

The Importance of Each Paddler In the Canoe

by Coach Titaua

1) The one who sets the rhythm.

Generally we choose one person who has a consistent and fast stroke and someone who everyone can follow. This paddler must have good technique. This person must know the different stroke rates and feel the run of the canoe. This paddler works with the steersman and the captain when you are on a long paddle. He must know exactly how to push and how to slow down to recover following the orders of the captain while having a consistent rate.

2) The strongest paddler in the boat. The first motor

He plays the role of a motor but also he helps the stoker keep the rate up . This is the strongest paddler.

3) and 4) The second and the third motor in the boat.

The third and fourth place are the principal motors in a V6 and are the largest and are very strong. Their strength is equal to each other. One of them is chosen to be the captain and call the changes. He calls the different strokes and is in charge of the boat, not the steersman.

5) The fourth motor.

He plays the role of motor but also helps the steerperson. When the steerperson pokes, the 5th paddler is in charge of pulling his weight and also the weight of the steerperson.

6) The Steersperson

He directs the canoe. He doesn't always follow the rate of the paddlers. He must anticipate and feel the movement of the canoe and of the ocean.

Surplus: the second and fourth place are also in charge of the ama and prevent a huli.

Conclusion: The six paddlers must be cohesive for a better performance. They must work together. An absolute trust in each paddler makes it easy to do well. When you are in the canoe you think only of the canoe, not things outside the canoe.