

A group of people in white lab coats and hard hats, likely in a meat processing plant, gathered around a table with meat products. The scene is dimly lit, with the focus on the individuals and the meat. The text is overlaid on this image.

Teaching Techniques for Meat Judging Coaches

Paul Berg, NDSU

Team behavior; at home, on the road,
in the plant, at the contest, after the
contest and back home again.



If winning a contest is the only reason we do judging, we have failed in its intent!!

Of the lessons learned through competitive team activities, discipline, including behavior, is among the most lasting and the most valuable.

NDSU Judging coaches (former)



Dr. Bert Moore
40 livestock judging
teams at NDSU (41 years
@ NDSU)
Now Sc'ty Am. Shorthorn Ass'n



Dr Paul Berg
35 Meat Judging
teams at NDSU (45
years @ NDSU)

This length of tenure has a distinct affect on student behavior modification; we have reputations

Behavior at home

College student misbehavior is antiauthoritarian

Forcing compliance through fear (terror) will work on the timid student: will challenge the aggressive ones

Biblically the “fear of the Lord” refers to awe or reverence

reverence = deep respect

Face it; as coaches we aren't GOD,
we will never get to that level

Behavior at home

The ultimate challenge for a coach is to strive for a level of respect which imbues “awe”

People (students) obey (conform) because they do not wish to disappoint – whether it’s you, as a coach, their team-mates (or other contemporaries) or themselves

Since we (coaches) aren’t gods, we need to foster
The TEAM concept!!



Behavior at home



- It's up to you - Coach

Behavior at home

Class discipline begins with the placing of classes and cut establishment

This is where students check out the coach
Hold your ground
allow discussion NOT argument

Behavior at home

- establish the “rules”
 - keep them simple & clear
- don’t preach, patronize or pussyfoot
- student “research”:
 - allow “hands on” experimentation
 - test and evaluate
 - consistent results

As students learn they think more like the “expert”

decisions are made more easily

reasons are similar in language, word usage
and syntax

Students become more confident in themselves

Students become more confident in you as a coach

Behavior at home

Emphasize the three “R’s”

Respect for self

Respect for others

Responsibility for ALL your actions

(Tantra Totem)

Compare my student expectations with athletic coaches



Amy Ruley Former Head Women's Basketball coach
Coached 29 years
5 D-II Natl Champs, 18 playoff appearances
Women's BB Hall of Fame
North Dakota "50 Influential People"



Don Larson, Head coach
Men's track and field
31 years
36 NCC Champ, 20+ individual champs, "50 time coach of the year"



Bucky Maughan
Head coach wrestling
45 years
4 Natl Champs; 32 top 10's
National Wrestling Hall of Fame

1. Be punctual: studies; appointments; travel schedules
2. Attend class!!!
3. You ALWAYS represent the team; benefit of "senior leadership"
4. Call the coach

On the road

a comparison

NDSU judging teams

NDSU athletic teams

- 1. Thou shalt do nothing which will embarrass thyself, thy teammates, thy university or thy coach!!

- “Remember you represent NDSU, our team, community and state”.
- Many rules on appearance, decorum, common courtesies, dress, etc

On the road

a comparison

NDSU judging teams

NDSU athletic teams

- 2. Use of mind altering substances in state owned vehicles is strictly forbidden. Use of alcoholic beverages at any time is discouraged.

- NO Alcohol!
- NO Drugs, (performance enhancing or otherwise)

On the road

a comparison

NDSU judging teams

NDSU athletic teams

- 3. Van drivers are responsible for any incurred traffic violations or fines.
- 4. He who runneth out of gas while driving the van walketh after gas.

- Not applicable

On the road

a comparison

NDSU judging teams

NDSU athletic teams

- 5. Unseemly, vulgar or gross conduct is strictly forbidden.
- 6. Unlawful, unethical, immoral acts, of any kind, will not be tolerated.

- No swearing on or off the court (track, field, mat)
- No gambling – implied or otherwise

On the road

a comparison

NDSU judging teams

NDSU athletic teams

- 7. Activities which may result in bodily harm or property damage are strictly forbidden.

- Leave the motel room in decent order; put trash in waste baskets, bunch used towels in the bathroom, etc.
- Don't chance injury through "horseplay" or excessive celebration

On the road

a comparison

NDSU judging teams

NDSU athletic teams

- 8. Exploration or excursion by individuals is discouraged.

- No one-on-one “whispering” ; everything is a team effort; the coaches are in charge
- Do not!:
 - leave motel floor without permission
 - leave doors unlocked or propped open even if you are in the room.
 - use public or private transportation with out coaches permission.
 - give out room number.

On the road

a comparison

NDSU judging teams

NDSU athletic teams

- 9. Thou art expected to attend all contest functions. Non-conforming individuals will not be allowed to represent NDSU in any public appearance.

- Be on time for all practices, meetings, appointments, travel schedules - breach of rules result in suspension from competition

On the road

a comparison

NDSU judging teams

NDSU athletic teams

- 10. See rule 1!!
Violation of the previous rules shall be dealt with by immediate abandonment!!!

- “Remember that you represent NDSU, our team, community and state at all times”.
- Breach of rules will result in:
 - “extra” aspects of physical conditioning
 - Loss of playing time
 - **LOSS OF SCHOLARSHIP**

At the plant (competition)

a comparison

NDSU judging teams

NDSU athletic teams

- We are guests in THEIR HOUSE; their rules apply.
- Know where you are (in the plant), where your team-mates and coaches are at all times.
- Be courteous, respect plant personnel, stay out of their way, allow them to do their job.
- Defer to coaches if conflicts arise.
- Ignore leers, ogles, jeers, gestures, etc., don't reciprocate
- leave the plant as you found it.

- Show respect for hosts
 - Coaches & administration
 - Team members
 - Local fans in attendance

At the plant

a comparison

NDSU judging teams

NDSU athletic teams

- We are guests in THEIR HOUSE; their rules apply.
 - Access procedures
 - Proper use of hair nets, “white” coats, foot wear, gloves, ear protection
 - Rules on jewelry
 - No cameras, cell “phone”

- No cell “phones” two hours before & after games
- Especially no “camera” ‘phones

At the contest

a comparison

NDSU judging teams

NDSU athletic teams

- Adhere to contest rules
 - respect your squad leader
 - respect the contest superintendent
 - respect the official committee
 - refer to rules 6, 9 & 10

- Treat game management and officials with respect
 - assist in “game management” when appropriate
 - no facial or verbal “abuse” of officials
 - let the coaches deal with the officials

After the contest

a comparison

NDSU judging teams

NDSU athletic teams

- “post-mortem” attendance is required. It is TRULY a “learning experience”
- Appropriate dress for the awards banquet is required
- Enjoy the experience
BUT:

- Enjoy the moment
- Focus on the “good”
- Don’t dwell on either the “win” or the “loss”

After the contest

a comparison

NDSU judging teams

NDSU athletic teams

- See rule 1!
 - 1. Thou shalt do nothing which will embarrass thyself, thy teammates, thy university or thy coach!!

See rule 9!

- 9. Thou art expected to attend all contest functions. Non-conforming individuals will not be allowed to represent NDSU in any public appearance.

See rule 10!

- 10. See rule 1!! Violation of the previous rules shalt be dealt with be immediate abandonment!!!

- Learn from mistakes
- Use the positive aspects as confidence builders
- Remember that you represent NDSU, our team, community and state at all times

At home (again) a comparison

NDSU judging teams

NDSU athletic teams

- Review the contest
 - Compare
 - Check “officials” against your notes & calculations

- Evaluate video
- Discuss areas needing improvement & HOW to improve
- Evaluate & prepare for next opponent

- Write Thank you notes.
 - Do PERTINANT notes
 - Examples (not good ones)

Envelope:

Dr. Paul Berg

Animal and Range Science Department

North Dakota State University

Fargo, ND 58105

The note:

Dear Dr. Berry:

Another note

Envelope:

Dr. Paul Berg
Carnivore Catering
Animal and Range Science Department
North Dakota State University
Fargo, ND 58105

Inside:

Dear Dr. Berg:

Thank you so much for cooking the breakfast
at the National Western...

Another note

Envelope:

Dr. Paul Berg
Carnivore Catering
Animal and Range Science Department
North Dakota State University
Fargo, ND 58105

Inside:

Dear Dr. Berg:

Thanks for sponsoring the award at the National Western Meat Judging Contest. It means so much to us to be able to compete for these awards.

signed: judging team member

Southern North Dakota Junior College @ Hoople

The POINT:

make thank you notes meaningful

**Thank the committee members for their time & effort
be specific (which class, which contest)**

**Thank the sponsors for what they SPONSORED
If the award does not involve you (or your team)
don't write (a general statement about support
may be appropriate)**

**Be especially diligent to thank for individual and team
awards by specific categories;**

**“I was fortunate enough to win the trophy
AMSA sponsored for beef grading at the
American Royal...”**

**“Thank you for your sponsorship of the
High Team Award for ...”**

Give traveling students a “hard copy” of your rules

1. Remember who you are & who you represent; don't do anything which will embarrass those people who are important to you.
2. Drugs are prohibited, use of alcohol discouraged and, if used, done so with EXTREME discretion.
3. Student van drivers are responsible for all aspects of driving: control of radio, fuel status, speed (within posted limits).
4. Gross behavior, including language, in the van or any where we are gathered as a team is strictly forbidden.
5. Trouble with law enforcement is an individual responsibility; the coach will not provide bail.
6. Activities which may cause bodily harm or property damage are forbidden.
7. Don't go off on your own – meeting family or friends must be approved by the coach
8. You are expected to represent NDSU in a positive manner at all times and WILL attend all contest functions.
9. Remember – you represent US – breach of rules will result in IMMEDIATE abandonment – find your own way home!

LAST SLIDE



In the final analysis, it is the student who must decide to conform to rules or not. Athletic coaches are fond of talking about their athletes “making good choices”.

Isn't that what judging is all about?

All a coach can do is to hope to have an influence on that decision!