

# Red Raider Newsletter

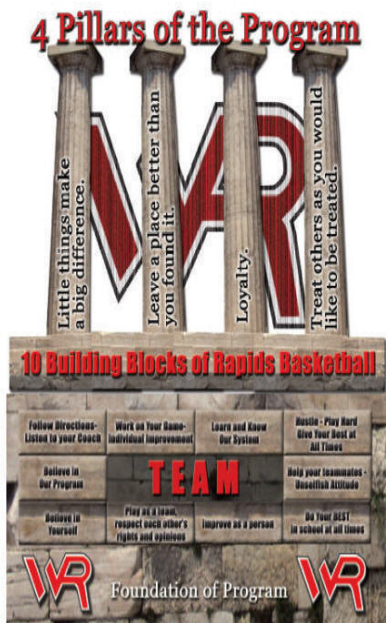
VOLUME I ISSUE 3

RED RAIDER BASKETBALL

NEWSLETTER DATE

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## Remembering a Legend



**Coach John Wooden**

October 14, 1910 - June 04, 2010

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### THE MAN IN THE ARENA

It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbled, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again; who knows the great enthusiasm, the great devotions, and spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement; and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly; so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.



## Coaches Corner



Head Coach  
Dan Witter

*“Individual Commitment to a group effort— That is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work.”  
~Vince Lombardi~*

With the passing of John Wooden last week I thought it would be appropriate to begin our Summer Newsletter with some thoughts on Coach Wooden and his contributions to basketball and society. I have heard coach speak a couple of times, read all of his books, and one of my friends knew coach Wooden and got a book signed to me by coach. This means he actually wrote my name once! Our pillars and building blocks are based on Coach’s pyramid of success.

I have been thinking about coach a lot this week. In analyzing some of his coaching thoughts and methods it also brought me to another coaching legend Vince Lombardi. Coach Wooden and Coach Lombardi had very different methods, styles, and personalities, but there are also a lot of things they did that were the same. When studying Lombardi and Wooden these similarities become clear.

1. **High expectations of players:** They wanted their players to reach full potential.
2. **They were great Motivators**
3. **They both had very simple systems of play.**  
Fundamentals were stressed everyday
4. **Practice was very important**
5. **Both were very demanding**
6. **They had a great impact on their players and people around them.**

Their players loved them after they were done playing, even though there were times they didn’t like them while they were playing.

Our program is based on helping players be the best they can be. We want our players to reach their full potential and goals they set for themselves.





Personally I would like to be more like coach Wooden, however my temperament and personality lead me in a different direction at times. I want our players to be as good as they can be and reach all of their goals. I will always be honest with our players and demand they do their best and give their all. Sometimes I don't say it in a way they like or they just get the "stare" as they call it, but I care a lot about our kids and try to help them make their dreams come true. Our off-season philosophy is repetition and competition. The best players are working hard, not wasting time. You always want to be better today than yesterday and this isn't easy, but if it was everyone would do it.

Work on ball handling and shooting this off-season and play when you can.

Coach Witter~

Visit us at: <http://www.lhshoops.org/> or [www.wrbb.org](http://www.wrbb.org)

Email Coach Witter: [dan.witter@wrps.org](mailto:dan.witter@wrps.org)

*"I want to be remembered as the man who gave all whenever he was on the field."*

*~Walter Payton*





# Great Words of Coach Wooden

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“Things turn out best for the people who make the best of the way things turn out.”

“Never mistake activity for achievement.”

“Adversity is the state in which man most easily becomes acquainted with himself, being especially free of admirers then.”

“Be prepared and be honest.”

“Be quick, but don’t hurry.”

“You can’t let praise or criticism get to you. It’s a weakness to get caught up in either one.”

“You can’t live a perfect day without doing something for someone who will never be able to repay you.”

“What you are as a person is far more important that what you are as a basketball player.”

“If you don’t have time to do it right, when will you have time to do it over?”

“If you’re not making mistakes, then you’re not doing anything. I’m positive that a doer makes mistakes.”

“It isn’t what you do, but how you do it.”

“Consider the rights of others before your own feelings and the feelings of others before your own rights.”

“Success comes from knowing that you did your best to become the best that you are capable of becoming.”







## Keys to improving over the summer



**Repetition, Repetition, Repetition:** Stepping outside and shooting casually when you feel like it isn't going to make you the player that you want to be! Getting in the gym or outside consistently throughout the summer and working hard is the only way you are going to grow as a player. You don't get better doing a drill once. It is the player who does it over and over again that grows.



**Be Competitive in everything you do.** If you go to open gym and fool around, you are wasting an opportunity for you and your friends to get better. Players get better when everyone on the court is playing hard and playing to win. This gets players out of their comfort zones and makes a whole group better. This shouldn't take the fun out of it, half the fun of sports is competing.



**Set Goals!** This goes along with being competitive. You should have a goal set when you go out to work or to play at open gym. Maybe your goal is to make 300 shots or to make 10 free throws in a row. Goals should be used to push you to do better. Goals like shooting 500 shots can be good, but they don't force you to focus on making shots, just shooting them.



**Know your limits!** Kobe Bryant isn't a 5th grader or a 7th grader. The things he does in a game are done because he has been practicing and working at his game longer than most kids have been alive! Young players who walk into the gym and heave up three point shots and 360 layups aren't making themselves a better player. The player who shoots in his range and slowly works his way out are the players that become special. Success doesn't happen overnight!





## Program Objectives

- Promote the philosophy, values, and vision of the entire Wisconsin Rapids boys basketball program.
- Compete at the highest level possible in order to challenge players to reach their full potential.
- Develop sportsmanship and teamwork to promote positive attitudes both on and off the court.
- Encourage fun and enjoyment of the game.

**Check out our  
Webpages**

[www.wrbb.org/](http://www.wrbb.org/)

and

[www.lhshoops.org](http://www.lhshoops.org)

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**“If you don’t invest very much, than defeat doesn’t hurt very much, and winning is not very exciting.”**

**~Dick Vermeil~**

