



2017 EAGLES WELCOME TO THE FIGHT

For us to have a great football team, our seniors must play the best football of their careers, and our younger players must identify their roles and assimilate themselves into this **team** with a single-mindedness of purpose.

The concept "**We Are One**" is truer in football than any sport known to man. The journey we embark on is shared by coaches, players, parents, and community and involves a **constant striving for the elusive quest for perfection and excellence**. Many times, this may mean you must do things that are difficult and which you do not normally enjoy doing, but it's imperative that you develop habits to enable you to cope with all the obstacles and adversity you may face beyond football in the years ahead.

Our schedule this year, as usual, is one of the most demanding in the state, and *I wouldn't want it any other way*. I am confident we can successfully handle it **if each of us places this team's welfare ahead of our own**.

I want to thank you in advance for the effort, perseverance, and sacrifices you will be making to help us become a **championship team**, and **I pledge to help you in any way I can when your football experience is over**. There is no greater thrill than playing on a championship team because that means you are part of a group of young men who you can trust one another, who are committed to each other, and who care about one another.

As your head coach, I would like to share my feelings about each and every one of you: There is not an individual on our team who is not exceptionally important to our future success. This is a "**Team**" in every respect. It's as if every one of you has a piece of the championship puzzle in your pocket and for us to complete that puzzle, everybody must be ready in August with their piece in good shape and ready to go. If we don't have all the pieces of the puzzle, there is no way we are going to be successful. Every piece is vital to successfully completing the puzzle, just like every player on this team is vital to successfully completing a championship run.

I'm often asked what makes our football program so special. I like to point out that we aren't made up a lot of superstar individuals, with super egos to match. The foundation of our success is simply a group of dedicated, determined young men who absolutely refuse to lose. That you are willing to sacrifice and do "**Whatever It Takes**". That you are unselfish, love one another, care for the program and your school. The **team** concept is first and foremost in your minds. And, as we say, "**WELCOME TO THE FIGHT**".

Now is **your** time. We all need to recognize the opportunity we have in front of us to be truly great this season. We know we **can** win! Now we've got to work hard enough to get to the point where we **expect** to win. **Striving for perfection in all we do** is our ultimate goal. Anything less is totally unsatisfactory. We must all develop and exercise the self-discipline needed to focus in on our goals with laser precision.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Ability determines what you are capable of doing. *Ability is God-given.*

Motivation determines what you **actually do**. *Motivation comes from within.*

Attitude determines how well you do it? *Attitude comes from within.*

"Success is achieved by paying the price in advance." - *Emerson's law of compensation*

"Only the fittest survive." - *Darwin's theory of evolution*

"You are what you believe, decide, and act upon!"

There are no state football champion patches given for individual performance.

It takes a team to be champions.



That type of self-discipline is one of the greatest assets you can develop, and it can guide your life in all you do. This is exactly why we coaches are so inflexible when it comes to our training rules, the academic effort we demand of you, and the exemplary personal life we continuously remind you to pursue every day. ***You can't serve two masters.*** You must make up your mind what kind of person you wish to be and then strive to live that way every waking moment.

People keep telling me that we can't ***always*** expect our football team to be good. ***Nonsense!*** By following our guiding principles mentioned above, we will always be **great**. Yet, we can always get better. We will strive for perfection in every contest. Not some, not most, but EVERY ONE!

The only reason a person exists is to be the best they can be. **To play for Dakota Ridge is to seek perfection.** I've heard all the reasons why perfection cannot really be attained, but I want each of us to come ***so close to perfection*** that the average person can't tell the difference. If we settle for less, then our attitude is flawed. In fact, **there is no reason to settle for less than seeking perfection, because it would be inconsistent with our goals, objectives and beliefs!**

From this point on. . . I want ***you*** to make a conscious effort to be the best - ***the very best*** - in all areas of your life. I want you to be the best student you can be. I want you to be the best son you can be, the best community member you can be, and the best football player you can be. **You simply owe that commitment to yourself – and your teammates.**

From this point on. . . We are all going to present a positive and enthusiastic attitude toward teammates and all others. Every practice and every game will be fun because we **WELCOME THE FIGHT**, working hard for the same dreams, hopes, and ambitions.

From this point on. . . you will think daily of the goals you set for yourself and this team. Remind yourself that you are fortunate to be part of the **great Dakota Ridge football tradition**, and it is up to you to carry that torch of success. You must begin to see yourself as being successful. You must actually visualize your and our success before you fall asleep at night, on your lunch break or anytime. See yourself and your teammates - in living color - carrying that state championship trophy off the field in triumphant glory, then work your absolute hardest to obtain it. Don't say that "*It would be nice*" – say, "***It will be great!***"

If you do everything we ask, the reward at the end will be great!

Let's be great together,

Coach Woj

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

PROTECT THE CIRCLE!

Do the ordinary things better than anyone else does, day in and day out!

Don't sacrifice what you want *most* for what you want *now*!

The "10-80-10" Principle

TOP 10% → guys with elite self-discipline, elite self-respect, incredible work ethic, care about team, others, and family.

MIDDLE 80% → guys who are good guys and work hard and do enough to get by.
Average people

BOTTOM 10% → defiant people, blame others, lack self-respect so they act out like their cool and God's gift to people, don't care about their team, selfish people.

Where do *you* fit in? Where do you *WANT* to fit in? Make it happen...



