**“You are Better”**

Words matter!

With the Girls and Boys Basketball playoffs starting next week, I need to address a few issues that have come up from the student section, during recent basketball games.

**“You are better”**

~ If our student-athletes on the court can show the opponents respect by extending our own hand to help them up off the floor, why must you show such discourtesy by yelling derogatory statements toward the opposing players from the stands?

**“You are better”**

~ If our student-athletes on the court can show class and humility by accepting defeat to their opponents with a firm handshake and statement “Good Game”, why must you be so brash by calling opposing players out by name or number?

**“You are better”**

~ if our student-athletes can show decency and appreciation towards their opponent to offer their own baked goods with the players and fans of the opposing team, why must you show such disrespect towards are opponent to try to humiliate them, just to get a laugh from your fellow spectator?

**“We are better”**

There is always two scoreboards during each sporting event. One shows the score of the game. The same one that everyone sees on the next days newspaper, sportscast and social media post. The same one that within a few weeks begin to fade and fall from peoples memory.

The other scoreboard speaks to the spirit and pride of the communities that are playing the game on the court, field or mat. This score lives in peoples mind for weeks, month and truthfully many years, if not their remaining lifetime. It is the impression that one gets from the atmosphere of the gymnasium. It is the scoreboard of sportsmanship. The ability for players and spectators alike to show the spirit and drive to compete, but also the compassion and respect of everyone involved to show decency to one another. And frankly speaking, while I have never seen issue with our players on the court, field or mat, I am ashamed to say, individuals within our student section have not allowed us to win the sportsmanship scoreboard each game day and to be perfectly honest, it should be the easiest score to win!

Simple rules to live by:

* Cheer loud and proud for your team.
* Cheer positively for your team
* You should have already been taught… if you nothing nice to say, say nothing at all.

Follow those 3 simple rules and our results on the second scoreboard will become a lasting memory for everyone involved.

**“I will be better”**

I know you are capable of these things because I have seen and heard it from you before. I specifically bring it up today because during the playoffs, unruly student sections have and will get called out by the referees and can cost teams a technical, points on the games scoreboard and be removed for the game permanently. I know you don’t want to possibly cost a team points or even worse cost our team a playoff victory!

**“We will be better!”**

Falcon Pride!!