

WHAT DO ATHLETES REALLY DESERVE?

A GREAT COACH:

- Someone who treats each player with respect and expects respect.
- A coach who sees athletics as an extension of the classroom and teaches in that arena.
- A person who coaches to help kids rather than one who coaches to notch victories on his belt.
- Someone who builds players' self-esteem.
- A coach who exhibits high moral standards.
- A coach who realizes that controlling his or her own emotions is one of the most important jobs.
- Someone who realizes that life isn't fair, you don't get lucky often and that officials are honorable people trying to do a difficult job.
- A coach who realizes that even an average official is better than having the kids "call their own."
- A coach who tries to make participating fun.
- A coach who realizes all parents are irrational when it comes to their child, and that this is good because parents should care a lot.

GREAT PARENTS:

- Parents who don't criticize their athlete's teammates or coaches.
- Parents who realize the benefits from participating in athletics aren't limited to the starters.
- Parents who don't expect their child to earn athletic scholarship, because scholarships always should be a surprise.
- Parents who offer as much encouragement for their child in academics as in athletics.
- Parents who don't judge their child's worth by athletics.
- Parents who can appreciate their child's accomplishments without comparing them to the achievements of others.
- Parents who try to attend events.
- Parents who realize that in the long run, not even a state title compares favorably with the values that are taught in athletics.
- Parents who don't try to live vicariously through their children.

GREAT ADMINISTRATORS:

- Principals who provide adequate equipment for students to participate safely.
- Administrators who aren't distraught that the sports team creates more excitement than the school's academic achievements.
- Principals who see athletics as an extension of the classroom.
- Administrators who judge the worth of coaches not by wins on the field, but by victories with children.

Isn't it a shame that people don't always get what they deserve?

Tim Stevens, N&O Staff Writer