

# Friday Reflection

11/01/19

I always enjoy watching our students perform among the various venues, but this week was extra special. Outcomes in the past week were optimal, but I appreciated the incredible focus and intention I observed among some of our students. This all occurred during a week of Halloween and our annual Food Fair, which seemed to enhance the overall school spirit, not distract.

Last Saturday, our band traveled to one of their first competitions and earned second place in a competitive division, while our girls' volleyball team traveled to Riverside to make quick work of their CIF second-round opponent. These Saturday events seemed to set the stage for the week ahead.

Last night, our football team recorded their 3<sup>rd</sup> league victory, setting them up for a chance to compete next week in the CIF play offs. While the win was great, I was most impressed by their approach to the game. I saw on social media that the boys called a "players' only" meeting. I assume the topic was that mental approach because in last night's game they demonstrated a much higher level of focus than any game I watched this year. By halftime, the lead was 35-0. Yes, our team was clearly the better team, but there was also an intentional shift. There were very few mental mistakes coupled with some incredible plays, including a 90-yard touchdown pass and catch from Riley Kelly to Alex Nuñez. It was a total team effort.

Speaking of effort, the League Cross Country Championships on Tuesday afternoon at Craig Park highlighted our boys' and girls' cross-country teams, both of which placed fourth. The most impressive part was watching the gutty efforts that afforded some of our runners their fastest times on a challenging course. David Flores and Audrey Barcenas earned 7<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in league respectively, both running with obvious drive and determination.

As if that were not enough this week, we hosted a CIF quarterfinal girls' volleyball match in our very own Pavilion. Being the number one seed creates some interesting dynamics, and our girls made the most of their opportunity. From the very first point to the last, our Tiller girls were diving, digging, setting, smashing, and strategically placing on almost every point. There were very few unforced errors which highlighted the focus and intensity our girls brought to the match. While some sets were close, our girls won in three straight sets, giving the large and vocal crowd something extra to cheer about throughout the game.

We have had some special moments in our gym in recent years, and this one was right up there with any of them. What made it extra special, besides the generous donations of alumni to pay for student tickets, was the members of the 1994 Tiller girls' volleyball team who came to cheer our current girls into the next round. Previously, the 1994 team had made it the farthest of any Tiller girls volleyball team, the CIF Quarter Finals, and no one was happier for the 2019 team to make it to CIF Semi-Finals (which will happen tomorrow night at Palm Desert High School). Number 1 against number 4! If our girls bring what they brought on Wednesday, it could be another special night!

*Go Tillers!*

Dr. Jon Tuin

Tustin High School Principal