

(right) PADDLING THROUGH THE early morning sunrise. Raffle and her mates search for synchronicity. "I think that there are a lot of shared ideals through being in a very competitive sport," Raffle said. Photos courtesy of Anika Raffle

Story & design by

Regardless of early wake up times and tedious practices, rowing brings Anika Raffle peace and motivation in her life.

> atching the sunrise, Anika Raffle climbs into the familiar feeling of her rowing shell, preparing herself for yet another day in the bay.

Raffle first became immersed in the sport of rowing during her 8th-grade year, and began to feel a connection to it.

"I wasn't playing any other sports at the time and I was looking for something else to do," Raffle said. It's hard to always keep

During her competitive spring season on the NorCal rowing team, Raffle sets her alarms for 4:30 a.m. in order myself on a tight schedule, process," Raffle said. to attend her weekly morning practices.

"Depending on my practice schedule, I have to sleep at certain times if I want to get enough sleep," Raffle said.

Additionally, with little to no break time, Raffle struggles to balance her school and rowing life.

"It's hard to always keep myself on a tight schedule, but perseverance has definitely helped me get through a lot of busy days," Raffle said.

However, the rowing community has allowed Raffle to build many strong friendships with her teammates. Raffle appreciates the shared ideals between her and her peers when it comes to the physically demanding pastime.

"Everybody is really motivated and ready to work," Raffle said. "We are all very similarly driven and that has brought us a lot closer together."

As Raffle continues her third year of her rowing career, she hopes to continue her journey throughout high school and eventually in college.

"I'm not sure if I will row in college, but if I do decide to row in college, I hope to go through the recruiting but perseverance has

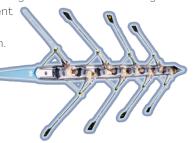
Rowing allows Raffle to gain self confidence and gain a definitely helped me get sense of accomplishment \(\)

through a lot of busy days." after completing a practice or competition.

It also gives Raffle

time to connect with individuals who share the same love for the sport and have similar desires to improve their skills.

ANIKA RAFFLE





Darwin Rescorla Diacomo Resmini rancesca Rhoan Crooa Rochkind eresita Rodillo Sanchez ditya Romfh



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138 people