Discussion Guide: When The Game Stands Tall

When The Game Stands Tall follows the true story of De La Salle’s high school football team, which won 151 consecutive games—the longest winning streak any sports team at any level in American History. The film concentrates on the challenges Coach Bob Ladouceur and his team faced after breaking this streak, and emphasizes the importance that it is not about how you fall, but how you get back up.

Take advantage of the teachable moments presented in When The Game Stands Tall by using these questions to help guide a discussion with your team or children.

1.) How does the pressure of “The Streak” affect the team? How does this pressure affect Coach Ladouceur?

2.) Why did Coach Ladouceur take his team to the VA Hospital? What lessons did his players learn from these veterans?

3.) What does When the Game Stands Tall say about the importance of perseverance?

4.) Coach Ladouceur talks about how everyone on the team should give a “perfect effort” from snap to whistle. How would you describe perfect effort?

5.) Why does Chris Ryan give up on breaking the California touchdown record during the last play of the North Coast Section Championship Game?

6.) Coach Ladoucer talks about how his program is not about football and scoring touchdowns, but about assisting his players to grow up and be dependable people of the community. What is important about this coaching philosophy and why is this an important message for young athletes today?

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