

Heart of a Coach – March 2017



Name: Greg Schoon
Hometown: Sioux Rapids, Iowa
Alma Mater: Iowa State University
Degree(s): Bachelor of Science in Physical Education
Coaches: East High School Football

List your chosen attribute: Dependable

What is your personal definition of this word? Being “Dependable” means that you can be consistently counted on to follow through on whatever you said you were going to do. Dependable means that you’ve also built trust. Trust and dependability go hand-in-hand I believe. If you feel someone is dependable and you trust them, then you have faith in them and the belief becomes even stronger. I tell my athletes that I will tell them things they may not like to hear and they might dislike me for the rest of the practice or day, but they will respect me more tomorrow and be willing to be coached the next day. Instead of....lying to them and sugar coating something and then they find out that it was a lie or not the right way and then the trust is broken and they won’t believe in the things I’m trying to teach them.

What is your favorite Biblical passage that deals with this characteristic?

“And I will raise me up a faithful priest that shall do according to that which is in mine heart and in my mind: and I will build him a sure house: and he shall walk before mine anointed forever.” 1 Samuel 2:35

Why did you choose that particular passage? As I look back throughout my life I realize there were people that raised me up when I was down and continued to hold me accountable when times were good. I think this passage basically says that if you do right by people the Lord will do right to you. I try my hardest to lift young kids up when they are down and try to take them to even higher heights when they are having success, all the time keeping them mindful to remain humble and remember that success can be a fragile thing and work must always be put in to ensure you are heading in the right direction.

Please give an application/example of this word in your life. I have literally hundreds of my former players’ cell numbers in my Contacts on my phone. When they need to know the answer to something, whatever it is, then know they can call or text me and I’m going to do what I can for them. I know many, many of my current and former players appreciate that about me as I get numerous loving texts on Father’s Day and around the Christmas Holidays. I can’t describe the feeling that gives me when I receive those types of messages!

How do you apply this word in your sport? As the Head Coach I have to set the tone. I know that if I’m not the most dependable person in the Program, then how can I expect other coaches and players to be dependable and be counted on to perform their respective jobs. I don’t ever want to let any of my players or coaches down by not being able to follow through on something I said I was going to do!

How did you become involved in FCA? I have been involved in some small capacities with FCA since I was in high school.

How active within FCA were/are you? I was probably more active in high school as a student-athlete than I am now. I do encourage my student-athletes to join FCA because I know it can act as a release for them and hopefully help them feel refreshed after hearing The Message.

What is your athletic experience? (Where?) I was a 4 sport athlete in high school at Sioux Central located in Sioux Rapids, IA. I participated in football, basketball, golf and baseball while in high school. I was All Conference in all 4 sports and 2-time All State in basketball and football. I received a full ride scholarship for football at Iowa State and was a 3 year starter at defensive tackle.

What is your coaching experience? (Where?) I have been coaching the past 13 years at Des Moines East and have been the Head Football Coach for the past 7. I was an assistant coach the previous 6 years on the football Staff. I have also coached boys basketball, girls soccer, boys and girls bowling and boys track while at East. I have also coached at Van Meter and Kingsley-Pierson where I coached football, basketball and golf there. I also volunteered at Woodward-Granger for one year on their football staff.

