



## I'm Inspired

I'm always inspired when an individual chooses the right and moral decision over ones that are wrong, even if they seem easier on the surface.

As many of you know, I'm a big California State University-Fullerton baseball fan. My team has made its way into the College World Series this year, but the road to that goal had a few bumps in it.

The last hurdle the team faced was the suspension of four players prior to the game against Ohio State. The print media reports that these four talented individuals found their way onto the rooftop of their hotel in South Bend, IN, following their win over Notre Dame. While on the rooftop, they decided to practice their throwing ability by tossing rocks at a specific tree in a nearby park. Their actions caught the attention of local authorities, who tracked down the source of the rocks and arrested the rock throwers.

The news reports I read didn't mention it, but Coach George Horton probably consulted others on his coaching staff and members of the University's administration before choosing how to respond. There was no long, drawn-out debate. Coach Horton decided that the offending players should be dealt with immediately.

The four student athletes, including two of the team's starting pitchers, were suspended from playing the Regional Finals game with Ohio State. They were all sent home to Fullerton.

Coach Horton could have argued that local authorities were making an extraordinary exception for his players. He could have claimed that, from the viewpoint of the general public, the arrest was out of proportion to the severity of the offense. He could have argued that, just maybe, the arrest was made to attract coverage in the national news. But that's not what he did.

Instead, he made the call and immediately sent the young men home. This prompt decision sent a message to his young team and to future players that Cal-State Fullerton expects you to uphold certain standards. The action clearly stated that what they did was wrong, no matter how harmless it appeared to some people, and that this kind of behavior would not be tolerated.

I commend George and his colleagues for that decision. It's a reminder to us all that no matter who is involved — our children, our employees, or anyone else with whom we are associated — there is a right way to behave and a wrong way.

Making the right decision in this case had to be a tough call for this very competitive coach. It could have cost the team the game, but it was the only way for George Horton to lead the team.

I'm glad to report that Cal-State Fullerton survived the Buckeyes and reached its goal — the College World Series — without those four athletes. I was inspired, and I hope you will also be inspired as you continue to let your actions and your decisions reflect the integrity and professionalism on which the STMA is founded.

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