

Mok Ying Ren, Sikhander Singh and Teh Chong Nyen (Aquathlon)
Sports Team of the Year Event
(Read by Joshua Li)

Good evening guest of Honour Prof Shih, distinguished guests and fellow friends. It is a great honour for the NUS Aquathlon Team to receive the Team Event (Male) of the year. Although this award accords recognition to the three of us, we believe this award belongs equally to the entire team.

Tonight we recognize the commitment to excellence and the maintenance of high standards that must serve as a reminder to everyone to work hard, to persevere and to strive to excel in everything that we do. Playing sports helps to build character as we learn to show humility in victory and graciousness in defeat. It also keeps our bodies fit and healthy and is a good way to escape away from the books and assignments. Playing a team sport requires communication and a sense of team spirit. It is important to realize that no one person can win a team sport. A team sport involves strategizing and coming out with a game plan to stun the opponents into defeat. This is only accomplished when the team can gel to play together working in unison. When one loses a game we lose it not because of one player but because we lose as a team. Defeat is not the worst of failures. Not to have tried is the true failure. The difference between a successful team and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather a lack of will.

The NUS Aquathlon have certainly grown in numbers and stature since we first joined the team. I am sure my seniors are proud of the team and its achievements. We have seen our fair shares of ups and downs within the team, but it's a perpetual process which will only make the team stronger and will motivate the team to strive for greater heights. The challenge for the team will definitely be to improve on this year result and I am confident that the captain and his team will rise up to the challenge. This award also goes out to those who have graduated. We will not have gotten this award if the seniors have not laid the foundations for a strong team to stand upon.

I leave you with a quote by Muhammad Ali, Champions aren't made in the gyms. Champions are made from something they have deep inside them -- a desire, a dream, and a vision.

Thank you!