

The definition of Character is “the mental and moral qualities distinctive to an individual.” I have had the privilege over the past two hockey seasons not only to coach Charlie Marion but to truly get to know his personal character. These four distinct qualities immediately come to mind when thinking of Charlie and the character he possesses: All-In, Structured, Disciplined & Accountable.

From the very first day I met Charlie until present day there is not a more ALL-IN young man committed to doing what is necessary every day to achieve his hopes & dreams, in athletics and in the classroom. It is necessary in both sport and life to be fully present “in the now” and I believe Charlie is one of the most present young men I have ever met. When his attention, focus and intensity is channeled into his task at hand, because of the ALL-IN mindset he possesses, he is a force of nature at achieving whatever lays in front of him. All the time, while driving to where he ultimately wants to go, his natural leadership qualities from being ALL-IN is a pure example to others inside his peer group of what leadership looks like and therefore many other young men choose to follow his leadership.

Naturally, someone like Charlie has many demands on his time, energy and attention. It takes great STRUCTURE inside his life to continually manage these demands, particularly at the levels he has reached athletically and academically. He has the keen ability to recognize the importance of when he is feeling overwhelmed and with his tremendous communication skills coupled with this STRUCTURE inside his life and also inside his mind, he is able to overcome those adverse times and maintain a balance which continually allows the best version of himself to come out.

The ability of Charlie to continually bring the best version of himself, even in the most adverse of times, stems from a commitment to being a very DISCIPLINED young man. He understands the importance of planning his work, and working his plan. He cognitively recognizes the more consistent he is in life, in athletics, in academics, the more opportunity will be presented and offered to him, allowing him to get one step closer to greatness. He willingly accepts the fact that being DISCIPLINED is not always easy, yet he does not run away from the challenge and embraces the opportunity to better himself, better others around him.

Last, most young men I encounter in my world are tremendously gifted, talented, Alpha-males, like Charlie. However, what separates and differentiates Charlie from the others is his humble way of accepting and being held ACCOUNTABLE for his actions and choices. Never once have I seen him shy away, contrary, Charlie has welcomed and thrived on being ACCOUNTABLE and I attribute this to simply being a man amongst boys.

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