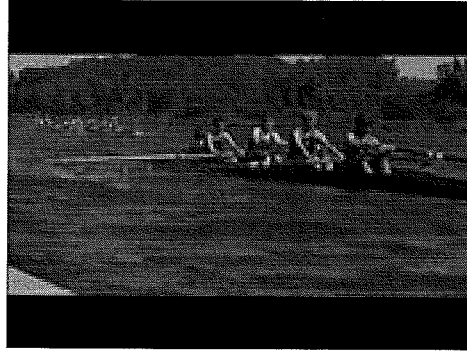


## 10,000 Reasons For A Minn. Youth Rowing Team

By Eric Nelson- (WCCO)- July 31, 2010



On a sparkling summer day on a sky-blue Minnesota lake, the Twin City Youth Rowing team is at work on the water. There are no shortcuts. These athletes know the ingredients that make a successful rower.

"Somebody who won't give up if they're tired, somebody who works really hard and is willing to push themselves to no other end," said Chris Vassallo of Chanhassen.

"Unless you've actually been in a boat and you've been in a race, it's really hard to actually fathom what it's like," said coach Tina Cho.

The Twin City team is just a baby by rowing standards. It began in 2008 and fills a void. After all, in the Land of 10,000 Lakes, the sport is a natural.

"We've got a lot of athletic talent here and this is a great outlet for it. And there are a lot of lakes, there is a lot of water and no rowing, which is kind of stupid," added Cho.

The rowing team consists of metro-area high school kids. They host a regatta at Bryant Lake in Eden Prairie on Sunday, which includes teams from Chicago and Milwaukee.

There is no room for egos on a boat. Everyone has to be in synch and everyone has to be on the same page.

"To really coordinate that team motion takes a certain mentality that you really have to kind of push your own will down for the good of the whole boat. That takes a special personality," said coach John Davis. "'There are no stars in rowing,' as they say."

"It just teaches me to become a better part of a team because we all have to be in synch and together," said Eiel Bach of Hopkins.