

“There Are Eyes Upon You”

Tim LaVallee

Behavior is often a direct reflection of the model presented by parents, coaches, and the program. It's important that athletes know what's expected of them to help them do their best at all times, have a successful season, and keep them from embarrassing

themselves, their parents, the team, or the program. It's reasonable expect each athlete to conduct themselves in a reasonable respectful, civil and responsible manner at all times. With athletes

I often try to reinforced my three major expectations: **1. Always do the right things**, **2. Always do the very best you can**, and **3. Always treat other's as you want to be treated**. Good sportsmanship is always a must. Skiing athletes

need be reminded once in awhile that they are a highly respected group of individuals who represent the pride of the school or program wherever that may be. Because they are a good skier, they exert tremendous influence on others and especially younger athletes. This may be best put remembering a famous quote I read many years ago:



continued

"There are eyes upon you, and they're watching night and day; there are ears that quickly pick up every word you say; there are little skiers all eager to do everything you do, and a kid is dreaming of the day he'll be just like you. You're some kids idol, you're the best of the best; in his mind about you no suspicions ever rise. He believes you devoutly, holds that all you say and do; he will say and do in your way when he's grown up just like you; Oh, it sometimes makes me shudder when I hear a kid repeat, some careless phrase I've uttered in the language of the street; and I know beyond all doubting that he picked it up from me. There's a wide-eyed little fellow who believes you're always right, and his ears are always open and he watches day and night; you are setting an example every day in all that you do, especially for a kid who's waiting to grow up just like you."

Unknown Author

As an athlete we have a tremendous responsibility. Let being humble in victory and persistent in correcting the mistakes that bring on defeat, become our guide.