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WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A GATOR

It is a real honor and privilege for a boy to become a Gator. Your opportunities are unlimited and you, right now, hold the key to how far you will extend those opportunities toward your future success and happiness. Football, you see, is a democratic game where one gets returns in proportion to the amount of work done.

As long as you are a Gator, you will not only have the wonderful opportunity of getting to participate in football, America's greatest game, but you will be getting many other benefits from the game. Some of these benefits are listed below:

1. You can earn your college education, just as many Gators have. We hope all of you will go to college and continue your education.
2. You will be a better student because of your participation in athletics. Physical activity causes mental stimulation. It has been our experience over a period of years that the grades of athletes rank above the grades of the students as a whole.
3. Your health and appearance will be better because you are in athletics. One of the greatest lessons a man learns in football is the difference in injury and pain and the difference in illness and discomfort. This is a lesson we need in adult life. Absenteeism from school is lower among students who participate in athletics than among other students. Athletes also exhibit more poise and confidence and better posture and carriage than those who are non-athletes.
4. You will be a better adjusted adult after participation. We think that an athletic background and the resulting talking knowledge of sports is almost a requirement in adult life if you are ever to be considered "one of the boys."
5. Some of the strongest friendships you will ever make will be made in the heat and grime of an August afternoon when we are all "suffering" together or in the tension and drama of an important contest when you can really spot the man on the team.
6. Teamwork is more than a time-worn expression. It is our belief that there is less place for the "big individual" in football than in any other sport. No man is singularly important. "One man team", I am sure was coined by a newspaper man and not by a football player. Every man is important. It carries down beyond eleven men or twenty-two. Great teams have great teamwork and spirit down through the last substitutes and beyond him to the managers, coaches, cheerleaders and everyone else involved. It takes a lot of people to make a winner.

7. We are not trying to develop any "big men on the campus" or anything like that, but it is evident from the number of important campus jobs that are filled by athletes, that athletic participation carries some leadership training with it. We like for our athletes to participate in a big way in events on the campus and in the classroom. We want to think of you and we want you to think of yourselves as the "cream of the crop", but even more important than that, we want you to actually be the "cream of the crop."

There is some danger here, however. Athletes are in the limelight because everyone knows you from athletics. Some are jealous of you. Others are resentful. For this reason an athlete must be continuously on guard because a "bad move" on the part of an athlete is magnified by his prominence. You must avoid that "bad move". Don't ever become a "big shot." Great athletes never do. Modesty and appropriate reserve are the marks of greatness.

We hope that you will become the greatest Gator and enjoy being a member of the "MIGHTY FIGHTING GATORS".

GATOR STANDARDS

1. The Gators will always out-hustle the opponents.
2. The fourth quarter will always belong to the Gators.
3. The Gators will always be courteous to the officials.
4. A Gator will never "lose his head" during a game.
5. The Gators will "bristle" when called upon to do so by the coaches or captains and will crawl, cry or bleed to handle the situation at hand.

WHAT WE MUST DO TO WIN ON DEFENSE

1. Intercept 2-13 passes.
2. Recover 3 fumbles.
3. Hold opponent to less than 1 yard on punt returns.
4. Eliminate the long run - greater than 12 yards.
5. Eliminate the long pass - greater than 15 yards.
6. Don't allow the opponent to drive from inside their 20.
7. Don't let the opponent make the 3rd and 1 situation.
8. Don't let the opponent sustain ball over 12 plays.
9. Don't let the opponent score.

TACKLING - HEART OF ANY DEFENSE

It has been said that tackling is 75% desire and 25% ability. If you want to get a man down badly enough, you will find a way to do it. Tackling is one of the basic fundamentals of football. We think that the easiest way for a boy to make the team is to show a great desire to tackle. We will work on tackling a lot and try to be a good tackling team. Our defenses are designed to get people into position to tackle, but good position is of no use unless we have good solid tackling.

GANG TACKLING

We feel that the thing which will demoralize another team quicker than anything else is gang tackling. We want to strive to get as many men on the ball carrier as possible. This is the result of good pursuit. Let's cause the fumble and have plenty of Gators there to cover it.

If you tell yourself that, "If I don't get him he will score", we will have gang tackling.