

TALKING POINTS

by POSITIVE COACHING ALLIANCE

WEEK FOUR: HONORING THE GAME

- A Triple-Impact Competitor® competes by a code of Honoring the Game to actually make the game better. They win graciously and lose with dignity.
- The **ROOTS** of Honoring the Game are respect for
 - ✓ **R**ules – don't bend the rules to win, even if you can get away with it.
 - ✓ **O**pponents – a worthy opponent is a gift; we want to play fierce and friendly.
 - ✓ **O**fficials – show respect even when we are confident they are mistaken.
 - ✓ **T**eammates – never embarrass our teammates, in or outside the game.
 - ✓ **S**elf – live up to our own standards no matter what our opponents do.
- Winning seems so important in our society that many people forget to Honor the Game in the heat of the moment.
 - ✓ If they dishonor the game and get caught, as so often happens, they are embarrassed and wish they could do it over the right way.
 - ✓ If they dishonor the game and get away with it, the question is what value is winning if you violate your own standards to do so?
- On the other hand, if you play hard and live up to the ROOTS of Honoring the Game but lose on the scoreboard, you can hold your head high.
- Having one's own standards means you know how you want to behave regardless of what anyone else does. An opponent can talk trash, play dirty, bend the rules, but if you have integrity you act so you can be proud of yourself.
- We don't ever want to let our emotions get away from us and do something to make our team and our school look bad. We want to make our team, family, friends and community proud of us by Honoring the Game no matter what.
- Anyone can Honor the Game when their opponents do. It's a rare team that does it even when the opponent doesn't. That's the kind of team we want to be.

Discussion Points

- **What would you do if you lost a game and then a player from the other team said something insulting to you?**
- **Do you have the self-control to walk away or would you feel like you had to do something?**
- **How about if the official makes a bad call that loses the game for your team?**

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