

DEAR FANS

Dear Fans,

I'd like to thank you for taking the time to come to my game last night. It sure was nice to see such a big crowd. I just wish you could have been a little more positive towards me and my teammates. I know you were disappointed that we didn't win. We were too, but we really did try our best.

It's true that we made a bunch of mistakes, but we're still learning and we're getting better. I know sometimes it might not seem that way to you, but we really are improving. Remember, we're only teenagers. Quite a few of us aren't even old enough to drive a car and most of us don't even shave yet. Please be patient with us because in a few years, if we all stick with it, we have a chance to be pretty good!

The sad part is that we probably won't all stick with it. I've already heard some of the kids talking about quitting this season or not coming out next year. Most of them say it's too much pressure. One kid said he heard people yelling from the stands that he shouldn't be allowed on the court because he isn't good enough. Another kid was told the only reason he was playing is because of his last name - even though I know for a fact that he worked harder in the off-season than anyone else on the team. Heck, I don't think anyone should be made to feel bad because he went out for a high school team, tried his best, and wasn't as good as someone else.

This is where you come in. I'm asking you for your help as someone I look up to; someone I respect. Please continue to come to my games, but be positive. Cheer for me, but not at the expense of my teammates. If you hear someone tearing me, my teammates, or my team down, step in and ask them to stop - even if it is uncomfortable for you. If you are uncomfortable with what you are hearing, just think of how it makes my teammates and I feel.

Remember, you had your chance to play. Now it's our turn. Thank you for reading my letter.

Respectfully,
A kid playing a game

-- Mark Horbinski