Purpose of this Presentation

• Share the experience of recruiting from the perspective of a collegiate rowing coach

• This is a survey discussion not a roadmap unfortunately – recruiting in rowing is not formulaic

• CRI will continue to engage our parent group with materials and information via presentations, web, coaches and other Speaker Series Events.
My Coaching Background

- **Collegiate Clubs**: Boston College
- **Division III**: Duquesne University; Tufts
- **Division I Lightweight**: MIT
- **Division I Heavyweight**: Northeastern
- **USRowing U23 Development Camp**
- **USRowing Senior Team**: 2007 & 2008 World Championships
What I hope we Do Together Today

I Talk

Keep Talking

Show some pictures

Some furious note taking

Eager Anticipation for the ANSWER... “just tell me about .... !!!”

Ask questions below, via the link
Today’s Agenda/Topics

• Exploring the Recruiting Process

• University / Admission Support – Club, DIII, & DI

• Financial Aid
Recruiting Process
What is a Boatlength

• Men: It Looks Like this
  • Yale: 6:01.6
  • Wash: 6:04.3
  • Cal: 6:08.9

• Women: It Looks Like this
  • Cal: 6:14.9
  • Wash: 6:16.5
  • Texas: 6:17.8
What is a Boatlength - Thresholds

2018 Men’s IRA Final – Winning time 6:01 or 361 total racing seconds in the championship final

1 boat length in a race = approx 3 seconds (6:01.6 Gold; 6:04.3 Silver)

Finishing 1 boatlength behind the winning time =

364 secs / 361 secs = .99175 or

about 1% Difference in Boatspeed
Collegiate Recruiting in Rowing is About Getting Faster

- 80% rule in Sports – faster, stronger, better athletes win

- Coaches General Priorities
  - Recruit the fastest athletes with what you know about them **now** who will **thrive** in your program for the next four years
  AND
  - Recruit athletes with **potential** who can make an indeterminate difference at some point in the future and who could potentially change the trajectory of your program

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Every picture tells a story…
What’s your Body of Work – the PME

Collegiate Recruiting uses past results as a predictor for future success of the recruit as
• An athlete
• A student
• A teammate who embodies the core values of my program

Recruiting to the “Body of Work” – how coaches initially understand recruits

• Athletic Capacity
  • 2K
  • 5K or 6K

• Standardized Testing – SAT and ACT - in some cases other cases not

• AP Testing and Class Taking

• Grades, Subjects, Challenges

Which “number is “most important” to a college coach?

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Beyond the “Numbers”: What College Coaches Look for in Recruits

• Academics – Rowing is not more important than academics, it simply may not be less

• Your DNA – It’s gotta be a “match”

• Remember: Averages are not individuals.

• Relationships move quickly beyond “stats”, once thresholds are met including,
  • Reliability, Honesty, Integrity
  • Good answers to hard questions for both parties

• Quick note about Social Media
  They ALL check your SM

• The Elephant on the Line?
  • Coach: Will you attend to this school if admitted
  • Athlete: Will you support me?
Where College Coaches Look for Recruits

• Questionnaires

• Online recruiting sites

• In their Voice Mail or Inbox

• Other Bits – When to share… Overshare?
  • Show me at your best, something great about you.
    o Colleges Coaches don’t recruit boats
    o Good Rowing Video helps and you should always get it
    o Good news for Coxswains

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How Much to Focus on an Area of “Weakness”

- Testing improvements and updates to Coaches

- Grades say a ton about grit, commitment, thoroughness, and inform work ethic … off the water **and on**

- A few words about “reach” schools or stretching beyond your current capacity

- How much improvements increase chances for admission?
Get Familiar with Team Information

• Look to see if the team posts the majors of its student-athletes

• Look at the National Championship performance.

• Check the team website for how it shares news, coach background, HS experience of current team.
Admissions Support

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Primary Differences Between DI; DII; DIII and Club Rowing

• Playing and Practice Season
  • Club Rowing
  • DIII
  • DII
  • DI

• What’s your BALANCE objective?
Athletic Leverage for Admissions

PRE ADMISSION
- Pre-reads
- Coach Recommendation / Athletic flag
- Early Decision support; Regular Decision Support

ADMISSION/RECRUITING
- Likely Letter
- National Letter of Intent (NLI)

Other
- In most cases, coaches don’t “get you in”
- Recruiting as validation for your college search – not other way around!

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Applying Early Decision or Regular

• Coaches greater leverage during early decision process
  • Demonstrated relationship
  • Helps balance incoming classes
  • Applicant’s chances for admission are generally higher at regular admission

• It’s helpful to apply Early but **NOT REQUIRED**
Application and Admission Process

• It’s Never too Late to find a great fit

• It can be too early to get feedback from a college
  o If you’re young, the coaches might just not know what to say
  o A word of caution to “future Olympians” – most likely you can’t make my program faster

• Pushing the Rope – Do some basic checking about schools you’re talking too
  o Speaking to Tufts; Michigan and Cornell tells a story
  o Know a quick bit about the school
    ✓ “So tell me about your program”
  o Let your authenticity shine
Financial Aid
Types of Schools Influence the Types of Aid

- State University
- Private University or College
- Ivy League
Sources of Financial Aid for Athletes

- Federal and non-Federal Aid (FAFSA and the CSS Profile)
- College / University Awards
- Local aid (rotary club; granting organizations, etc)
- Athletic Aid
- Family
Most Scholarship University’s Build “packages”

• Combine aid so everyone has skin in the game:
  • Federal
  • University
  • Athletic
  • Parent
  • Loan

• Athletic aid is not really intended as a negotiation point
  • If a coach makes an offer, he/she generally makes best offer first

• This is an important time to make a full family decision.
How to Help Your Child

• Be patient

• Help them advocate for themselves

• HAZARD! Communication with a college coach without your child involved can end the recruiting process quickly
Stay Safe
Be Well
Pull Hard
Go Fast!