

What True Leadership Is

By Briana Houston, Class of 2010

Many times people find something in life they can develop a passion for. Here at Woodlawn High School, many students develop a passion for one of the many sports that are offered as extra-curricular activities.

But like any opportunity, the opportunity of playing for a Woodlawn team, can be underappreciated. If a player lacks dedication, this is an opportunity lost. If an athlete fails to come to practice, it is a surprise to see this same athlete expect to perform at a high-level during games. It is an opportunity lost, and a path of defeat, if athletes become lazy and give less than their all.

There are many personalities and attitudes present on any team. But if athletes break off, and form cliques, this is an opportunity lost for the greater success of the team. Athletes need to be personally comfortable and trusting of each other to be able to achieve teamwork at practices and during games.

If a team is to seize opportunity, achieve success, and win competitions, positive leadership is needed from the team's captains and coaches. When individuals

designated as leaders do not lead, the team performs in a chaotic manner and falls short of the goals. From warm-up exercises, to drills, to the review of plays, precision is necessary.

If true leadership occurs, the potential of the team can be actualized. Woodlawn High School's fall sports feature football, volleyball, cheerleading, soccer, and cross-country. Woodlawn's winter sports feature basketball, bowling, cheerleading, and indoor track. Spring sports at Woodlawn feature lacrosse, softball, baseball, tennis, and outdoor track.

Playing one or more of these sports is an opportunity to push oneself to new heights, be social, and build friendships with teammates. But if the passion and commitment to the ideal of being an athlete and teammate is not valued, the opportunity is lost. Being an athlete, a teammate, a friend, and a leader are four inseparable things.

Discipline, leadership, and winning will always go hand-in-hand!

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