



Dakota Intertek Corporation sponsored a dragon boat team to participate in the 1st Milwaukee Chinese Dragon Boat Festival at Veteran Park, Milwaukee on July 13th, 2013. Dakota assembled a team of 19 warriors through social network in a short notice to form our 1st Dakota Dragon Boat Unit. The team met for the 1st time in the battlefield just before the race and we found out that we were the eldest team out of the 14 teams. There were a couple of warriors that were close to 70's. This team reminded us the great ancient Chinese story of "Sunzi". The Chinese King ordered General Sunzi to form a special force unit in a very short period of time and sent Sunzi with his maids and concubines. General "Sunzi" trained and made them brave warriors to face the ultimate enemies.

For our 1st preliminary round, our Dakota Dragon Boat Unit was slaughtered and we were dead last with a finishing time of 105.2 seconds. With our new experience, we became instant veterans, encouraged one another, and drawn up new battle plans and strategies including how to sync and work as a Dakota warrior team. For our 2nd preliminary round, we finished at 99.02 seconds and qualified for the B-championship group. As a team, we had so much fun and we were 7% faster than the initial race. We were so surprised we were not dead last.

For our final B-championship round, Dakota Dragon Boat team was to face against 5 more boat teams. Competitors include heavyweight \$40b Johnson Controls APAN team, 25 years younger Youth Leader Academy team, and muscular intimidating ICC Engineering team. All our competitors are all uniformed, muscular, and young. After the whistle blew at the final round, Dakota Dragon Boat Team gave everything we got and we led for the first 20 seconds. It was a miracle. An old rugged team streaming ahead with Youth Leader Academy team, ICC and others follow behind. The warriors of the Youth Leader Academy team starred at great surprise because a few of their parents and academic teachers were in our Dakota Dragon Boat Unit.



At the mid-point, the old rugged Dakota Dragon Boat Unit started to lose steam and stamina due to our ages of our warriors. Youth Leader Academy team sneaked pass us and ICC followed closely behind. The injured Dakota Dragon Boat Unit was to shout in unison “One, Two, One, Two...” but every remaining warrior had no more steam left to yell and had to paddle the remaining distance as if each warrior is holding to one’s last breath of life.

At the last ten seconds as if it is forever, our warriors were giving their last remaining juices of their lives and were also distracted by the challenging teams behind us.

As Dakota Dragon Boat Unit approaching the finishing line and shallow waters, ICC team stealth passed our team by 0.13 second. Our team received a hard earned bronze medal. Since we were the least prepared team and the eldest team, we became the believers of “General Sunzi”. We were not only proud of our achievements but also the living testimonials of “General Sunzi”. As Dakota Intertek Corporation, we thank all warriors and will see you next year.

Visit 2013 Milwaukee Dragon Boat Festival

<http://www.jsonline.com/entertainment/multimedia/photos/215390551.html>