

Excerpt from Boys in the Boat

By Daniel J. Brown

I knew only two things about Joe Rantz when I knocked on his daughter Judy's door that day. I knew that in his mid-seventies he had single-handedly hauled a number of cedar logs down a mountain, then hand-split the rails and cut the posts and installed all 2,224 linear feet of the pasture fence I had just climbed over—a task so herculean I shake my head in wonderment whenever I think about it. And I knew that he had been one of nine young men from the state of Washington—farm boys, fishermen, and loggers—who shocked both the rowing world and Adolf Hitler by winning the gold medal in eight-oared rowing at the 1936 Olympics.

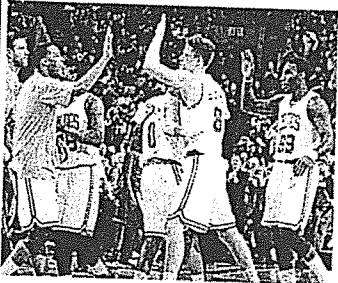
Judy introduced me, and Joe offered me an extraordinarily long, thin hand... Then the conversation began to turn to his own life. His voice was reedy, fragile, and attenuated almost to the breaking point. From time to time he faded into silence. Slowly, though, with cautious prompting from his daughter, he began to spin out some of the threads of his life story. Recalling his childhood and his young adulthood during the Great Depression, he spoke haltingly but resolutely about a series of hardships he had endured and obstacles he had overcome, a tale that, as I sat taking notes, at first surprised and then astonished me.

But it wasn't until he began to talk about his rowing career at the University of Washington that he started, from time to time, to cry. He talked about learning the art of rowing, about shells and oars, about tactics and technique. He reminisced about long, cold hours (4300 hours for 28 total races) on the water under steel-gray skies, about smashing victories and defeats narrowly averted, about traveling to Germany and marching under Hitler's eyes into the Olympic Stadium in Berlin, and about his crewmates. None of these recollections brought him to tears, though. It was when he tried to talk about "the boat" that his words began to falter and tears welled up in his bright eyes.


At first I thought he meant the *Husky Clipper*, the racing shell in which he had rowed his way to glory. Or did he mean his teammates, the improbable assemblage of young men who had pulled off one of rowing's greatest achievements? Finally, watching Joe struggle for composure over and over, I realized that "the boat" was something more than just the shell or its crew. To Joe, it encompassed but transcended both—it was something mysterious and almost beyond definition. It was a shared experience—a singular thing that had unfolded in a golden sliver of time long gone, when nine good-hearted young men strove together, pulled together as one, gave everything they had for one another, bound together forever by pride and respect and love. Joe was crying, at least in part, for the loss of that vanished moment but much more, I think, for the sheer beauty of it.

I shook Joe's hand again and told him I would like to come back and talk to him some more, and that I'd like to write a book about his rowing days. Joe grasped my hand again and said he'd like that, but then his voice broke once more and he admonished me gently, "But not just about me. It has to be about the boat."

Accountable to WE




"When 8 row together with swing, the boat becomes the ninth rower."
 - Phillip Thomas



The Best in Pro Sports

- Short and Long-term Health (Physical, Mental, and Emotional)
- Player Enhancement – On & Off the Court
- Staff Enhancement
- A League-Leader in Environment
- Maximizing Collective Achievement


WE ALL PLAY A MAJOR ROLE



Develop Catalysts

| <u>Skill</u> | <u>Descriptor</u> |
|-------------------------|--|
| Role Model/Mentor | Quietly Influences |
| Expertise | Quickly adjusts |
| Communicator | Assertively communicates Good |
| Awareness of Others | Helps make pieces fit |
| Results Oriented | All about Winning |
| Passionate | Energy Giver |
| Optimistic | See the best in others |
| Emotionally Intelligent | Circumstances don't affect Performance |
| Curiosity | Not a know it all |
| Creative | Not scared to be different |
| Sees Big Picture | Doesn't overreact emotionally |
| Team-Oriented | Embraces Role |
| Trustworthy | Sincere and Authentic |
| Low Drama | Keeps life simple |

Our Path



Win it ALL

Make the

PLAYOFFS

PERFORM

DYI - Be a Star in Your Role

PREPARE


"Excellence.. is not an act, but a Habit"

KEEP LIFE SIMPLE

"Distractions Oppose Productivity" - Lead by Being Reliable

BE A CELTIC


Team First - Tough - Thankful - Accountable



Everything Matters

2014-15 Review

- 9 Games from 4th
- 8 Games from 12th



Celtic Basketball

1. Do Your Job to Set Our Defense (3rd)
2. Execute our Defense with Multiple Efforts to Completion (12th)
3. Be Tough with the Ball (6th)
4. Play unselfishly (3rd) with Pace & Space to Get Great Shots (19th)
5. We will Dominate Effort Plays (Hard to Measure, Easy to Feel)