

# Getting the Ball to Scotty

It was a game that defines what sportsmanship is all about. And yet, it is also about love and teamwork. Larry Pillow wrote about it in the *Arkansas Democrat Gazette* of Feb. 7, 1999.

Witts Springs, Ark., population 100, has a hard time producing athletes from a student body of 41 in grades 7 to 12. But its athletes take team play to a new level.

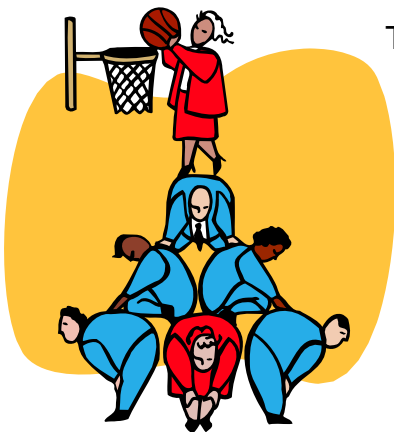
In a basketball game against Leslie School, Witts Springs trailed by more than 30 points with just two minutes to go. The fans began to chant, "Put in Scotty! Scot-Tee! Scot-Tee!" Coach Nash waved Scotty Harmon in.

Harmon, who has cerebral palsy, took a pass on the perimeter and flung the ball toward the hoop. He missed. His teammates scrambled for the rebound and gave Scotty a second chance. He missed again, which started another fight for the ball.

"The kids know when Scotty's in there, their game is over," Coach Nash said. "They're doing it for him. The atmosphere changes. If they're worn out, they'll break their necks to get that rebound. Our kids will go above everybody to get the ball to Scotty."

On his fourth try, Harmon sank a three-pointer. Fans on both sides of the gym cheered wildly.

The scoreboard showed Leslie 89, Witts Springs 58, but everybody left a winner.



That's the kind of spirit that prevails among our associates when we help each other reach a goal – a good survey outcome, or food and money for a co-worker going through a hard family situation. It's also evident when we coach and inspire a resident through an intensive rehab program to walk again.

It is the love and connectedness that nothing else can match.

– Beecher Hunter