

I have been told that I tend to be a little wordy when it comes to banquet talks, good but wordy, thank you Mitch Diamond for your critique, and as Dr. Maki has me on the clock I will do my best to be concise.

Breakfast Commitments

Scrambled eggs and ham that is what I'm talking about or maybe 2 over easy with bacon, how about sunny side up with sausage? Two simple items that are part of a lot of mornings, totally ordinary yet perfect to illustrate my point. Keep that breakfast in mind as we take a look at our season and our sport.

Think about a season that seemed like it would never really get started and a season that seemed to last a long time but then was gone in a flash. Think about your involvement with wrestling and think about your commitment to the sport. Think about the other things in your life which you are involved with and the things that you are committed to. Many of you are involved with your school work but committed to the weekend, while others are committed to moving on to a higher education. Some are involved with a young lady others are committed to finding one, maybe you are involved with this sport as a commitment to another. Family, god, friends; everything in your life is a part of this combination of involvement and commitment.

Remember back to the goals packet that we looked at to begin this season past and remember the pyramid. It showed involvement with the team at the wide base and a very intense commitment to excellence at the pointy top. We talked about the different levels of that pyramid and the things required of you to meet your goals. That same strategy applies to all of the things in your life and all of the people in this room.

When it comes to you and your growth into the fine young men that you are becoming your parents are at the very top. They are there for you win or lose, when you make bad decisions about your own involvement with things that you should not be involved with let alone committed to. They show their commitment when they haul you to the bus at 6 a.m. and when they perch on a bleacher seat for what seems like days to see your 6 minutes or less. They commit to cook the eggs and make the pasta salad, do the laundry and bug you about your homework, but mostly they are committed to love you unconditionally. They are the perfect example at the top of that pyramid.

All of the guys who coach you are very near the point of that structure as well. They commit their time and their knowledge. They commit to you emotionally. Young coaches discover and older coaches are reminded that the corner of the mat is in many ways harder than the center. It is very hard to help raise another's commitment from the corner. For that cold third of the year much of their world is committed most days to raising the level inside those little 8' circles. Then in that big 30' circle it is time to see that investment of time pay off. They think about and put into action plans to raise your level so they don't suffer so much in the corner. They track your grades and guide you to success, they watch and listen to your lives and do their best to keep you moving straight and moving up. These are guys that you should aspire to be like. These are guys who know the difference between involvement and commitment.

The others in this room are also committed to you and your success. Whether they are members of your family, your friends or others who know the power that is inherent in the oldest sport in history, they are committed to support you. Mr. Monette this year and others before him have been honored as having and being the Spirit of Williamston Wrestling. Nearly 3 decades after his State Champ graduated and he is still here. The committed show up in the practice room and in the

stands, they come back to run concessions and score the tournaments. As Coach Mooney taught us, commit to make this entire community involved with wrestling, because he knew that once you got them involved it would be easier for them to commit.

Then team there is you, all involved with this mat game. Some of you have been a part of it for as long as you can remember and some are new this season. Some committed long ago and others thought a little involvement will help them with the other commitments in their lives. For those who just thought they would be involved I have a little news for you, it went beyond that, you committed. The fact that you are here proves it. As you ran up those stairs, as you walked up those stairs, as you dragged yourself up those stairs to the mat room for the past four months your involvement turned into commitment. No one can make it to the end of a wrestling season without at least a little commitment. To get brutalized on a daily basis takes at least a little commitment. To put on a spandex suit and take to the mat in front of the crowd takes at least a little commitment. Be proud of that commitment and think about where on that pyramid you want to finish. All of you think about where on that pyramid you want to be next March.

Do you want to be a part of that wide base and just enjoy being part of a hard working team or do you want to near the top with Garrett and Paul. Do you want your name on the wall or do you want your picture above it? All are worthy aspirations but you have to pick out your place. When you come up on the short end of a decision it is time to think about that place or when your shoulders have been pinned to the mat and you are getting ready to fire your headgear at the wall pause just a second to think about what your commitment was. Where did you put yourself on the pyramid? Are you willing to commit to get you to a higher level so you can better control your own fate or will throwing something make you better? Is your energy best spent on looking like a fool or focusing on getting to that higher level? It is all up to you.

Now is the time to pick out your place for the future, to put into action the things you need to commit to to rise nearer the top. As coaches we would like nothing more than all of you turning the pyramid upside down, to move everyone to the top. We are willing to commit ourselves to helping to invert the pyramid but we can't do it without your commitment. As a team we need to be stronger, as a team we need to polish our technique, as a team we need to develop better mat sense, as a team we need to raise our level of commitment. We have a plan to help with your commitments. A lifting plan so you can commit to being stronger. A spring wrestling plan to increase your mat sense and hone your technique if you want to commit. A plan to find you opportunities as the wrestling community across Michigan begins to assemble National Teams for summer competition, an invaluable experience if you want to forever be a part of the Williamston legacy and have the strength to commit. A plan that come summer will provide you learning opportunities at camps here at home and on the road. We will compete in the Summer League and there will be Taco Bell. All of these things are part of a commitment you need to make to move up the pyramid. We will provide the options to raise your level, you need to pick your place and commit to arriving there in November.

Now I am sure that you are asking yourself what in the world does breakfast have to do with involvement and commitment? It is a perfect example; it is all about the chicken and the pig. One is at the bottom of the pyramid and the other at the top, for you see when it comes to that breakfast the chicken was involved but the pig was committed.

Which one are you?