IPAA Private Capital Conference

Scorecard for Success

Maurice Storm January 2012

What is success?



What does your scorecard look like?



How do you get there?

- Right team
- Right financial partner
- Right strategy
- Right exit

Right Team

- The most important thing.
- Bad partners will ruin you.
- Best engineers, geologists, land, and financial people.
- Smart, hardworking, entrepreneurial, A players.
- Pay up to get them. Don't settle.

Right Financial Partner

- They are not all the same.
- Need to understand a partner's:
 - Investing philosophy
 - Control practices
 - Reporting expectations
 - Technical assistance

Deal sheet not as important as fit.

- Equity partner will be constant companions for years.
- Don't trade a few points for worse quality of life.
- Bad fit with team or strategy will make things unpleasant for a long time.
- Team and equity partners have to work together to succeed.

Right Strategy

- Drill or acquire, or both?
- Oil or gas?
- Big deals or small deals?
- Focused area or play everywhere?
- Data rooms or find your own deals?

Know what you are good at.

- Everybody has money.
- Lots of people chasing deals.
- Focus on areas where your knowledge and skills give you an advantage.
- Your strategy must fit the strengths of your team.
- Be flexible as market and commodity prices change.

Right Exit

- Team has built up a group of assets.
- When is the right time to sell?
- Asset sale or stock?
- IPO?
- All at once or piece by piece?
- Hire a broker or sell it yourself?

Financial partner is critical to exit.

- Work closely with financial partner to determine exit strategy.
 - They are always selling someone.
 - Real time market intel.
 - Plugged into broker network.

Take away

- Build the right team.
- Find the right financial partner.
- Together, buy and develop the best assets efficiently.
- Sell at right time, maximize return.