



In My Own Words...

Raider Lazaro Diaz

To put an **explicit, exact, restricting word** on what the Raider team represents for me would do no justice to the team. Instead, I have made it my purpose to provide vivid details through examples.

Envision the satisfaction of knowing that your team won a one mile cross country rescue, before any other team finished, because of the arduous train that has been had. Imagine the glory that is yours when your team, after undergoing endless drills, manages to relinquish dozens of seconds off of a rope bridge assembly. In light of the situations, I have to say that Raiders is the vessel for a state of mind that cannot be taught, but learned through experience.

Today, I see many of my peers fall prey to the affects of being weak-willed. I see a too daunting number of people make self-destructive decisions. What I have witnessed is that a myriad of my colleagues either endeavor to accomplish impossible goals or they lack the conviction to accomplish their goals. However, I fail to see such a vile perspective in any person on the Raider team. Rather, I behold the spectacular, wondrous, and optimistic sight of seeing friends working, learning, and striving to earn a goal of each individuals choosing.

Conclusively, Raiders teaches an individual how to earn a goal, whatever it may be. From endless PT sessions to mind-numbingly long runs through rough terrain to the boring repetitions of first-aid lessons, I have earned my goals. From straight-A's on a report card to improving my SAT score by dozens of points. Thus, what Raiders means to me is very evident in everything I do. To me, Raiders helped me discover that I can earn anything and I am a better individual because of it.