



WARRIOR MEN'S BASKETBALL

CHARACTER ATTITUDE PREPARATION PERFORMANCE

"I will rouse your sons...and make you like a warrior's sword."

Zechariah 9:13

Warrior Men's Basketball Mission Statement

Our mission is to "*Help young men see and seize their potential in all aspects of life*". This begins with a young man's relationship with Christ and their discovery that only through him will they experience life to its fullest. We want them to realize what potential they have and to help them learn to maximize the gifts and abilities God has given them. This in turn will help them "see and seize" their potential in every area of their lives: athletically, academically, personally, and in their community. We want them engaged in the pursuit of whole-hearted excellence in all areas of their lives. This pursuit of excellence will result in the development of extraordinary men and championship teams. Warrior Basketball will provide an opportunity for each player to grow, to develop significant lifelong relationships, to serve others, and to experience the joy and excitement of becoming all that God designed them to be, both as a person and a basketball player.

Sterling College Men's Basketball Core Values

To our Lord, our school, and our team we will demonstrate:

Commitment

Unwavering loyalty

Humility

Thinking clearly about yourself and your relationship to others.

Servanthood

Caring for your teammates and making them better.

Thankfulness

Demonstrating gratitude for where we are and what we've been blessed with

Passion

Being whole-hearted and emotionally present in everything we do.

Influence

Leaving people, places and things better than we found them.

Fierceness

Competing with absolute concentration, intensity, and power.

Excellence

Relentless in our pursuit to be the best we can be.

Program Philosophy

Our first priority as a program is character development. We want to facilitate the total development of the student athlete, emphasizing their character and personal growth. We believe as our athletes develop character and learn to stand in the face of adversity, winning will be the natural outcome. Because character is developed within the context of meaningful relationships, developing positive relationships between coaches and athletes is absolutely crucial.

In our program we emphasize four areas of growth. These areas are **Character, Attitude, Preparation, and Performance**. We believe all four areas are critical if we are going to reach the potential God has placed in us. We also believe they are reflected in the person of Jesus Christ, and by modeling ourselves after him we can become more like him.

CHARACTER *Character that reflects Jesus Christ's Lordship in every area of their lives.*
Core Values: **Commitment and Humility**

"But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did." 1 John 2:5-6

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity." 1 Timothy 4:12

ATTITUDE *Positive attitudes that reflect an optimistic view of life.*
Core Values: **Servanthood and Thankfulness.**

"Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant..." Philippians 2:5-7

"Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men." Ephesians 6:7.

PREPARATION *Consistent mental, physical, emotional and spiritual preparation for optimal performance.*
Core Values: **Passion and Influence**

"Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed." 1 Peter 1:13

"Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize." 1 Corinthians 9:25-27

PERFORMANCE *Total release of all our gifts and abilities, pursuing excellence to glorify God.*
Core Values: **Fierceness and Excellence**

"He paws fiercely, rejoicing in his strength, and charges into the fray. He laughs at fear, afraid of nothing; he does not shy away from the sword." Job 39:21-22

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men." Colossians 3:23

"Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize." 1 Corinthians 9:24

Our ultimate goal is that every one of our players and personnel experiences a deep and dynamic relationship with Christ. This relationship will form the foundation of character they will carry with them in every area of their lives. Our program theme verse is **"I will rouse your sons...and make you like a warrior's sword."** (Zechariah 9:13). We want to sharpen our young men to be great basketball players, but more importantly, godly young men who will become leaders in their families, churches and communities. As this takes place within the context of the competitive world of intercollegiate athletics, we want pursue excellence with all of our being, understanding this is the place God has called us to use our gifts and abilities to their fullest.

A Biblical concept of winning: A winning program is not built only on the varying degrees of talent that a coach works with each year, but rather the consistent effort, courage, and tenacity that comes from one's character. These ideals not only help to form a foundation that will lead to a winning and successful program, but will also help the individual athlete to develop a strong personal character and winning attitudes which will serve them well for the rest of their lives. Talent, combined with great character and an attitude based on the biblical admonition to do all things wholeheartedly will result in a highly competitive NAIA program that will stay consistent over time. ***“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”*** (Colossians 3:23-24). We are to do whatever God has called us to do to the absolute best of our ability. In intercollegiate athletics, the goal is to win. We believe it is biblical to compete to win, not at the cost of character growth, but instead to further it. ***“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.”*** (Colossians 9:24-25). We will run both races as hard as we can for the glory of God! As our players learn the habits and attitudes necessary to pursue excellence on the court, we believe those same habits and attitudes can and will be transferred into their pursuit of godliness in their personal lives. ***“But you, man of God...pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith.”***(1 Timothy 6:11-12). We want to work passionately and ferociously to win, not for the sake of winning, but because it is to the arena of competition that God has called us, and in this pursuit we believe he will work greatly in and through us. We compete fiercely to win, and although winning games is not the only measure of our program, it will be the necessary and logical outcome of our pursuit of excellence.