## Ten Boys, a Fast Boat, and the Coach Who Made Them Champions

In the annals of sports history, there are few stories as improbable as that of the Ten Boys, a group of young rowers from the Bronx who, against all odds, won a gold medal at the 1936 Olympics.

The boys, all of whom were from poor families, had never rowed before they met Harry Parker, a dedicated coach who volunteered his time at the local YMCA. Parker saw something special in the boys, and he convinced them to give rowing a try.



Men of Kent: Ten Boys, A Fast Boat, and the Coach Who Made Them Champions by Rick Rinehart

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The boys quickly took to the sport, and under Parker's guidance, they soon became one of the best rowing teams in the country. In 1936, they qualified for the Olympics, where they faced off against some of the best rowers in the world. No one expected the Ten Boys to win, but they proved everyone wrong. They rowed with heart and determination, and in a thrilling finish, they crossed the line first, winning the gold medal.

The victory of the Ten Boys was a major upset, and it inspired people all over the world. It showed that anything is possible if you have the courage to dream big and the determination to work hard.

#### The Ten Boys

The Ten Boys were: Joe Begley, John Costello, Thomas Dowd, John Fitzgerald, James Mangan, William Gavin, Joseph Martin, John McNamee, Anthony Rocco, and Warren West.

All of the boys were from poor families, and most of them had never rowed before they met Harry Parker. They were all between the ages of 18 and 22 when they won the gold medal.

After the Olympics, the Ten Boys went on to have successful careers in a variety of fields. Joe Begley became a successful businessman, John Costello became a lawyer, Thomas Dowd became a doctor, John Fitzgerald became a teacher, James Mangan became a priest, William Gavin became a police officer, Joseph Martin became a fireman, John McNamee became a carpenter, Anthony Rocco became a social worker, and Warren West became a coach.

#### **Harry Parker**

Harry Parker was born in 1888 in England. He came to the United States in 1905, and he began coaching rowing at the local YMCA in 1928.

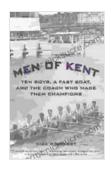
Parker was a dedicated coach who always put the needs of his athletes first. He was a master motivator, and he had a knack for getting the most out of his rowers.

After the Ten Boys won the gold medal, Parker continued to coach rowing for many years. He retired in 1960, and he died in 1978.

#### The Legacy of the Ten Boys

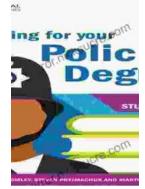
The victory of the Ten Boys is still remembered today as one of the greatest upsets in sports history. It is a story of hope, determination, and triumph. The Ten Boys showed the world that anything is possible if you have the courage to dream big and the determination to work hard.

The legacy of the Ten Boys continues to inspire people all over the world. They are a reminder that anything is possible if you have the courage to dream big and the determination to work hard.



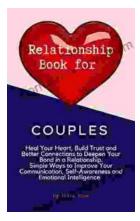
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