



## **Sportsmanship**

“Welcome to Wilmington Christian Academy; where sportsmanship is an expectation! So, let the players play, let the coaches coach, let the officials officiate, and let the spectators be positive.” This banner greets all of us each time we walk through our gym lobby. We’ve seen it, probably commented on it; but do we model it? I choose the word “model” because visitors will measure us against this standard. Many who enter our doors (officials, opposing teams, family, friends, even some of our own) do not know Christ. Our impact can be life changing!

Secular leaders in high school sports have stressed the need for sportsmanship and character in high school games. Much of the emphasis has been on the conduct of players and coaches. As Christians, we have a much greater responsibility. Our coaches and players must exemplify Christ-like behavior that meets and exceeds the idea of “good sportsmanship.” WCA fans, as well, share the responsibility to be a positive testimony.

Many sports fans assume that the purchase of a ticket entitles them to participate in the heckling of referees, coaches, and opposing fans and players. Though this behavior may be a common practice, it would be a difficult philosophy to support from Scripture. There are no good reasons to make any comments to referees or opposing players or fans. Our purpose is to encourage our teams and cheer them to victory.

In all this, we must always be aware that we welcome all to Wilmington Christian Academy. There will be times when circumstances become stressful and even unfair. At these times it is most crucial that we demonstrate the principles that are emblazoned on our welcome banner. We must demonstrate sportsmanship as an expectation. After all, this is nothing more than the normal conduct of a Christian! Our coaches strive for excellence in their sports and realize the values they teach go far beyond the game. We are thankful for your support in this area. It’s fun to be a Patriot!

From the Athletic Director’s Heart . . . Mr. Craig Tucker