

# Sportsmanship

**“Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth...Let bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. And be kind to one another.”**

**Ephesians 4:29,31,32**

*Talking trash. Bad mouthing. Complaining. Criticizing the officials or even our fellow teammates.* Nothing tears apart and ruins a game more quickly than poor sportsmanship. Even the great college and pro players are worthless when their emotions take over to the point they are no longer thinking about playing the game. If players are mouthing off constantly, they cannot play to their full potential.

As Christian athletes, we must follow the advice given to the Ephesians. *Get along with each other **first!*** Then work on getting along with the rest of the world. A team that is bickering will have a hard time winning; an individual who cannot control his personal emotions probably will not be able to control his/her game.

Think about it: Are you a different person on the basketball court? Do you say things you later regret? Do you always seem to be arguing with somebody? Basketball is an intensely intimate game. Full-time Christian sportsmanship will take full-time effort to maintain.