First of all, I want to say thank you for your patience as I completed this course work much later than I intended. My wife suffered a stroke last November and caring for her was the only that that mattered to me. Through the grace of God, she is almost completely recovered.

I thoroughly enjoyed this class, I have been the head softball coach for 26 years here at Valley High School. Throughout this time, we enjoyed unparcelled success. We won more state titles than any other school in our classification. This course really gave me an inventory of where I should/need to be as a coach. I’ve fallen short in some of the areas of the 3rd dimension (not all) just some. This is a great time for me to readjust my compass as I head into the final years of my coaching career.

Now for the assignment, Valley High School is consistently one of the states most successful athletic programs. We enjoy unapparelled success in both boys and girls sports here at Valley. We are a top three finisher each year in the states all sports award. Since it’s inception Valley has won the award 6 times. We have our strengths and areas of growth that need addressing. (I refuse to say weaknesses)

Our strengths include, a talented pool of athletes to pick from, great community support, we are well funded, a community that takes great pride in their children’s success. We have exceptional leadership from Brad Rose our Athletic Director. Brad is very visible at events and supportive of all sports.

Our growth areas include, too many non-teaching coaches, as jobs become harder and harder to fill we sometimes lack the talent pool in our teaching staff to take these jobs, thus leaving them open to non-teachers. I’m not suggesting that non-teaching coaches are not good, I’m merely pointing out the advantage to have daily contact with our athletes is priceless. Another area needing growth is the consistent need to meet as a coaching staff. We currently never have head coaches meeting to discuss athletes, fundraising or just concerns we may have. I hope this change, I’m consistently advocating for these opportunities. Lastly, we are undergoing a huge demographic shift in our school. More than ever our athletes have real life issues that we need to help and assist with. I’m not certain we have a plan for how we meet the needs of those who need us the most.

Tom Bakey

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