



Jan. 5, 2019

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### Jeff Casey Spoke to Optimists

Jeff Casey, Treynor High School football coach, spoke on Saturday, January 5 to the Treynor Optimist Club. Jeff has lived most of his life in Treynor since 1986 and resides here with his wife Amy and four children, Ben, Brock, Sophie and Stella.



Jeff just turned 40 and has 22 years of coaching experience. His full time work is as a banker and he manages a St. Louis office from his home and does a lot of travel in the business in the off season. He stated that of the 15 varsity sports in Treynor, only five are led by teachers. None of his nine assistants are teachers

which has benefits and also presents challenges.

Jeff shared three early lessons which have impacted him as a coach: In upper elementary his friends played football at every recess and on his best day he was average and never the quarterback. In 6<sup>th</sup> grade at an Optimist punt/kick/pass contest he got 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Coach Randy Donahue received a pass from him and said, "You will be QB in 7<sup>th</sup> grade." It impacted his life and he has taken to heart to talk to kids about what they like to do and to encourage them. He was able to play for Donahue for one year.

As a student/coach as a freshman at Central College, he shared how he recognized Eddie Robinson, third time all winning coach, on the elevator at a coaches clinic. He and friends approached him in the front row of the auditorium and he talked their ears off. His advice, "Never stop learning." At 82 years, Coach Robinson was sitting with a notebook on his lap waiting to learn from Tom Landry, the keynote speaker. To this day, Casey says he spends a minimum of an hour a day learning more about coaching football through reading, videos, and clinics.

His third lesson was from his head coach at Central, Ron Skipper, the 17<sup>th</sup> winningest coach, who developed Div. III athletics. He recruited Jeff, but he was never able to play for him. He taught him that these three things are intermingled – being a student,

athlete, and gentleman. That is Jeff's goal in developing his players at Treynor.

Casey went on to discuss the season and this being the first year he has been able to be head coach in playoffs. It was Treynor's first district championship in 15 years. He is a proponent of multiple sports. He currently has 54 players and his goal is 70. He's been an advocate in Treynor of not playing tackle football until 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Jeff loves statistics and has tracked going back to Winkler coaching years. He gave accolades to his staff and promotes being open and honest with each other. He shared records achieved this year as well as honors for a number of students. Because of his own experience with concussions, he shared about what is available now and in the future to protect players.

### Meeting Minutes

President Dale Willenborg called the meeting to order. Fifteen members were present. Chad Gutttau, Dale Willenborg, and Gary Funkhouser shared jokes followed by the group saying the Pledge of Allegiance. Jordan Campbell gave the opening prayer.

Jordan Campbell won the 50/50 award and John Klein won the attendance drawing. There were no birthdays or anniversaries observed.

For bragging rights, Marsha Underwood contributed for Iowa winning, for Bailey White being high pointer and for St. Albert playing well. Kevin Underwood contributed for Bailey coming out of a slump. Keith Denton donated to share trivia about the Pledge of Allegiance. It was written for the World's Fair and the hand was thrust out, but when WW II came, the hand was put over the heart. Jim Clausen contributed to announce that Ken Graham had won the football bowl game contest with 19 right.

Gary Funkhouser announced the basketball games and wrestling meets this week in Treynor.

There was no old business. Under new business John Klein discussed a winter swim day possibility which he is researching. John will be in charge of the can kennel this Wed. at 3:30 with the Music Boosters.

Mick and Judy Gutttau were thanked for providing breakfast.

Jordan Campbell became an official member. John Klein was recognized for being his sponsor.



L-R: Jordan Campbell, Dale Willenborg, John Klein

Stan Latta, Chaplain at the Pott Jail, will speak Sat.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by stating the Optimists Pledge.

**What do you call someone who can't stick with a diet? A deserter.**

**Calendar**

Jan. 9 Can kennel sorting at 3:30 PM

**Birthdays**

Jan. 19 Dennis White

**Anniversaries**

**Programs**

January Judy Guttau  
February Keith Denton  
March Chad Guttau

**Speakers**

Jan. 12 Stan Latta, Chaplain  
Good News Jail Prison Ministry  
Jan. 19 Kim Barents, HS Volleyball Coach  
Jan. 26 Bill Wypyski, All Care Health Care.

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Dues/Donations/Flag Money: Mail to Optimist Club of Treynor, PO Box 354, Treynor, IA 51575