



The Three “C’s” – Class, Character and Courage – and what we call “HAWK PRIDE”

CLASS:

There is an old saying “Class tells.” What it tells is what type of person you are and, as an extension, what type of program you are a part of. It tells what type of winner or loser you are. It tells whether or not an opponent can expect a full effort from you every time out, no matter what the circumstances.

Class means no trash talking and no finger-waving at the finish line. It means shaking the hands of your opponent-win or lose. Class is being genuinely happy for a teammate’s success, especially when things did not go your way. Class is not leaving trash behind on the deck or on the bus. Class is all of us wearing the same uniforms or suits. Class is accepting and cheering even the least talented of our teammates, no matter the outcome.

CHARACTER:

Character tells who you are. Are you a whiner or a complainer? Is the coach or one of your teammates out to get you? Is it always the other guy’s fault? Do you blame everyone, but yourself for the situation you find yourself in? Are you a showboat? Do you talk down to other people to make yourself look good? These practices cannot be accepted. We expect humility. We expect our athletes to act like “they’ve been there before.”

Working hard every day is a demonstration of character. If we win, we did our jobs, and we will congratulate ourselves **within** the confines of our team and we will work to get better. If we lose, we will analyze our failings **within** the privacy of our team and work to get better. These things are not for public display. We will **NEVER** quit or back away.

We will give credit where credit is due to friend or foe alike. If you lost by a touch, then you lost by a touch – no excuses. Can you answer the call to compete when you think you are least able to answer?

COURAGE:

Courage is not a lack of fear; it is the willingness to meet the fear. Courage is the willingness to work hard every day knowing that the possibility of failure is always there. It is the willingness to battle the “favorite” with everything you have. Courage is looking in the mirror every day and being able to say to yourself, “I did my very best today.” Courage is looking at what you failed to do in order to be at your best when the next challenge comes along. It is not easy to be self critical. It takes courage. It takes courage to keep fighting even when you are losing. Doing what you know you should do, even when no one is watching, is courage. Do you have the courage to fail? Without it, you can never be a success.

HAWK PRIDE:

Hawk pride is our Hawk family. It’s an attitude that “we are in this together.” Together we can achieve great things. No matter your grade, your talent level or your social status, we are a **TEAM**. Effort – individual and team – is how we measure success. When it gets down to the end of a game or a meet, we will be out there cheering on our teammates. We will sacrifice for each other. We care about how each of us does because it leads to our collective success. We owe something to the members of our program that have come before us and that is our best effort – our sacrifice – every day!