

FOOTBALL IS MORE THAN A GAME

There are a lot of things going on in our society today that concern me. The enemy of American growth, as I see it, is the potential within ourselves to become lazy, to slow down, to get discouraged, to quit, to fail in self-discipline, and to lack creativity and commitment to working together.

With many discouraging things happening in our society, I see the game of football as a great avenue to teach much about life. There are many valuable lessons to be gained from participating in football on the high school level. In the right perspective, I believe that football can be one of the most wholesome, exciting, and valuable activities in which any young man can participate. It teaches boys to work hard, to have control of themselves, to gain self-respect, to give forth great effort, and at the same time to learn to follow the rules of the game, and to respect the rights of others, and to stay within the bounds dictated by decency and sportsmanship.

Football teaches people how to "win"; I am not talking about just winning a ball game, but winning the battle over "self". Sure, winning the game is important, but learning to develop poise, confidence, and pride in oneself and one's undertakings is the real objective of "winning" football. We need to remember that being a winner does not mean that you always win the game, but it has to do with striving to do one's best.

I feel that high school football is a great way to build any young man's overall character and therefore his life. Character develops from hard work; from never giving up from helping each other to be one's best, from striving for unity in working with each other, and from being proud of doing one's best. Playing football is great, but we must never lose sight of the fact that it is just a game, that it is a means to an end. We should encourage the boys to work hard and enjoy it, but never forget that you cannot play football all your life.

I really believe football is one of the greatest games in the world. I have played and coached both on the high school and college level. Football has taught me how to work hard and play hard with my fellow man in the true spirit of sportsmanship. If you let it, and with the right kind of leadership, football will give you some permanent values that will make you a better citizen and a better human being. I would like to encourage any young man to join our football program.