

## Positive Words About Ram Soccer Players

Oct. 21, 2016

I was overwhelmed last night at the Tippecanoe/Trotwood Varsity soccer playoff game. The sportsmanship and class your Trotwood team and coaching staff showed throughout the night was exceptional.

Everything was stacked against them. I knew, by their record, they were having a tough season. Conversely, our Tippecanoe team is having a very successful season. Then, they have to deal with a difficult bus ride to our stadium, which is certainly hard to find if you have never been to it before. And finally, they may have had 2-3 fans on their side cheering for them. So what do they do . . . let the frustrating season and rushed game start cause them to sulk and give a lack-luster effort? Nope. Instead they played one of the best halves of soccer Tipp saw all season. Holding Tipp to just a 1-0 lead at the half.

The second half was tough, as Tipp had a bench full of subs, and were able to add a few more goals. But your team never quit . . . not for one second. They gave 100% right until the last whistle. The goalie was incredible, surviving many shot attempts, as well as a couple injuries, and he just kept playing strong.

Ok, now the part that really overwhelmed me . . . After the battle, instead of going through the hand shake line with their heads down dwelling over the loss (like most teams do), they lifted their chins, hustled through the line, fist-bumped the refs, and then came all the way over to our home bleachers and applauded us Tipp fans. Wow. We in turn, gave them the standing ovation they absolutely deserved. They may have thought we were cheering for our players, but I can assure you, we were applauding the away team, for the heart and sportsmanship they displayed ALL night. Some of the applause was also for a fantastic goal they scored with just seconds left in the match! Like I said . . . 100% right to the last whistle.

Your team really looked like they just enjoyed the opportunity to play. That it wasn't a given, or something they were entitled to, but rather a privilege that they worked hard for. It was quite humbling.

Congratulations to the entire staff and the administration team at Trotwood HS for instilling these kind of values in your students. I hope these particular student-athletes realize their actions were not unnoticed, or unappreciated. I'll never forget what I saw last night.

Sincerely,

Tippecanoe HS parent