

加油！“龙之队” – 记第八届龙舟大赛

王洪成



今天是个好日子。初秋的清晨，天高气爽，万里无云。湛蓝湛蓝的天空，和安静素雅的哈特福德市，倒映在美丽的康奈迪格河上，象是构造了一幅安逸祥和的图画，又象在提醒我们这些戏水龙舟爱好者去尽情享受这盛夏之后难得的好天气。

不错。今天正是第八届龙舟大赛，三十二个来自新英格兰地区的龙舟队参加了这次盛会。华社“龙之队”汇集了三十几位各界精英，我们中有夫妻双双同舟共济，也有众多身强力壮的“外援”加盟。



看看，我们龙舟划手早已按捺不住自己的激动心情，一个个摩拳擦掌，跃跃欲试。

三条巨龙静卧在远方，引箭待发。随着一声激昂的汽笛声，整个河面沸腾了，鼓声，号子声，加油声此起彼伏。在队鼓手声嘶力竭的口号下，队员们不敢有丝毫的怠慢，人人奋勇，个个争先，都使出浑身诚术。



经过三轮（预赛，半决赛，决赛）激烈的角逐，队员个个筋疲力尽，却士气昂扬，愈战愈勇。半决赛比预赛的速度快了二十多秒，决赛更是比半决赛快了十一多秒。每个人都被我们队员的干劲，热情和士气感染着。尽管最后我们“龙之队”与奖杯擦肩而过，这个美好的令人激动的一天，却给我们每个参与者留下了难忘的回忆。

衷心祝愿大家以后的生活，学习和工作，就象我们的龙舟一样，乘风破浪，一帆风顺。明年再见！（摄影：Nick soldner and Jon-Shen Fuh）

GO, CCC Dragon!

Hongcheng Wang

Today is a good day. Blue cloudless sky and quiet Hartford city are gracefully mirrored into the beautiful Connecticut River. What a peaceful picture! It reminds us enjoying the nice weather for water activities after the hot summer.

You are right. Today marks the eighth Annual River Front Asian Festival and Dragon Boat Race. There are 32 dragon boat teams from the New England area that participated in this special event. "CCC Dragon" team gathers more than 30 members from different professions and diverse backgrounds. Among them, there are a few husband-wife pairs, as well as many very strong non-Chinese team members.

Look! Our team rowers could not stop their own excitement. Everybody was itching for a fight, and eager to the race.

Three big dragons had waited for a long time, jumped out for their prey. All of the sudden, the whole river front was filled with excitement and all kinds of noise: drums, synchronizing shouting, and the cheers from the fans... With the drummer shouting herself hoarse, everybody was striving his/her best to paddle.

With three rounds of competition (first round, semi-final, and final), all the team members were keeping higher and higher spirits, with better and better performance. The semi-final was 20 seconds faster than the first round, and the final was even more than 11 seconds faster than the semi-final. Everybody on the spot was impressed by the team's passion, energy and high spirits. Though our team didn't win this time, every team member felt we had a great time together and a lot of fun at the event. This special day will be in our memory for a long time.

See you all next year!