

Getting Set for PADDLING SEASON

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As a youth football coach, our team had the great gift of a visit from Manti Te'o. One of the boys asked if talent was more important than hard work. Te'o shared that his father raised him with the credo "Hard work beats talent when talent won't work hard".

Manti told the boys of his daily decision to practice running drills for two hours and then lift weights for three in preparation for his freshmen year at Notre Dame. This was in spite of a championship senior year, loads of innate talent and being highly recruited nationally.

When talent works hard like he does, it's easy to see why he's earned a position in the NFL.

As paddlers, we can improve our performance by following his example. I will add "Team beats talent when talent won't be a team". Paddling requires a commitment to the success of the team and a willingness to put the team above oneself. Hard work on our individual talents and skills as well as hard work together inside the boat will put our best performance to the test this season.

So as we get set for this season, remember: "Hard work beats talent when talent won't work hard" and "Team beats talent when talent won't be a team". We look forward to seeing you on the water, in the gym, at the park and in the boat!