



## **Great Team Members Go Extra Mile**

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Labels in life can be good and bad. Someone labeled as a “freeloader” usually isn’t viewed in a favorable light. People who “go the extra mile” are perceived positively.

Everyone loves being around people in the latter group, because they are always willing to give extra effort or do little things most people aren’t willing to do.

When these people help out in a club or church or an athletic program, it seems you are saying “thank you” to them over and over. They are great team members.

I bet everyone knows somebody who goes the extra mile.

When you think of those people, a smile creeps onto your face.

Last week, I witnessed someone going the extra mile and his efforts were greatly appreciated.

My boys’ high school football team arrived at their scheduled destiny. It was windy, but still a great day for football. Coach likes to arrive early for proper warm-ups, so it didn’t surprise us our opponent wasn’t yet on the field. Without line markers or end-zone pylons set up on the field – things normally ready ahead of time – a red flag went up.

The week before, our team had lost the school’s first game ever, and the kids were looking to find that first historical win. It was talked about all week at practice, and the momentum had built to this moment.

As time passed, no one arrived, but we witnessed football players off in the distance beginning their practice. As our players warmed up, coaches huddled, contemplating what to do.

Moments later, a couple of our coaches went to find out what was going on. It was obvious, a mix-up had occurred.

The athletics director of the opposing school also happens to be the varsity head coach. Off practicing with his team, he listened to our situation and then sprang into action.

He wanted to make sure we didn't come all that way and not play a game. He was in "extra mile" mode.

What do we need? Officials!

With three reliable sources on speed dial, and a volunteer already at the game to watch, we didn't have just one person going the extra mile, we now had four others willing to step forward at a minute's notice.

Clock operator? Seeing a bus, one happened to stop and was hoping a game was about to break out. He got his wish.

Opponent? The kids were inside getting ready.

It's amazing what can take place when one person is ready and willing to lead and make something happen.

This was a person who took time away from his own varsity practice, not to mention on a day where rain moved in and made things extremely wet. This was a person willing to go above and beyond the call of duty.

A game took place and thank you wishes were handed out everywhere.

A smile comes to my face just thinking about it.