

Coach Carter

Quote

"You owe it to yourself to be the best you can possible be – in sport and in life"

~Pete Rose [Baseball Player & Manager]

Plot of the Movie

In 1999, Ken Carter accepts the job of basketball coach for his old high school in a poor area of Richmond, CA, where he was a champion athlete. As much dismayed by the poor attitudes of his players as well as their dismal play performance, Carter sets about to change both. He immediately imposes a strict regime typified in written contracts that include stipulations for respectful behavior, a dress code and good grades as requisites to being allowed to participate. The initial resistance from the boys is soon dispelled as the team under Carter's tutelage becomes an undefeated competitor in the games. However, when the overconfident team's behavior begins to stray and Carter learns that too many players are doing poorly in class, he takes immediate action. To the outrage of the team, the school and the community, Carter cancels all team activities and locks the court until the team shows acceptable academic improvement.

Please Fill-Up/Tick as Appropriate

1. Which of the following is not a rule laid down to the team by Coach Ken Carter when he takes over the coaching role?

C. Performance on the court counts for everything and nothing else matters

2. What according to Coach Carter is a pre-requisite for a team to be a winning outfit?

B. The team must behave like ONE winning unit (train like winners, behave like winners on the court and off the court, dress like winners)

3. List down 2 key points from the contract laid down by Coach Carter to the team?

a. Put in the efforts needed in training

b. Do well academically- Maintain grades and attendance

4. Was Coach Carter right in throwing a star player out of the team or letting some of the star players leave the team? List down the reasons behind his actions.

a. They were not ready to sign the coach's contract

b. They were showing signs of disobedience

c. They were putting themselves before the team

5. How does Coach Carter react to a star player opting to leave the team because he did not agree to the terms of the player contract?

C. Coach Carter uses this opportunity to tell the other members of the team that this a great opportunity for other players to become leading scorers

6. What does Coach Carter focus on once he starts the coaching sessions?

B. Getting the players conditioned and fit enough

7. How does Coach Carter drive the message to the other teachers, school leader and other students that he is serious about the commitment he has asked of the team?

B. Tells them that the players are student athletes and so, they are students before athletes

8. In spite of the team's successes and great performances, how does Coach Carter keep the team grounded?

A. He reminds the players that is a privilege to play basketball and it is not their right

9. Was Coach Carter right in benching the whole team (and not a few players) till they got the grades they had committed to? Why do you think he was right/wrong?

Yes. It is one-team and it would not be right to see them as a bunch of different individuals.

10. How did Coach Carter make the players in the team internalize the need to be better at academics?

B. He lists down the grim reality of life in the Richmond neighborhood for Black Americans and why going to college with good grades would be in their best interest