

PRACTICE

Building Character Through Soccer



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Integrity:

Adherence to moral and ethical principles, honesty

Synonyms: incorruptibility, honorable, virtue

Integrity Story

In the fall of 2003, Nate Haasis, a highly decorated high school quarterback from Southeast High School in Springfield, Ill., was playing in his final high school game against Cahokia High School. He could make history that day as he was gunning for 5,000 career passing yards to become the conference's all-time passing leader. As the clock was winding down in the final minute, Haasis dropped back to pass and noticed that the opposing defense was off of the line of scrimmage and not pressuring his receivers. He threw a final pass that went for a touchdown as the Cahokia defense made little effort to tackle, some of the players with their hands in their jerseys. The pass and yardage did break the conference record and when Nate Haasis found out that the opposing team had allowed the pass to go uncontested, and that the coaches had an agreement to allow Nate to break the record, he felt that he needed to do something.

In a demonstration of true integrity, three days later, Nate Haasis wrote a letter to the conference president, Chuck Hoots, where he said "While I admittedly would like to have passed the record, as I think most high school quarterbacks would, I am requesting that the Central State Eight does not include this pass in the record books. Reaching 4,969 yards required a lot of cooperation and hard work from my teammates. I do not wish to diminish the accomplishments that were made in the last three years."

Based on his request, the yardage from Nate Haasis' last pass was deleted from the record book and he would be the second all-time leading passer in his conference at the time of his graduation. He had done the right thing and in doing so, he achieved much more than any record could offer.

