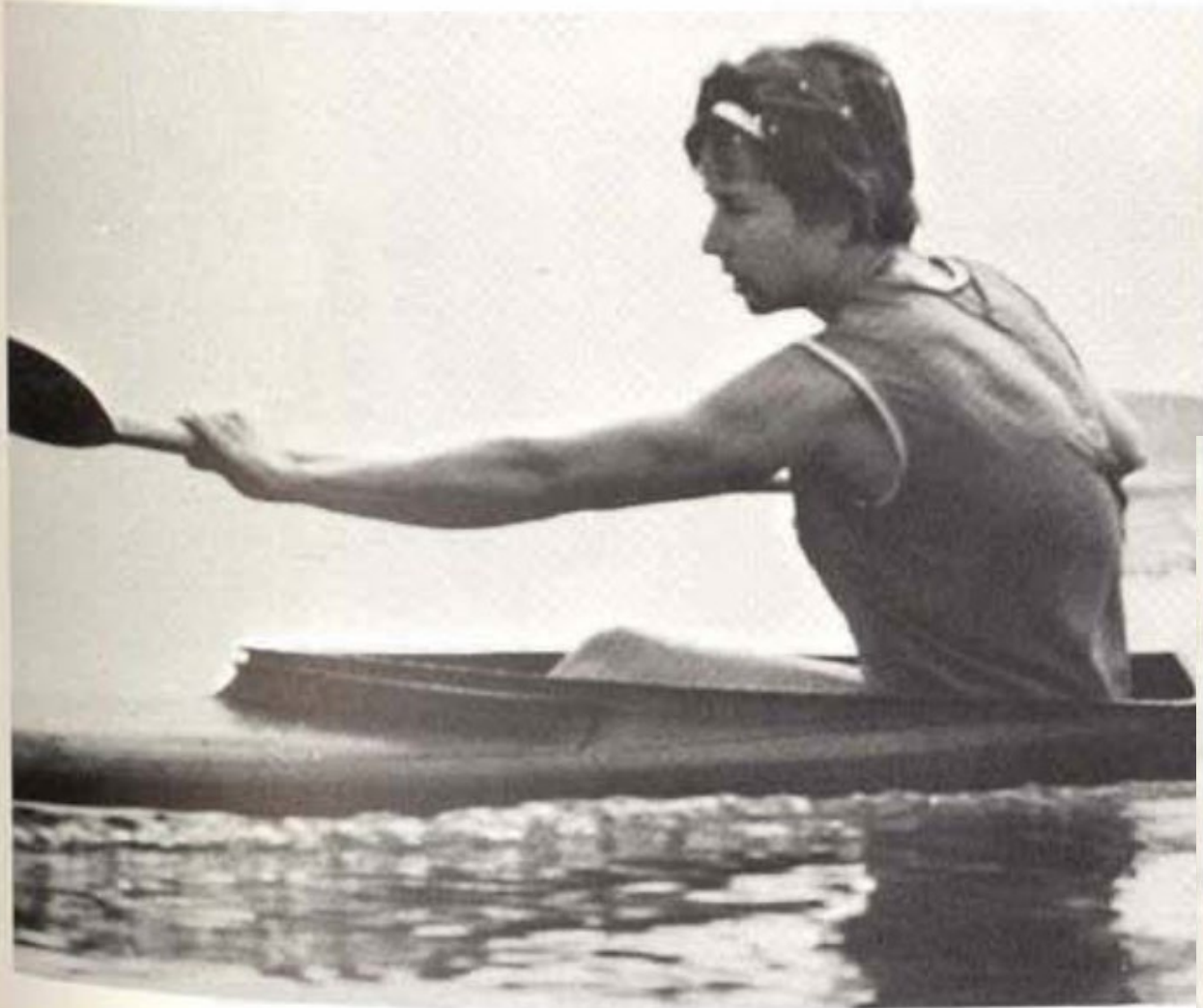








Marcia Smoke helped the American team to the final 6-6 tie with two decisive kayak victories. American Coach Kalman Blaho, the man responsible for bringing the championships to Lake Maxinkuckee was one of the few racing dignitaries missing. He suffered a heart attack three days before the competition and died 10 days later.



The winners of the K-1 500 meter women's kayak race at the North American Canoeing Championships on Lake Maxinkuckee are (l to r) Sperry Rademaker, 2nd; Marcia Smoke, 1st; and Francine Fox, 3rd. The girls helped clinch the American tie in the championships.





News from ...

Culver Military Academy

Culver, Indiana 46511

Telephone 219 842-3311

Canoe

FOR YOUR INFORMATION
PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CULVER, IND.--For the first time in the 14-year history of the event, United States and Canadian teams tied in the North American Canoe Championships held at Culver Military Academy last weekend (Sept. 17-18.)

Favored Canadian paddlers swept three of the first four long distance events in Saturday's competition, but bolstered by a clean sweep by American girls, the U.S. team recovered Sunday and won the last event to deadlock the race for the John Labatt aggregate trophy. The Labatt trophy goes to the team with the highest number of first places, and only in 1964 was the U.S. able to win it.

The deadlock was a surprise in some canoeing circles and reflected what Kenneth Smith, commodore of the Canadian Canoe Association, said is the steady improvement of American teams.

"Canada has always dominated the North American, but then we started so far ahead of the U.S. in canoeing. I think the tie does show a steady improvement by the Americans, and, of course, the U.S. girls are very talented. But Canada still holds an edge in depth, and had we been able to bring along several strong canoeists unable to make the trip, we might have been able to change the aggregate results."

The races were held on Lake Maxinkuckee during two perfect days for racing. The only aspect that marred the event was the absence of Hungarian-born Kalman Blaho, national coach of the American team and a member of the Culver staff. Blaho was stricken with a heart attack last Tuesday as he was preparing the course for the weekend races. He remains in a serious condition at Parkview Hospital, Plymouth, Ind.

-more-



"Among the 63 competitors who will be here," said Blaho, a member of the Culver physical development staff, "the American girls are best known for their victories in international competition. We expect them to win most of the women's events here this weekend. Though there are several U.S. men's champions entered, Canadian men appear to have the advantage."