

# The Wildcats

# Sportsmanship Issue

Volume 1, Issue 1

December 2001

## Sportsmanship/Citizenship

Sportsmanship and citizenship is as much a part of an athletic contest as the game itself. At VAHS we believe that athletics play a vital role in the student athletes' total education. We believe that the lessons of sportsmanship and citizenship are taught everyday in our lives including in athletics. We all have an important role in teaching the lessons of sportsmanship and citizenship. VAHS, along with the members of the Badger Conference, are working hard to promote good sportsmanship and citizenship among our students and athletes. We need your help and support in this effort as well.

### General Guidelines

- Be a Gracious host and show respect for your opponents.
- Respect the decisions made by the contest officials.
- Be an exemplary role model by positively supporting teams in every manner possible, including content of cheer and signs. **Be A Fan... Not A Fanatic**

*continued on page 2*

---

DON'T BE A SIDELINE

CRITIC AT KIDS' GAMES

SOME FRIENDLY ADVICE

---

LETS KEEP IN MIND THAT TODAY'S  
GAME IS BEING PLAYED BY 15, 16, AND  
17 YEAR OLD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT  
ATHLETES AND NOT PROFESSIONALS!

## Fundamental of Sportsmanship

- Gain an Understanding and Appreciation for the rules of the game.
- Exercise Representative Behavior at All Times.
- Recognize and Appreciate Skilled Performance Regardless of Affiliation
- Exhibit Respect for the Officials.
- Display Openly a Respect for the Opponents.
- Display Pride in Your Actions at Every Opportunity

## Suggestions for Sportsmanship

### Acceptable Behavior...

- Applause during introduction of players.
- Shake hands with the opponent
- Accept all decisions of the officials
- Cheerleader lead fans in positive cheers
- Treat competition as a game not a war
- Applause at the end of a contest for the performance of all participants
- Show concern for an injured player, regardless of the team
- Encourage surrounding people to display only the best sportsmanship like conduct

### Unacceptable Behavior...

- Taunting, trash talk and other intimidating actions
- Not admonishing those sitting around you who engage in the practice of poor sportsmanship
- Yelling during an opponent's freethrow attempt
- Disrespectful or derogatory yells, chants songs or gestures

The greatest value of organized high school sports is that it teaches discipline, loyalty, and teamwork. But of even greater importance to any athlete is the need to get the best possible education that is available. Important as sports are, they are always secondary to the overriding need for a well rounded education.

Lee A. Iacocca

“Anyone can support a team that’s winning-it takes no courage. But to stand behind a team when it is down and really needs you, that takes a lot of courage”.

Bart Starr

### School Spirit

It has been said that schools lack school spirit because of a lack of student attendance at various school events including athletic events. Please consider the number of VAHS students that are involved in various school activities and the number of events that may be scheduled on the same nights. Also, lets consider the number of hours in practices to sharpen their skills, miles run, miles swam, endless rehearsals and the list goes on.

Then, lets not forget about the homework assignments that are due the next day, or that important test to study for, or a trip to the library to gather information for an important paper. They do all of this and do it well. Many of these students have a G.P.A. of 3.0 or higher.

Let’s not question their “spirit”. They have dedicated themselves time and time again to their activities and also have taken time out of their busy schedules to catch the action of fellow Wildcats.

“Good values should be emphasized in every athletic practice and game; in every rehearsal and performance; in every activity publication; and, in every decision made by coaches, sponsors, administrators, executive directors, and members of the boards of education.

Dr. Al Burr, retired high school principal

- Booing or heckling an official’s decision
- Criticizing officials in any way; display of temper with an official’s call
- Yells that antagonize opponents or single out players
- Blaming loss of game on officials, coaches or participants
- Laughing or name calling to distract an opponent
- Use of profanity or display of anger

### High School Sports Like “The Masters”

“In golf, customs of etiquette and decorum are just as important as rules governing play.” It is appropriate for spectators to applaud successful strokes in proportion to difficulty but excessive demonstrations by a player or his partisan are not proper because of the possible effect upon competitors”.

“Most distressing to those who love the game of golf, is the applauding or cheering of misplays or misfortunes of a player. Such occurrences have been rare at the Masters but we must eliminate them entirely if our patrons are to continue to merit their reputation as the most knowledgeable and considerate in the world.”

The most important thing for young athletes to understand is that while athletic performance may be an important part of their early years, an even more important part is their academic achievement. Athletics tend to pass as one gets older, whereas what one achieves academically stays with one the rest of one’s life. Long after athletic exploits are forgotten, one is still using the education that in some cases was made possible by athletic achievement.

Our proudest boast is that all of our athletes also become well educated and that quality shows itself in their later lives.

Reverend Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C.

University of Notre Dame, President