

Bits and Pieces

Edition 9

By: Greg Barton

Some Excellent Football Quotes From Past Gridiron Legends

- #1. “Football is only a game. Spiritual things are eternal. Nevertheless, Beat Texas.”** *Seen on a church sign in Arkansas prior to the 1969 game.*
- #2. “After you retire, there's only one big event left... and I ain't ready for that.”** *Bobby Bowden / Florida State*
- #3. “The man who complains about the way the ball bounces is likely to be the one who dropped it.”** *Lou Holtz / Arkansas*
- #4. “When you win, nothing hurts.”** *Joe Namath / Alabama*
- #5. “Motivation is simple. You eliminate those who are not motivated.”** *Lou Holtz / Arkansas*
- #6. “If you want to walk the heavenly streets of gold, you gotta know the password, 'Roll, tide, roll!'”** *Bear Bryant / Alabama*
- #7. “A school without football is in danger of deteriorating into a medieval study hall.”** *Frank Leahy / Notre Dame*
- #8. “There's nothing that cleanses your soul like getting the hell kicked out of you.”** *Woody Hayes / Ohio State*
- #9. “I don't expect to win enough games to be put on NCAA probation. I just want to win enough to warrant an investigation.”** *Bob Devaney / Nebraska*
- #10. “In Alabama , an atheist is someone who doesn't believe in Bear Bryant.”** *Wally Butts / Georgia*
- #11. “You can learn more character on the two-yard line than anywhere else in life.”** *Paul Dietzel / LSU*
- #12. “It's kind of hard to rally around a math class.”** *Bear Bryant / Alabama*
- #13. When asked if Fayetteville was the end of the world. “No, but you can see it from here.”** *Lou Holtz / Arkansas.*

#14. “I make my practices real hard because if a player is a quitter, I want him to quit in practice, not in a game.” *Bear Bryant / Alabama*

#15. “There's one sure way to stop us from scoring-give us the ball near the goal line.” *Matty Bell / SMU*

#16. “Lads, you're not to miss practice unless your parents died or you died.” *Frank Leahy / Notre Dame*

#17. “I never graduated from Iowa , but I was only there for two terms - Truman's and Eisenhower's.” *Alex Karras / Iowa*

#18. “My advice to defensive players: Take the shortest route to the ball and arrive in a bad humor.” *Bowden Wyatt / Tennessee*

#19. “I could have been a Rhodes Scholar, except for my grades.” *Duffy Daugherty / Michigan State*

#20. “Always remember... Goliath was a 40 point favorite over David.” *Shug Jordan / Auburn*

#21. “They cut us up like boarding house pie. And that's real small pieces.” *Darrell Royal / Texas*

#22. “Show me a good and gracious loser, and I'll show you a failure.” *Knute Rockne / Notre Dame*

#23. “They whipped us like a tied up goat.” *Spike Dykes / Texas Tech*

#24. “I asked Darrell Royal, the coach of the Texas Longhorns, why he didn't recruit me and he said: 'Well, Walt, we took a look at you and you weren't any good.” *Walt Garrison / Oklahoma State*

#25. “Son, you've got a good engine, but your hands aren't on the steering wheel.” *Bobby Bowden / Florida State*

#26. “Football is not a contact sport - it is a collision sport. Dancing is a contact sport.” *Duffy Daugherty / Michigan State*

#27. After USC lost 51-0 to Notre Dame, his postgame message to his team: “All those who need showers, take them.” *John McKay / USC*

#28. “If lessons are learned in defeat, our team is getting a great education.” *Murray Warmath / Minnesota*

#29. “The only qualifications for a lineman are to be big and dumb. To be a back, you only have to be dumb.” *Knut Rockne / Notre Dame*

#30. “Oh, we played about like three tons of buzzard puke this afternoon.” *Spike Dykes / Texas Tech*

#31. “It isn't necessary to see a good tackle. You can hear it.” *Knut Rockne / Notre Dame*

#32. “We live one day at a time and scratch where it itches.” *Darrell Royal / Texas*

#33. “We didn't tackle well today but we made up for it by not blocking.” *Wilson Matthews / Little Rock Central High School*

#34. “Three things can happen when you throw the ball, and two of them are bad.” *Darrell Royal / University of Texas*

#35. “I've found that prayers work best when you have big players.” *Knut Rockne / Notre Dame*

#36. “Gentlemen, it is better to have died a small boy than to fumble this football.”
John Heisman

Greg Barton's Suggestion's For Parents

“Encourage your son to play for the love of the game, not for a scholarship. This alleviates a lot of pressure on the players. Many talented players don't play well as seniors because the pressure on them to get a scholarship causes them to become selfish. Insist on unselfishness. Good things usually happen to the unselfish, hardworking athlete.

College coaches do not recruit an athlete based on his individual quarterback, running back, or receiving statistics. I wish parents would really think about statistics in the game of football. Not in all cases, but in most cases a quarterback with huge statistics like the number of attempted passes, is usually a quarterback on a losing team. They get behind early in a game and they are throwing the football a whole lot because they are playing catch up in the majority of their games. In other words, they simply have a pretty average to poor team, so they aren't physical enough to compete at the line of scrimmage, so they are always throwing the ball. Of course that quarterback will put up some big numbers, but the college coaches can care less about his stats, they will want to see a lot of him on film, and then THEY will make an evaluation of that kid.

One big advantage for a player is when their team plays well and goes to the playoffs. Why? Simple, they end up playing more games than other players around the state. Players typically have a 9 game season. If your team moves on to play in 2 playoff games, then your son has 2 more games (11) than most of the other players in the state. College coaches rely on game film, as game film “does not lie.” The more games a player plays the more film he will have to show to the colleges.

I am constantly encouraging players to think “team” vs. themselves in the off-season. I also try to motivate the player to be a leader in the weight room, in the hallways, and in the classroom. If your son will be entering his senior year, he should be the most positive player in the weight room each and everyday. Why? This will help his team become winners in the fall. Think about this. Every year there are some outstanding young sophomores that jump up to the varsity level and they actually become a big part of the program. I believe that most young players dream of moving up, but deep down they are intimidated and lost due to not having a whole lot in common with the older juniors and seniors to be.

In the winter and spring a senior to be can help develop and motivate those young players by welcoming those young players each and everyday day in the weight room. Most seniors to be just walk around like the own the place vs. going out of their way to make the younger players feel wanted and comfortable. A senior to be who walks up to a small group of sophomores to be in the weight room, is a winner if he says something like, “Hey guys, good to see you. I am impressed that you guys are in here and working so hard. If any of you need some help with your lifting technique, just ask me and I will try to help you out.” Guess what? Those sophomores to be now really appreciate, respect, and look up to that senior to be. All of a sudden, those young kids look forward to coming to the workouts each and everyday. Think about this, now that program has 4 sophomores start that fall and play extremely well. When interviewed by the local newspaper, one of the sophomores says, “My success started last winter when a couple of he older players who I looked up to, went out of their way to welcome me to the program. They just motivated me everyday to work my tail off and I wouldn’t be here today without their leadership.”

Next, the senior to be becomes a role model and a positive person with all the juniors to be. In a typical year, there will be some young juniors to be whose light will click on and all of the sudden they are developing and feeling part of the group. Last, that leader now is a role model for the other seniors to be. It is amazing what a positive attitude to do for the entire program. Your high school coaching staff needs leadership from the seniors to be and it starts in the winter and continues throughout the season.

So how does the senior to be who is thinking “team” vs. himself in the off-season, benefit from this fantastic positive attitude? Well I promise you that the team will be better because of this leadership. The team develops in the off-season. This is when weight training is essential to the success of the players. Most human beings are a little bit lazy. They need to be kicked, motivated in a positive way or whatever it takes to join the group in working hard in the off-season. I am telling you, the way to do this is with positive

senior to be leadership. The end result is simple; the team will be better prepared from a physical standpoint and from a “team” standpoint. There are lots of positive things that come about when a team bonds together naturally in the off-season. This will give that “senior to be” a better opportunity to play with better teammates and a better team as a senior. It will enhance his chances of playing on a winning team. All of these things will help that senior to be to have a great senior season of football.

When a player in any sport is moving into their senior season, the attitude of the parents will either help or hurt the player. During the off-season, it is critical that he is in a positive environment. Parents should do all they can to make the off-season a tremendous one for the player. Just being positive is huge. Set the tone of staying positive and it will benefit your son. Don’t criticize other players or parents. Don’t criticize the coaches as they will be your son’s coaches unless you quickly transfer schools. Encourage your son to improve his self-image by constantly talking positive to him about this work ethic and his commitment to excellence in his off-season training and in his classroom work. Don’t hold back in your positive comments. Let him know that you are proud of him for his leadership and efforts in trying to make himself and his team better. When he goes to ‘Barton Training’, Nike Combines, College Camps and more, encourage him to enjoy the experience of meeting coaches, and players from other programs around the area, state, region or country. Let him know that he should not feel pressure, but instead he should have fun. Heck he will be going into his senior year. He has good grades, he is a leader in his program, he has an excellent work ethic and he is a pretty darn good player, so why be uptight in these environments? Walk in with your head up high, your chest out and enjoy every moment. These are great opportunities to improve your game and to have fun.

Players have a better opportunity of playing well if they are happy and prepared. It is important that they have family support. They don’t need coaching at home; they are getting plenty of that each and everyday from their high school coaches. When they come home they might want to talk to mom and dad about some things on their mind. But if they think they will be talking to “another coach”, they might just shut you out. It is critical that you are mom and dad when your son is a senior. He needs mom and dad to reach his goals. He has to have someone to talk to. He has been taught to give credit to others, but he just might want to have some great talks with you and let you know that he feels good about his performance.

When it is all over, the only thing left for both the athlete and the parents is memories. Your goal as a parent should be to help create many positive experiences for your son. In football, some of the greatest memories any player at any level will have is the “journey” of getting ready for his senior season. Please be the supportive parent and enjoy the moment.
