

Class Coach, Class Team

Thursday, November 3, 2016

Bible Verse:

Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:16

Reflection:

Chris Koletzky, Sturgis football coach, is a class coach!! He played football for a couple of class coaches: Yankton High School- Arlin Likness, and University of Sioux Falls- Bob Young.

Coach Koletzky did something very unique last Thursday night! He called a timeout with a minute left in the game to talk to his defense, and his team was behind 73-22! The Mitchell offense had just taken a knee to run out the clock.

Coach Koletzky noticed that an opposing player named Tayler Reichelt had entered the game. Tayler, whose nickname is T-man, is a senior at Mitchell High School (the Homecoming King voted on by the entire student body on September 20), and he has *Down Syndrome*. Koletzky asked his defensive players in the huddle what they thought about letting Reichelt score and the response from his players was "all for it, immediately."

"We wanted to make the Mitchell team aware, and we wanted to make it appear that it was earned," Koletzky said. "They were pretty much on the same page right away." Reichelt took the hand-off, shot through a hole in the line and scampered 58 yards for the touchdown. Reichelt's touchdown capped the scoring on the night. He was mobbed in the endzone by his teammates and lifted onto their shoulders! The whole sideline was jumping up and down.

"I don't have the words," said MHS head coach Kent VanOverschelde, who gave Reichelt a big hug after the play. "That'll be a moment, that all of us will cherish. Anyone that was in this ballpark, will cherish that moment for a long time." VanOverschelde had nothing for praise for Koletzky and his team after the game, calling the move a "class act."

Tayler's mom, Ann, later said, "I have so much respect for the Scoopers. I can't say enough to that coach and those boys. It's their last game and they are getting beat, but they took the time to do something that made Tayler's high school career so memorable. That is a class act." Ann Reichelt said she had no idea that Tayler was going to get the ball. "It was beautiful," she said. "It's a wonderful world we live in. Sometimes we don't think so, but then things like this happen, and that's what life is all about."

Sturgis activities director, Mike Paris, himself a former football coach, said it's not always about winning or losing. "It's about building character and life lessons," he said of high school sports. "All the

games I have been to, watched and coached, to see this was just a class act. The team deserves all the accolades they get on this. It will be a lifelong memory for them." But it takes a classy group of youths to put their feelings on the back burner so that a special player from the other team can have the highlight of his life that he will never, ever forget. "It was not only a lesson to our kids, but a lesson to other teams in this state that it's not about wins and losses." Paris says everyone knows Sturgis struggled this year and failed to notch a win. "But we ended up the year on a positive note, and it wasn't with a win," he said. *"Character goes a lot further than wins and losses."*

Paris said Koletzky has made an effort to focus on character with his players. This is the second year Coach Koletzky has been using the **Character Matters curriculum** with his team.

"The character the entire Sturgis team & coaching staff displayed in this game shows the hearts of true champions!" said a fan.

Questions:

What's the purpose of sport?

What is your son or daughter learning through their sport experience?

Is your team learning about the four building blocks of completeness? (physical, mental, social, spiritual)

Bible Reading:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+5&version=MEV>

Author:

<http://www.mitchellrepublic.com/sports/kernels/4146774-moment-cherish-tayler-reichelt-caps-win-touchdown-run>

http://rapidcityjournal.com/news/local/scoopers-help-football-player-score-inspirational-touchdown/article_a85a7593-a5a6-5f31-ae87-f579d8256fc2.html

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4qN7DxDVJ4> Mitchell Kernels vs Sturgis 10/27/16 - Congrats Tyler! 3:07