Outriggers race along the Charles

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By: Ariel Rodriguez

Nancy Lane photo

A racer in the BNY Mellon team boat practices her stroke before the start of her race. 2013 AccesSportAmerica Mayor’s Cup Regatta takes place on the Charles River.

Outriggers raced along the Charles as AccesSportAmerica held its 11th annual Hawaiian outrigger canoeing race.

“It’s really intense. You’re really only paddling for under ten minutes but once the starting gun is fired, it’s constant. Even the fittest amongst us are spent by the end,” said Ray Hoefling, senior vice president at Webster bank, a member of the board of AccesSportAmerica who was a competitor in yesterday’s Mayor’s Cup Regatta.

Each team consisted of eight rowers, with at least one member with a disability. The Harvard football team was the reigning champion of two years but Bay State Financial won the coveted AccesSportAmerica Mayor’s Paddle this year. Along with the races there was a luau, live entertainment and Boston Bruins ice girls
putting leis on competitors as they came out of the Charles.

“It was such a good day. It was amazing,” said Barbra Tellalian, director of development for AccesSportAmerica.

The event raised approximately $200,000, which is around 15 percent of the organization’s annual operating budget, according to a member of AccesSportAmerica’s board. The mission of the organization is to enable people of all ages with disabilities to participate in high-challenge sports and training.

- See more at:
http://bostonherald.com/news_opinion/local_coverage/2013/07/outriggers_race_along_the_charles#sthash.36eQbue4.dpuf