

## **BARTON FOOTBALL ACADEMY – Bits and Pieces**

**By Greg Barton**

**March 10, 2008 (Third Edition)**

When I was growing up in Long Beach, California, I had a lot of “hero’s”; people I looked up to. The professional sports were great; I thought the combination of Elgin Baylor and Jerry West with the Lakers was second to none. Sandy Koufax was a great left-handed pitcher with the Dodgers and just a great man. College sports in Southern California were spectacular and fun to follow.

But nothing came close to the excellence that John Wooden built at UCLA in basketball. What Coach Wooden accomplished in his career will never be done again. First, he was a 3-time All-American guard and he led Purdue to a National Championship in 1932. Second, he coached his UCLA teams to 10 National Championships in basketball. He is in the College Basketball Hall of Fame as both a player and a coach. Coach Wooden’s greatest accomplishment in my opinion was in how much class and dignity he showed as both a player and coach. This is truly an amazing man.

Coach Wooden is admired world wide. He is an absolute “treasure” in our country. So what made John Wooden such a great coach? As nice as he is as a person, as gentle as he seems in interviews, as a coach he was very demanding. In my opinion, John Wooden taught discipline, work ethic and structure better than any coach who has ever lived. The difference between Coach Wooden and other coaches was that John Wooden practiced what he preached, everyday of his life.

Besides his legendary status as a coach, he is also highly respected in the business world for his life philosophies and his ability to motivate people. I have tried to read every book Coach Wooden has ever written. I can read his books and watch his video’s every day of the year.

I came across a list that John Wooden gave to his players at the beginning of every season. I hope every player in our Barton Football Camps takes a few minutes to read this so they can begin to know John Wooden. Everything Coach Wooden taught in basketball was truly “life skills”. Each young

player that reads this list and then applies this information to their lives will walk away a winner.

Coach Wooden gave this list of “suggestions” to every player he ever coached.

1. Be a gentleman at all times.
2. Be a team player always.
3. Be on time whenever time is involved.
4. Be a good student in all subjects... not just basketball.
5. Be enthusiastic, industrious, dependable, loyal, and cooperative.
6. Be in the best possible condition...physically, mentally, and morally.
7. Earn the right to be proud and confident.
8. Keep emotions under control without losing fight or aggressiveness.
9. Work constantly to improve without becoming satisfied.
10. Acquire peace of mind by becoming the best that you are capable of becoming.
11. Never unfairly criticize or razz a teammate.
12. Never miss or be late for any class or appointment.
13. Never be selfish, jealous, envious, or egotistical.
14. Never expect favors.
15. Never waste time.
16. Never alibi or make excuses.
17. Never require repeated correction for the same mistake.
18. Never lose faith or patience.
19. Never grandstand, loaf, sulk, or boast.
20. Never have a reason to be sorry afterwards.

I hope our players understand that all of these things will help them become a better football player, but even more important, a better person. Even though our players can never play for John Wooden, they certainly can learn from him.

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**Some quotes I have come across that might interest some of you....**

“The player who gives his best is sure of success, while the player who gives less than his best has failed no matter the outcome.”

John Wooden

“If you don't make a total commitment to whatever you're doing, then you start looking to bail out the first time the boat starts leaking. It's tough enough getting that boat to shore with everybody rowing, let alone when a guy stands up and starts putting his jacket on.”

Lou Holtz

“Individual commitment to a group effort -- that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work.”

Vince Lombardi

“Football is like life; it requires perseverance, self-denial, hard work, sacrifice, dedication, and respect for authority.”

Vince Lombardi

If anyone wants to send me some quotes, I will include them in the weeks and months to come. I want our players to learn and become excited.

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Taylor Barton and I enjoyed putting on our clinic at the Nike Coach of the Year Clinic last weekend. The clinic was great and there were over 1,200 coaches that came to the event. Taylor and I want to thank some of our quarterbacks for helping us out at the clinic. We had 7 quarterbacks who demonstrated our footwork and quarterback drills. Taylor and I had a lot of great comments about the players, not only for their talents, but also for their maturity level in being so professional in the way they handled themselves.

Thank you to AJ Woodin, who did a great job and worked hard. AJ is just a 6<sup>th</sup> grader and he handled himself well. The most experienced young quarterback in the country is Connor Johnson from Pendleton, Oregon. This was Connor's third year in a row with this clinic. Connor was smiling the entire time and he showed a lot of skill. Zach Roberts, a sophomore from Oregon City HS did a great job. Zach is one of our hardest workers and a great young man. Jake Heaps came all the way from Sammamish, Washington to help us with the clinic. Jake is another 3-year veteran and we sure appreciated his mom and dad coming down to support us. Jake showed talent and leadership throughout the clinic. Kelly McGuire from North Marian HS did a nice job. Kelly is a junior and he is really coming on as a quarterback. Kelly has worked hard in our camps and he is mature beyond his years. Cole Petrie will be a junior for Steve Coury this fall at Lake Oswego High School. Cole did a nice job in both sessions. Cole loves the

game and the quarterback position. When he is in a workout you can just feel his passion for the game. Last, but certainly not least; thank you to Nick Green, who will be throwing passes for the Air Force Academy in the very near future. Nick has been with us 7 years and he is part of the family. Nick showed great leadership with the group and he worked hard. Nick always works hard and his work has led him to the Air Force Academy.

I think the guys had a good time. As I always say, “You never know who is watching”. After the second clinic, Darryl “Mouse” Davis who is one of the founders of the run and shoot offense and a big reason that the spread offenses are so popular today, came by to say “hi”. All 7 of the guys really enjoyed meeting Mouse and they spent a lot of time laughing as Mouse is one funny guy. Mouse told me he really enjoyed meeting the players and thought they were talented athletes and very mature and polite young men.

This was the first time Taylor met Mouse and they seemed to hit it off pretty good. On the way home from the clinic I was thinking, “Boy it would have been special if Taylor could have played for Mouse in college or the pro level.”

Mouse and I go back along ways. We did camps together and then I did the color for the radio during much of Mouse’s Portland State career. Just how old am I? I did the radio at PSU when June Jones was a junior and senior quarterback for the Vikings; and then I did the radio for all 4 of Neil Lomax’s years as the starting quarterback at Portland State. Both went on to play in the NFL as did many of the players that Mouse coached at PSU.

Mouse Davis should go into the College Football Hall of Fame someday. He has done so much for the passing game. Mouse is a hometown guy. He coached in high school in Oregon, winning a state championship, and then coached at Portland State, putting them on a map and making them a national name. Then Mouse coached in pro football in the USFL, the NFL and the CFL. He had a great pro coaching career. Then he helped June Jones build the University of Hawaii program. The Arena Football League we all watch on television; Mouse help create that league and he coached there for a number of years. Again, Mouse is a Hall of Fame coach.

Taylor pretty much carried the show and he did a wonderful job. I have received a lot of emails from high school coaches who said lots of nice

things about Taylor. They liked his skills and his passion for coaching. With a combination of Taylor and our “magnificent 7” we got the win!!!

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I am getting excited about our Spring Camps. We are hearing from lots of new schools in Southern Oregon. I think the camp at the University of Oregon will be a good one. I sure hope we see all of you in Eugene on March 30.

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I received a few emails with questions for the Barton Football Academy:

**“Who are the best quarterbacks, regardless of level, that you have ever seen?”**

Greg Barton says:

“Wow, this is a tough question. Off the top of my head, I have come up with: Roger Staubach, Joe Montana, Peyton Manning, Tom Brady, John Elway, Terry Bradshaw and Brett Farve. I really liked Roger Staubach a lot. What most don't realize is that Roger didn't get to the NFL until the NAVY released him. He missed out on 3 or 4 years due to being in the service. He was special; he had all the tools. He was very athletic, he had a strong arm, and he could kill an opponent with his legs or in staying in the pocket. Joe Montana was pretty much a carbon copy of Staubach. I think Roger had a stronger arm, but both were special. They were both very mature and intelligent. Both were tough and very competitive. Both could make all of the throws and both were winners on and off of the field.

Peyton Manning, what can I say? Has there ever been a more dedicated quarterback in the history of the game? I don't think so. Peyton is a big physical quarterback. Actually he is huge. He is tall and thick. Like Brett Farve, Peyton sure seems to stay healthy. Everyone is going all out to put body on these guys and Brett Farve and Peyton Manning just seem to stay in one piece, in a very tough sport. Peyton has a good arm, good pocket athleticism, and he is smart. I don't believe that any quarterback ever has put in the time and dedication in learning the game more than Peyton and Tom Brady. Both are just way ahead of the curve in terms of watching film, studying the game and in always being prepared. Peyton Manning is a model citizen. He grew up with a father that was a great quarterback.

Archie Manning was an All-American quarterback at the University of Mississippi. Archie was a high NFL draft choice by the New Orleans Saints. Unfortunately for Archie, his entire NFL career was playing for a poor organization and team. Archie was a great athletic quarterback. So when Peyton was growing up, his father was pretty tough and demanding on him in regards to work ethic, being mature, saying and doing the right things and all of this has sure paid off for Peyton. Is there a better role model in the NFL than Peyton Manning?

Tom Brady is another guy that just takes himself to another level by being so dedicated. Brady has a good arm and excellent pocket athleticism. He is tough, both mentally and physically. Tom has had to prove himself over his entire career. Even today after setting so many records, people question him a lot. I think the guy is a winner. He makes great throws. He has a strong arm and can throw it hard or he can show great touch on many of his passes. He is a great leader and he is respected by his teammates. Tom and Peyton are prepared each and every week and they love to compete. Tom Brady is a guy that shows me no quit. At Michigan he had to wait along time before he got on the field. In the NFL draft he went low, again most didn't buy into him. I have seen Brady take some big hits, especially early in his career and he simply gets right back up on his feet. Again, Tom Brady is a tough competitor. Another thing that sets Tom Brady away from other quarterbacks is his football knowledge. The guy works hard in learning the game. He is always mentally prepared.

Brett Farve is just one tough cookie. He has a great arm and he can make all the throws. But it's his mental and physical toughness that sets him apart from most of the other quarterbacks who have ever played the game. It is just amazing that he has played so many games without a serious injury. Trust me, he takes big hits game after game. This guy is just "super" tough, probably the toughest quarterback to ever play the game. I would guess that Brett Farve is probably the most respected quarterback by "opponents" of all-time. Defensive players in the NFL are some of the toughest humans on the earth. I would bet if you talk to any defensive player who ever played against Brett; he would only have great things to say about Brett Farve. The word you would keep hearing time after time is "tough".

John Elway was great athlete as a kid, in high school, in college and at the pro level. People forget he was a tremendous baseball player, playing both football and baseball at Stanford. He signed for a big bonus with the New

York Yankees out of Stanford. John Elway is a bigger version Roger Staubach and Joe Montana. Elways arm might be one of the best of all time. His feet were fantastic and he was mentally tough. People don't talk about this to much, but he like Brett Farve, seldom missed any games. John Elway was a very physical player. Elway also proved he could play in all kinds of weather. He always threw the ball well, whether it was hot or ice cold. Elway was another great leader who had the respect of his teammates and opponents. John Elways father was a great football coach. John grew up on the football field, in the locker rooms and on the bus rides. I saw film of John Elway in high school and his feet were remarkable, his athleticism was off the charts for a quarterback and his arm outstanding.

Terry Bradshaw was one of the best athletic quarterbacks I ever saw in college. Terry was a big strong kid in college and he had a great arm. He came to Pittsburgh as a physically gifted player. His weakness coming into pro ball was his immaturity. It took Terry 3 to 4 years to grow up and understand how to be an NFL quarterback. Once he figured it out he was amazing. Again like the rest of these guys he was tough. He could take the hits as he was a very strong quarterback. Terry could make all the throws and he played well in any weather. The guy was a winner.

I think these 6 guys are pretty darn good. If anyone has any thoughts, please send me an email and share your thoughts with me. I do know these 6 guys always took their teams, no matter where they played, to another level. Most quarterbacks are a part of the team; these 6 took the whole team up another level. All 6 were very tough physically. All 6 were winners.

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Congratulations to Derek Anderson, the Scappoose High School and Oregon State quarterback. Derek just signed a huge contract with the Cleveland Browns. We are really happy for Derek. He is a good guy and he has had an up and down road since he has been in high school. He went to Scappoose HS in Oregon and many said he was only playing well because it was a small school. At Oregon State, the fans loved him and then they didn't like him. This went on for most of his 4 years with the Beavers. As I mentioned above with Terry Bradshaw, once Derek started maturing, his game has taken off. Not everyone matures early. Derek was always gifted physically, but from a maturity standpoint he was behind in college. He really needed a red-shirt year, but the Beavers started him for all 4 years. Derek has always been good to us over the years. Derek and Taylor Barton spent a lot of time together at Oregon State and I think they have a lot of

respect for each other. I know Taylor is proud of Derek and wishes him the best always. Taylor has always felt that Derek had the tools to make it big in football.

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This was a big year for high school football in the Northwest. There was lots of talent in both Washington and Oregon. One of the top players in the Northwest just signed with Linfield College. Buddy Saxon was the starting quarterback as a sophomore and junior at Grants Pass High School. He did a good job and many felt he was a college prospect as a quarterback. In the spring going into his senior year, the coaches moved him to a wide receiver. Buddy had a great senior year as a wide receiver. Linfield College has been after him since last spring. Coach Smith and Coach Nagel are both fired up about getting Buddy Saxon. This was one of their top recruits.

Buddy has played 3 sports for all 4 years at Grants Pass. He is an exceptional football player, a really good basketball player and a special baseball player. I say special because I believe he is a pro prospect. He will have an opportunity to play both football and baseball at Linfield College.

So what makes this guy so good? Well let's begin with athleticism; he will have 10 varsity letters at Grants Pass. Then let's move on to size; the guy is 6'5 and 195 pounds. Linfield College loves the tall wide receivers so Buddy is made to order for the Wildcats. Buddy has the intangibles; he will work, he's smart, mentally and physically tough, and he wants to win. Jim Nagel will take Buddy to a whole new level as a football player. Coach Nagel is an outstanding offensive coach and I see Buddy becoming a very special wide receiver under his training.

Congratulations to Buddy and his parents for a job well done. Buddy has trained with the Barton Academy in both Eugene and Portland. He is a great young man and I wish him nothing but the best at Linfield College and in life.

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Shane Garnetti from Rogers High School in Washington visited Menlo College in California this weekend and committed to Head Coach Mark Kaanapu. Menlo is an outstanding college located in Atherton, California.

Shane has trained in the Barton Academy up in Seattle for a couple of years. He is an outstanding athlete. Shane is very fast and quick. He is strong and smart. I have always been a big fan of Shane Garnetti and feel that Menlo College has picked up a heck of a player.

Shane can play a lot of positions. I don't know where Coach Kaanapu is thinking of playing Shane, but wherever he puts Shane, he will have an excellent athlete. Shane is a running back and a slot on offense. He can run the ball with power and speed. He also is an outstanding receiver. On defense he can play strong safety and weak side linebacker. I am convinced he can also develop into a cover cornerback. In addition, Shane will contribute to special teams as a cover guy and return punts and kickoffs.

Margie and Dave Garnetti are proud parents and they should be. They have supported Shane and raised a very nice son. Shane is a good student and his future is bright. I am really proud of Shane and I wish him the best always.

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Another excellent football player from the state of Washington has found a college home. Trevor Roush a running back from Juanita High School in Kirkland, Washington is going down to Oregon to play his college football at Western Oregon University.

Juanita's new head football coach is Shaun Tarantola. Coach Tarantola is involved in the Barton Football Academy as a coach. Taylor Barton and Shaun are friends and this friendship led to us meeting Trevor Roush. Shaun called Taylor to let him know about Trevor's great potential as a college prospect. Shaun had NOT coached Trevor at Juanita High School. Shaun was the Head Coach at Evergreen High School when Trevor was playing as a senior at Juanita.

Coach Tarantola encouraged us to get together with the Roush family. Taylor and I met with Trevor and his parents for dinner one night in Kirkland. After meeting Trevor that night, I knew he was special.

Taylor and I watched film of Trevor and it became obvious right away that this was a heck of a player.

We contacted a lot of college coaches to let them know about Trevor Roush and everyone responded and came after Trevor hard. Trevor has family in

Oregon (located close to Monmouth, Oregon). I am sure this had a lot to do with Trevor selecting Western Oregon. In addition his mom (June) and dad (David) are only 3 hours away. I understand that Trevor had a great official visit to Western Oregon and that he really liked to coaches and players that he spent time with. I know that Arne Ferguson, the Head Football Coach at Western Oregon, is really happy and excited that Trevor signed with the Wolves.

This story should excite the Juanita High School parents. Shaun Tarantola is an excellent football coach and he does care about his players. Trevor's eligibility was up and he would not be playing for Shaun at Juanita. Shaun met the kid, he liked him and then he watched Trevor work out and he immediately called Taylor Barton for some help in getting information on Trevor out to colleges. This is a coach that cares about the kids and he wants to best for each player. This should give the parents and administration at Juanita High School an idea of what a great coach and human being that they have hired to be their new football coach.

Congratulations to Trevor Roush and his family. We wish them the best at Western Oregon University.

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Keep working hard in the classroom and in athletics. Be a good person.

Greg Barton