

Hall of Fame Speech – January 5, 2019

Recognize the 1967, 68 & 69 State Championship football teams that were all inducted last year into the Hall of Fame.

I remember the late sixties was just a really special time at this school. I was talking to Neal Billman, one of our football coaches about it and he said, "Scientists can measure how far away the stars are and how deep the oceans are, but they can't measure your spirit. And that's what made you guys so extraordinary, it was your spirit. You had a spirit that was unstoppable and that couldn't be penetrated." I'm like ready to suit up. It was beautiful. He said, "if anyone looked at the football players in an Upper Arlington program they wouldn't be intimidated because there wasn't anybody who was big. They didn't know how fast we were, but there certainly wasn't anybody that was big." What he said was, "they couldn't stop you guys, they couldn't stop your spirit." I kind of converted that to our statistics and we did score over 50 points a game on average and our defense only allowed an average of 8 points a game. We had over 500 yards of offense on average every game. So I think about that unstoppable spirit and I think about that impenetrable spirit related to the defense. We were good, we were good. There's a guy here tonight that realized that, his name is Brad Frick. Brad graduated three years ahead of us, he's an attorney here in town, but he saw us play and he just never forgot about it. It was so impressionable in his mind and he is really good at putting documentaries together, so he decided he was going to put together a documentary on us. What was so cool about this was, yeh we can go back and look at all the statistics but he also interviewed over 30 different people so that he would get the feel for what was really going on. This is all on line. Anybody here in the room can watch it by going to www.ua69.com/football and you can get a taste of what that era was like. It's all about Arlington football since the time that Marv Moorehead took over in 1955 until he left after 1969. I guarantee you if you watch a few segments of that, you will start to get it. You guys I think are looking for a new football coach, you might want to look at that video first and say to yourself, "Is there anyone that we are interviewing that even comes close to Marv Moorehead?"

I think about why did we have that great spirit? I really think it is four things.

Number one was our **Support**.

When I think about the support that we had it goes back to our parents. Our parents supported us like crazy. It didn't matter whose house you went to. You could have gone to the Anderson's, the Ball's, the Gordon's. You could have gone to the Lucas's, the Miely's, you could have gone to the Merrell's to the Schmidt's. You could have gone to any house and it was like you totally got your battery recharged because you walk in and you just felt

how much they believed in you. It was kinda like having little battery chargers all over the community. Then we had support from our classmates. When you would go to school everyone's talking about the next game, the next track meet or the next basketball game or whatever it is. Then the administrators like Dave Shelby who was always watching our backs and always on our side. Then the teachers, like Bill Rouff. Dick Fryman was my biology teacher, I loved dissecting those frogs. What a great teacher. So we had that support.

To have your spirit elevated to that kind of a level where you can perform at really an incredible level you've gotta have great **Teammates**. By great teammates that not only means that these guys are talented, and we had a lot of talented guys, but you also have to have teammates that understand that a team is a family. Families, they trust each other, they have faith in each other, they have each other's back and that was our guys.

The next ingredient was **Prayer**. We had a bunch of prayer warriors all over the community and among our guys as well. I know I was praying every night. I said a simple prayer, it was really quick and I just said, "Give me the will power, the desire and the determination to do my best." That was it. Then before football games Coach Moorehead would pray for our protection and then his last line in the prayer was always, "May our success be proportional to the effort put forth." Then Schmidty, who had a Volkswagen Beetle painted yellow with a black stripe down the middle so it looked like an Arlington football helmet, would gather guys at his church on Friday mornings before a football game that Friday night. So we had that whole spiritual thing going on also.

The last thing that you gotta have to raise your spirit up so you can perform at a really high level...you gotta have great, great **Coaches**. And we did. It didn't matter what sport it was, really.

In football I go back to Jack Woodruff who was my football coach and track coach at Hastings. What a fabulous guy. All of these guys were not just coaches, they were men who were dedicated to making you better boys. They taught us about life. About living life principles. That was a gift.

Now we go the high school level. My Reserve football coach, Dick Fryman, right here. I'm not surprised that he won 18 state championships in tennis because this guy was the best athlete I've ever known. He could coach, he could play, he just knows sports like the back of his hand. He's an amazing guy. Then we get up to the varsity level in football and Pete Corey was my backfield coach, Neil Billman was the line coach and Coach Moorehead as the head coach. Those guys all became Ohio High School Hall of Fame Football coaches. That's something you don't know till after the fact that that is what happened to these guys after

we left. Then we had some really young coaches like Tom Rutan, Dan Dupler and Bill Pfeil. Just a great group of guys. All of them.

Then it was basketball season and we had this brand new coach. Our senior year Jay Ball and I were captains of the basketball team and this new coach came in. His name is Jim Hamilton. We didn't know him and he didn't know us. So Jay and I introduced Coach Hamilton to Upper Arlington basketball by having a sterling record of 2-9 after the first 11 games. I remember we came back after the Lancaster game and it was our ninth loss and we went into the locker room and we had a team meeting and we prayed and after that everything changed. I think we just started to get what Coach Hamilton was teaching us. We went on and we scored over 100 points in the first tournament game. Then we won the second game and went on to the third game, which I think was the District semi-finals, and we were playing Linden McKinley. They were super talented guys and we took them to overtime. I'm kinda glad we lost because we would have had to have played East the next game and they had three guys who went to the NBA. They were so loaded. They were a great team.

Then track season rolled around. My sophomore year I had a guy named Dick Larkin. It was his last year of coaching. I think he coached about a thousand different sports at Arlington when he was here & he was getting ready to retire. He was a great guy and a great coach. He took Tom Trainer & I to the State Championship where we both won our respective events. He won the pole vault and I won the quarter mile. Junior year Marv Crosten took over and I got second in the state that year. Then he took me to the state championship my senior year where I won the quarter mile and the 220. Marv was just a fantastic guy. He became a really good friend.

It was almost like they were popping these coaches out of molds. They were all such good people. When I look back on it I think, what a pleasure and what a privilege to have come through this school during those late sixties and have those men touch your life in such a deep and special way.