

THE OAK RIDGER

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THE OAK RIDGER

Sports

What does the star mean?

FROM STAFF REPORTS

For most of his life, Oak Ridge native Dave Moore has been involved in athletics.

From being a star quarterback for Emory Hale and the Wildcats to being a highly-successful coach, Moore tracks all of his accomplishments back to "growing-up" days in the Atomic City.

"From Coach Hale to Buddy Pope to Nick Orlando, I was blessed to have been taught by some of the most wonderful coaches, educators and most importantly, human beings possible," Moore said.

While still teaching, Moore has stepped away from his coaching duties to devote more time to the daughter he is raising.

But he discovered a way to stay in tune with today's athletes, while showing all of us fans that it's not always about that Friday night performance.

In fact, it's about a whole lot more.

Moore developed and initiated the CAREacter Athlete of the Week program last season and has seen it blossom into a very important part of the football season. That growth has led to nine East Tennessee counties, several universities and even the Big Orange up in Knoxville jumping on board.

"We need to emphasize the importance of good character traits," Moore said. "And we must recognize and reward them for those accomplishments."

The award is different in many ways, but the biggest is the fact that the best performance on

the field isn't necessarily recognized. Area coaches have a different criteria available to them when selecting the CAREacter players.

The criteria revolves around the "star" model of the program and begins with Attitude. The second trait is Character, followed by Grades, Community Service and then Performance. It's a model Moore worked hard to develop and one that coaches and administrators have been drawn to.

"Recognizing and rewarding for good traits instills a positive attitude which can be reflected in the overall performance of the athlete," Moore added.

Moore has always felt that coaching held a much higher responsibility than "X's and O's" and thinks today's athletes need extra attention when it comes to the positive aspects of life.

The player that runs for 200 yards on Friday night may not do all the other things that the star model includes. Thus this gives that player who is on the honor roll, works hard all week in practice and maybe helps his church hand out food baskets a chance to be revered just as much as the star quarterback or running back.

"In the world of athletics today, more emphasis is placed on the spirit of competition, rivalries and winning, and less on the important traits of character, values and leadership," Moore continued. "As coaches and leaders, it is our responsibility to encourage our student athletes to succeed not only at the athletic skill level but, more importantly, at the game of life."

Each Friday, the Star CAREacter Player of the Week is listed in The Oak Ridger, a proud member of the CARE team. For more information on the program, you can contact Coach Moore at 966-CARE. The players highlighted are from all the Anderson County schools including Oak Ridge, Anderson County High School and Clinton. Oliver Springs and the University of Tennessee will also see their players featured.

