

Personal Statement



In the picture above I am wearing number 7 on the black and gold team. To some, this visual representation may mean nothing, but in actuality it applies greatly to the topic at hand. Typically one would look at this picture and see number 38 making his way downfield, paying no attention to me or what I am doing. Only the football savvy would realize my importance in the situation. I am about to block the lone defender in his way; therefore his success lies in my hands. My block will probably be overlooked along with additional tackles and blocks made by other teammates. However, it is the result of the entire team executing their individual jobs that will allow him to be triumphant. Football has ultimately been my greatest lesson in the importance of teamwork.

Last spring our head coach unexpectedly resigned. His departure caused a domino effect. Within days, the balance of our coaching staff had decided to join him. The team knew we must become proactive to insure our school administration acted quickly to fill the void these resignations created. As a team captain and a senior, I especially felt the urgency of this situation and met with my co-captains to discuss possible solutions. We decided to present our case to the Athletic Director. He listened intently to us as we outlined the reasoning behind our plea for rapid action. We spoke in generalities about the type of coach we would ideally want to lead our team. As a result of our meeting, he offered us the opportunity to become involved in the process of finding a new coach.

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. We were able to attend the interviews and follow up with our own questions. At the conclusion we offered our recommendation, with evidence supporting our choice. The administration agreed with our recommendation and we had a new coach in record time.

Our next step was to sell the team on our new leader. His management style and strategy were dramatically different from that of our previous coach. We had to answer complaints from players who questioned the logic of changing the formula that had produced 3 consecutive winning seasons. We lost almost all our pre-season scrimmages. In our season opener every newspaper favored the opponent, doubting our ability to execute our coach's complicated new system. Ultimately, we worked together and won. Our winning streak is ongoing and our team has come full cycle since our unexpected detour last spring.

This process has been an education both in football and in life. I have come to see more clearly and completely the power of teamwork. In becoming active participants, rather than passive by-standers, we were able to direct our own destiny and emerge a stronger entity. This experience has broadened my perspective on sports and heightened my interest in pursuing a future in this field. There are tremendous opportunities incorporated within the Kinesiology major. This course of study would afford me the ability to combine my passion for sports with multiple career choices within the industry.