

# Victim's Mentality

I sent this out to my Players' Parents

I want to talk to you about a plague that is destroying this program and hindering its growth. It's called "Victim's Mentality". When I took the job, I was told this by opposing Coaches, and a few Officials. Overcoming this would be the toughest challenge.

Last season I heard on more than one occasion "they don't act like they used to." We are starting to play the victim card way too much. When we lose, it's someone else's fault. If we miss a shot, we must have got fouled. It's not that we took an ill-advised shot, it was someone else's fault. If we don't get to play, it's because the coach doesn't like us. It's not because our play in practice and games dictate we shouldn't play, it's because our coaches would rather lose than play me. If our son isn't the leading scorer, it's because <insert name> is a ball-hog. Victims hardly ever have success on their own. They are always relying on someone to save them. If your son misses a shot, or doesn't get to play, it's perfectly okay to tell him the truth. "You have to get better." Sometimes you're not good enough-and the reason you aren't good enough is you don't work at it. Correction-you don't work at the right things. We aren't making the required plays to win. Toughness, true toughness is found in overcoming, Not an outcry. Anyone can throw a tantrum.

We've seen our share of cheap shots this season from other teams. That's not toughness. At times, we've shown signs of toughness, but being tough all the time is hard. So is winning. Complaining about calls doesn't help. Never has, never will. Making excuses doesn't make things better. "You lost because of the refs." I have never seen an official miss a wide open 3 or layup. Instead of looking around at the officials or to the parents in the stands or to the coaches why not teach our players to look within for the answer. "Am I tough enough to help my team win?" Kids need support, not a security blanket. They need direction, not delivered to the destination. We have to stop preparing the road for the kid and prepare the kid for the road.

**The message is this: We are going to play who helps give us the best chance to win.**

Realistically we aren't going to win every game. We won't win any games playing the role of the victim. That's become painfully obvious. We are going to be a better program when we leave the excuses out and stop the victim mentality. We will continue to work to get better.

Can I get your commitment to help us shape your son into a young man that can be at his best even when things don't go his way?