

Why CFT: AD's Perspective

Shane Hansen, Athletic Director at Sheboygan Christian School in Wisconsin, has been with CFT since the pilot year. Now in his second year of the program, he is reflecting on the changes and benefits that CFT has provided his athletic department.

As a Christian school, we have always made it a focus to incorporate faith in and through our athletics programs. With that being said, as a year two school in the Coaching for Transformation program, we have already experienced several tangible benefits from utilizing the CFT approach. Today, I will share three such benefits that we are experiencing at Sheboygan Christian School (SCS).

1. Common/Intentional Terminology and Practices

It has been a blessing to have instant common ground in what we are saying and doing from a faith perspective from sport to sport. We have many multi-sport student athletes and being able to share a consistent message has enabled our coaches to build upon the faith lessons/impact that the prior season's coaches had established. In the past, coaches may have been communicating the same type of message, but in using different terminology and/or practices, we risked having that message get lost in translation as we asked student athletes to get on the same page with that season's coach as they started each new season. Now, our CFT gameplan gives us the clearly defined vision and transformative principles that ensure we are sharing a common message each season -- and we are seeing student athletes experience a smooth transition from coach to coach. That smooth transition has allowed us to not lose any progress in continuing the lessons/impact, which in turn gives us the opportunity to go "further up, and further in" with our Christian mentoring.

2. Sheboygan Christian School Branding

We have four Transformative Principles (TPs) that we are focusing on as an athletics department (Competing | Encouraging | Humility | Training). These four TPs have become eminently tangible at SCS, as we have gone so far as to hang banners in our gym highlighting these components of our CFT gameplan.

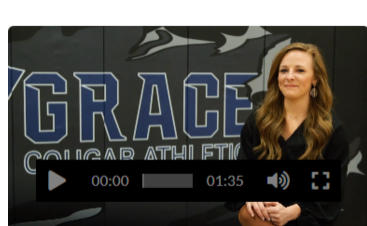
3. SCS Athletics Are Different

When meeting with prospective families, I am able to physically show our gameplan as a very specific, tangible talking point around what makes the athletics experience at SCS different from what their family would experience at another school. Having this gameplan (not just a vision, not just goals, but a full step-by-step "gameplan") demonstrates how our school has an intentional plan and approach for incorporating a Christian-focused experience and outcomes for our athletics programs. We don't just coach for the glory of sports victories. We don't just coach "Christianly." At SCS, we coach for transformation -- and we can show you exactly what that means.

We are by no means perfect, and we have a long way to go in fully/faithfully executing our CFT gameplan. But, we know that by God's grace we are focusing our athletics programs in a manner that aligns with our school's mission, and that in doing so we are further extending the Kingdom impact that we are able to accomplish through a Sheboygan Christian School education.



Sheboygan Christian branding through Transformative Principles banners



From the Gameplan: Leadership Team

Selecting one or two team captains is a common practice for many high school teams, but have you ever considered structuring your captains in a leadership team that utilizes the unique strengths of your athletes? Check out this [Essential Practice](#) used by Maggie Koehn, Grace Community's varsity cheer coach. This model could empower your leaders to work together and further develop life-long leadership skills in a way that recognizes an athlete's leadership strengths.

Playbook Resource: Individual Performance and Development

Goal setting is not just for our athletes. As coaches wrap up seasons, it is a great time to reflect and set goals for the next year. Take a look at our Assessment tab to utilize resources like this [Individual Performance and Development Assessment](#) to structure your goal setting and create action steps to reach those goals.

"So here's the critical question: Are sports unconnected to learning, or part of a curriculum designed to develop the whole human being to the highest degree possible?" - Gene Edward Veith

Did you know?

...we have sample [Game Plans](#) from our co-directors and Year 2 schools on our website. Take a look at what some of the other schools in our community are doing for their own athletic programs.

...our co-director, Joel Penner, has been featured on both the [Sports Spectrum Podcast](#) and the [The Christian Coach Podcast](#) where he has been able to share more about Coaching for Transformation and the impact it is having in our schools. Both are linked on our [website](#) as well!

...each school has a username and password to access members-only content. Coaches, check with your athletic director for this information. ADs, contact lindsey.vanschep@cac.org if you need a password reset.

Power of the Team

Do you have a story of how Coaching for Transformation has impacted your coaches, athletes, or greater community?

Do you have a valuable resource that would help other Athletic Directors or coaches?

We would love to hear from you to utilize the Power of the Team. Contact lindsey.vanschep@cac.org to share your story or resource for our newsletter or [website](#).



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