IT’S NOT ABOUT WINS AND LOSSES

Jon C. Dalton Institute on College Student Values
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JOHN WOODEN

- Born: October 14, 1910 – Centerville, Ohio
- Died: June 4, 2010
- High School Coaching
  - Record: 218-42 (.838)
  - Dayton High School (KY) – 2 years
    - First season’s record (6-11)
  - South Bend Central High School (IN) – 9 years
- College Coaching
  - Record: 664-162 (.804)
  - Indiana State Teacher’s College 1946-48
  - UCLA 1948-75
    - 10 National Championships
    - 88-game winning streak

“Youngsters need good role models more than they need good critics.” - JW
JOHN WOODEN

- Wrote/co-wrote 8 books on topics of leadership, life, and personal success

- Honors
  - Namesakes
  - Numerous coaching awards and Hall(s) of Fame Inductions
  - The Sporting News’ “Greatest Coach of All Time” - 2009
  - Presidential Medal of Freedom – July 2003
  - John Wooden Ethics in Leadership Award – 2009

- Revered for his teaching methods and philosophies that apply as much to life as to basketball

"John Wooden is the greatest basketball coach of all time, but what I learned from him had much more to do with living life than with playing ball." – Bill Walton
PYRAMID OF SUCCESS
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Self-Control    Alertness    Initiative    Intentness

Industriousness    Friendship    Loyalty    Cooperation    Enthusiasm
PYRAMID OF SUCCESS

- Poise
- Confidence
- Condition
- Skill
- Team Spirit
- Self-Control
- Alertness
- Initiative
- Intentness
- Industriousness
- Friendship
- Loyalty
- Cooperation
- Enthusiasm
PYRAMID OF SUCCESS

Competitive Greatness

Poise  CONFIDENCE

Condition  SKILL  Team Spirit

Self-Control  ALERTNESS  Initiative  Intentness

Industriousness  Friendship  Loyalty  Cooperation  Enthusiasm
ADDITIONAL MAXIMS & TEACHINGS

- Two Sets of Three
  - Never Lie
  - Never Cheat
  - Never Steal
  - Don’t Whine
  - Don’t Complain
  - Don’t Make Excuses

- Seven Point Creed
  - Be true to yourself
  - Help others
  - Make each day your masterpiece
  - Drink deeply from good books, especially The Good Book
  - Make friendship a fine art
  - Build a shelter for a rainy day
  - Pray for guidance, and count and give thanks for your blessing each day

“Never mistake activity for achievement.” - JW
ADDITIONAL MAXIMS & TEACHINGS

- Spirit vs. Temperament
- Peer Pressure

"Mistakes occur when your thinking is tainted by excessive emotion."  
"Talent is God given. Be humble. Fame is man-given. Be grateful. Conceit is self-given. Be careful."  
"If they don’t respect their leader, people just punch the clock in and out. There is not clock-watching when a leader has respect."

"Ability is a poor man's wealth."  
"It's what you learn after you know it all that counts."  
"Be quick, but don't hurry."  
"Nothing is stronger than gentleness."

"I believe there is no more powerful leadership tool than your own personal example." - JW
GROUP QUESTIONS

- **Group 1** – Wooden believed that being a good leader didn’t equate to only having knowledge about a topic. He believed there were additional qualities there were just as essential. What other qualities do you feel are important for a leader to possess?

- **Group 2** – Wooden believed the star of the team was the team. In a society that stresses the value of individual success and competition, how can we emphasize the recognition of group dynamics and success over individual performance and gain? How does this relate to our work with students?

- **Group 3** – How do we help students understand it’s not all about wins and losses – especially for a generation that has always prized and valued being #1?

- **Group 4** – A role of the student affairs professional is to turn a student from a number into one that has accessible support and guidance. Wooden believed that this personal investment was essential to the overall performance of his team. How can we best invest in our students to get the maximum effort from them?

- **Group 5** - Wooden believed that when you left work, you actually left work at work. At the same time, he expected complete focus and concentration when he was teaching during practice. How do we encourage ourselves, our staff and the students we lead to have a strong work ethic, while at the same time exercising balance in our personal lives?
Wooden believed that being a good leader didn’t equate to only having knowledge about a topic. He believed there were additional qualities there were just as essential. What other qualities do you feel are important for a leader to possess?

“Knowledge is not enough to get desired results. You must have the more elusive ability to teach and motivate. This defines effective leadership. If you can’t teach and you can’t motivate, how can you be a leader?”
Wooden believed the star of the team was the team. In a society that stresses the value of individual success and competition, how can we emphasize the recognition of group dynamics and success over individual performance and gain? How does this relate to our work with students?

“I value talent, and I was always looking for a great player. But even more I was looking for the player, or combination of players, who could make the team great. That was my goal: a great team, rather than just a team with some great players.”

“The team is first; individual credit is second. We have no place for selfishness, egotism, or envy.”

“There’s a role that each and every one of us must play. We may aspire to what we consider to be a larger role, or a more important role, but we cannot achieve that until we show that we are able to fulfill the role we are assigned.”
How do we help students understand it’s not all about wins and losses – especially for a generation that has always prized and valued being #1?

“Failing to prepare is preparing to fail. If you prepare properly, you may be outscored but you will never lose...You always win when you make the full effort to do the best of which you’re capable.”

“Did I win? Did I lose? Those are the wrong questions. The correct question is: Did I make my best effort? That’s what matters. The rest of it just gets in the way.”
A role of the student affairs professional is to turn a student from a number into one that has accessible support and guidance. Wooden believed that this personal investment was essential to the overall performance of his team. How we can we best invest in our students to get the maximum effort from them?

Wooden never lost sight of the people side.
“Care, concern, and a sincere consideration for those on your team is a mark of a good leader. It is not something that makes you appear vulnerable or suggests softness. On the contrary, it is strength.”
“People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.”

However, no player was above the team, regardless of ability.
“Love them? Yes. Allow them to hurt our team? No. That’s when intelligently applied discipline becomes your ally.”
Wooden believed that when you left work, you actually left work at work.

“My dear wife, Nellie, said she couldn’t tell if I’d had a good day or a bad day at practice.”

At the same time, though, he said,

“During practices, I expected total and absolute concentration and participation in what I was teaching.”

How do we encourage ourselves, our staff and the students we lead to have a strong work ethic, while at the same time exercising balance in our personal lives?

“I wanted players to concentrate on other things – first of all their studies. But I also felt it important to refresh and recharge oneself, not to be so consumed with basketball that it becomes a chore.”
“You never fail if you know in your heart that you did the best of which you are capable.” - JW
REFERENCES