



Presidential Address

October 3rd 2022

Knight families,

I hope the beginning of the school year has been a successful one for you and your children. This time is one full of excitement and energy, and as the current Athletic Board President I can tell you that the same is felt amongst all of us associated with Knights Athletics. I would like to welcome you to my first "Presidential Address" where my intention is to highlight some of the great things our athletic department, the student athletes, and the board members as a whole are doing to continue to develop our students on the court and on the track. As Board President I think it is vital to communicate and highlight the positive things we see throughout the month.

Our Athletic Board works very diligently to make sure our athletics are both running efficiently and growing effectively. I have been so impressed with the efforts that our board members make in a positive way in my time on the Board. Bill Serb, our Athletic Director, takes great pride in the student athletes, their successes and the entire department as a whole, and our Board works hand-in-hand to continue that development. I have made mention to the board I feel very strongly about 2 critical aspects when it comes to youth sports and specifically our Knight Athletics:

1: **Communication.** We know as a board how important it is for you as a parent to be able to communicate to the coaches as well as the administrators and we value that communication. This is why the Board approved a decision to make Team Snap available to all the coaches this year, so they can have a one-stop app to be able to communicate with parents about practice availability, schedule and game location changes, etc. So far, I have heard great results, and we hope that this continues.

2: **Participation.** While we strive for competitive success on the courts and track, the most fundamental key to Knight Athletics is that our student athletes participate. This is the age to get involved, to learn the fundamentals, and gain the experience and confidence to continue that growth in their athletic career. As a coach myself I have taken great pride from seeing not only the success but also witnessing the student athletes who are playing for the first time. While they still possess great potential, the smiles and energy of a student athlete who is participating for the first time is palpable, and we greatly enjoy seeing those participation numbers grow. **Over 82% of our students in grades 5-8 are participating in at least one sport in 2022-2023. This year we have 94 players participating in Volleyball on 9 teams!** These are great #'s, we appreciate all those that are participating, and we look forward to our participation increasing again next year.

I also must make mention of our parent volunteers for their efforts so far in the Volleyball season. During my day as gym monitor in September at St Joseph's I was thrilled at how many different families were there to help assist with the admissions table and to handle our concessions. **Our families continue to astound me at their commitment to our athletes.** This is such a vital aspect to the student athletes getting

this game-day experience and we encourage everyone to get involved in any capacity—it makes a huge difference.



Finally, I want to congratulate coach Mark Hickok and the 7th grade girls A team on their early season tournament win. We talk as a board about the great level of talent we see on Friday nights and Saturday afternoon, and this is another shining example of the growth of our teams.

As we turn the page to fall please keep in mind a few special dates and events:

Our annual Bags tournament: We are still working to finalize a date, but this event is one of the most enjoyable nights of the year. Please follow up with us to both lock in a team to participate, and schedule your evening to join us to support Knight Athletics

Seton Volleyball Tournament: Oct 31-Nov 6: The Seton is a high energy and action-packed event. Please join us at the Sting Center to witness the competitive excellence firsthand. Volunteer help is still needed to make this event a top of the line tournament. Please consider helping when you receive the email links to sign-up.

Have a great month of October and I look forward to talking to you all next month about the great things happening with Knight Athletics.

Go Knights!

Dan Fodrocy
Waukesha Catholic Athletic Board President

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