

Harmon's 3-Pointer

There are more ways to win in life than what may appear on the scoreboard – no matter what the sport or pursuit in which one may engage. A story in the Arkansas Democrat Gazette by Larry Pillow offers a great example.

Like every graduating class, the 1997 class of Witts Spring, Arkansas, had a valedictorian and a salutatorian. Unlike other classes, however, the two top graduates were the only graduates.

Witts Springs, population 100, produces few graduates. It also has a hard time producing athletes from a student body of 41 in grades 7 to 12. But it does manage to produce athletes who take team play to a new level.

In a game with rival Leslie, Witts Springs trailed by more than 30 points with just over two minutes to go. The fans began to chant, "Put in Scotty. Scot-Tee! Scot-Tee! Scot-Tee!" Coach Nash obliged and inserted senior guard Scotty Harmon, who has cerebral palsy.

Harmon received a pass, stood alone on the perimeter and, unguarded, threw the ball toward the goal. He missed. His teammates scrambled for the rebound and gave Harmon a second chance. He missed again, starting 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 now. 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 read: Leslie 89, Witts Springs 58.

But everybody left a winner. Especially Scotty's teammates.

That kind of teamwork must prevail among the associates of Life Care, American Lifestyles and Life Care at Home. None of us is perfect. Each has his or her own weaknesses or challenges. Yet, we must care about one another, and commit ourselves to providing an environment majoring on collective strengths that rise far above individual shortcomings. That's when we win.

--Beecher Hunter