## GUIDEBOOK



2025 - 2026

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### INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Horizon Huskies Basketball Program. You've earned a spot in a rigorous program meant to develop you both as an athlete and as an individual. As a member of the team, you hold responsibilities to yourself, your teammates, your school, and your community. Success here, as in life, begins with commitment and effort.

Our core philosophy is simple: each member of the Horizon Basketball Program is obligated to give his best. Players, coaches, and managers strive for excellence daily, knowing that true satisfaction comes from maximum effort. Outworking opponents—in practice and games—is our standard.

Success starts with desire, which can be developed or lost based on habits. Excellence isn't a one-time act, but a habit formed by consistent choices. Every detail matters—attentiveness sets champions apart. A positive attitude and determination are essential; success is defined by effort, not natural ability. Challenges are inevitable, but hard work, discipline, and ongoing self-improvement build strength of character. Set ambitious goals and pursue them relentlessly. The path to achievement is earned through dedication, and confidence grows with preparation. This is what it means to be LOC'D N!

Teamwork is vital; supporting each other helps everyone reach their potential. When one improves, we all improve. Approach each day ready to work together and strive for greatness. Even in defeat, a Husky Basketball Player remains a winner through effort and pride. Stay LOC'D N and good luck!

### LOC'D N

LOC"D N serves as the central theme of the Husky Basketball Program, established by the varsity team members. This acronym encompasses five key actions deemed necessary to maximize our potential and achieve success.

- Level: Keep your emotions and thoughts balanced for peak performance. Too much causes anxiety, too little reduces readiness. Stay present to maintain control. Be mindful of your level for every basketball activity.
- Offense: Prioritize efficient execution with proper spacing, screens, cuts, ball security, rebounding, transition, and smart shot selection.
- Chemistry: Build team chemistry through positive communication, energetic bench presence, and constructive body language. Stay focused and respond to challenges with action; avoid negative comments. (Don't say stupid stuff out loud.)
- Defense: Strong effort drives defense—steals, deflections, charges, rebounds, early help, and transition all depend on it. Focus on reaching your personal best effort score to do your part in achieving great team defense.
- NRG: Energy unites our team. Always contribute positively, even when it's difficult; this supports teammates and maximizes everyone's potential for success.



Please rate yourself on a scale of 1 to 10 on each of these **LOC'D N** attributes each day after a practice or game with 10 being the highest rating.

#### Level

 I directed my attention to the current task, ensuring a neutral mindset throughout the process.

#### **O**ffense

• I focused on efficient offensive fundamentals: spacing, screening, cutting, ball security, rebounding, transition, and shot selection.

#### **C**hemistry

• I was positive with my words and actions. I responded to adversity with decisive positive action.

#### **D**efense

• I made great efforts to achieve a maximum effort score: steals, deflections, charges, rebounds, early help, and transition.

#### **N**RG

• I provided energy to my team and was aware of how my actions impacted my teammates. I considered this impact in choosing my actions.

## ATTITUDE



#### **ATTITUDES THAT BUILD WINNERS**

<u>Drive</u> Dedicated athletes have a burning desire to improve, to

compete, and to win.

Aggressiveness Winners make things happen; they take charge, force action,

and produce results.

<u>Determination</u> The refusal to quit or accept defeat; the persistence to

practice, to improve, and to win.

**Responsibility** Winners accept total responsibility for their actions; they admit

errors and learn from their mistakes.

**Self-Confidence** Winners have confidence in their abilities, can act decisively

and believe they will win.

<u>Leadership</u> Winners are dynamic individuals who like to influence others

and take control of situations.

**Emotional Control** Winners can control their emotions and perform normally in

stressful situations.

Mental Toughness Winners can accept rigorous training from a demanding coach

and recover quickly from setbacks.

<u>Coachability</u> Winners respect the coach and the coaching process; they

know that coaching is important to their development and

progress.

<u>Conscientiousness</u> Winners have a strong sense of commitment and obligation to

the team; they put rules and the welfare of the team first.

Trust Winners know that mutual trust is a major factor in team unity

and team morale. Value our Pride, Courage, and Respect!

Jay Bilas's article below highlights how toughness in basketball is about specific actions, not just physical strength or athleticism. Toughness is a mindset—players who choose to do what's best regardless of challenges help their teams win. At Horizon High School, we rely on LOC'D N as our foundation, but building additional toughness skills makes you more valuable to the team and more effective as a player. Strive to meet more of Bilas's characteristics and encourage your teammates to do the same. The success of our team depends on everyone becoming tougher. Excellence comes from making toughness a daily habit.

#### "TOUGHNESS"

Jay Bilas

Toughness has nothing to do with size, physical strength, or athleticism. Some players may be born tough, but I believe that toughness is a skill, and it is a skill that can be developed and improved. Michigan State coach Tom Izzo always says, "Players play, but tough players win." He is right. Here are some of the ways that true toughness is exhibited in basketball:

<u>Set a good screen</u>: The toughest players to guard are the players who set good screens. When you set a good screen, you are improving the chances for a teammate to get open, and you are greatly improving your chances of getting open. A good screen can force the defense to make a mistake. A lazy or bad screen is a waste of everyone's time and energy. To be a tough player, you need to be a "screener/scorer," a player who screens hard and immediately looks for an opportunity on offense. On the 1984 U.S. Olympic Team, Bob Knight made Michael Jordan set a screen before he could get a shot. If it is good enough for Jordan, arguably the toughest player ever, it is good enough for you.

<u>Set up your cut</u>: The toughest players make hard cuts and set up their cuts. Basketball is about deception. Take your defender one way, and then plant the foot opposite of the direction you want to go and cut hard. A hard cut may get you a basket, but it may also get a teammate a basket. If you do not make a hard cut, you will not get anyone open. Setting up your cut, making the proper read of the defense, and making a hard cut require alertness, good conditioning, and good concentration. Davidson's Curry is hardly a physical muscleman, but he is a tough player because he is in constant motion, he changes speeds, he sets up his cuts, and he cuts hard. Curry is hard to guard, and he is a tough player.

<u>Talk on defense</u>: The toughest players talk on defense and communicate with their teammates. It is almost impossible to talk on defense and not be in a stance, down and ready, with a vision of man and ball. If you talk, you let your teammates know you are there, and make them and yourself better defenders. It also lets your opponent know that you are fully engaged.

<u>Jump to the ball</u>: When on defense, the tough defenders move as the ball moves. The toughest players move on the flight of the ball, not when it gets to its destination. And the toughest players jump to the ball and take away the ball side of the cut. Tough players don't let cutters cut across their face -- they make the cutter change his path.

<u>Don't get screened</u>: No coach can give a player the proper footwork to get through every screen. Tough players have a sense of urgency not to get screened and to get through screens so that the cutter cannot catch the ball where he wants to. A tough player makes the catch difficult.

<u>Get your hands up</u>: A pass discouraged is just as good as a pass denied. Tough players play with their hands up to take away vision, get deflections and to discourage a pass in order to allow a teammate to cover up. Cutters and post players will get open, if only for a count. If your hands are up, you can keep the passer from seeing a momentary opening.

<u>Play the ball, see your man</u>: Most defenders see the ball and hug their man, because they are afraid to get beat. A tough defender plays the ball and sees his man. There is a difference.

<u>Get on the floor</u>: In my first road game as a freshman, there was a loose ball that I thought I could pick up and take the other way for an easy one. While I was bending over at the waist, one of my opponents dove on the floor and got possession of the ball. My coach was livid. We lost possession of the ball because I wasn't tough enough to get on the floor for it. I tried like hell never to get out-toughed like that again.

<u>Close out under control</u>: It is too easy to fly at a shooter and think you are a tough defender. A tough defender closes out under control, takes away a straight-line drive and takes away the shot. A tough player has a sense of urgency but has the discipline to do it the right way.

<u>Post your man, not a spot</u>: Most post players just blindly run to the low block and get into a shoving match for a spot on the floor. The toughest post players are posting their defensive man. A tough post player is always open and working to get the ball to the proper angle to get a post feed. Tough post players seal on ball reversal and call for the ball, and they continue to post strong even if their teammates miss them.

**Run the floor**: Tough players sprint the floor, which drags the defense and opens up things for others. Tough players run hard and get "easy" baskets, even though there is nothing easy about them. Easy baskets are hard to get. Tough players don't take tough shots -- they work hard to make them easy.

<u>Get to your teammate first</u>: When your teammate lays his body on the line to dive on the floor or take a charge, the tough players get to him first to help him back up.

<u>Play so hard, your coach has to take you out</u>: I was a really hard worker in high school and college. But I worked and trained exceptionally hard to make playing easier. I was wrong. I once read that Bob Knight had criticized a player of his by saying, "You just want to be comfortable out there!" Well, that was me, and when I read that, it clicked with me. I needed to work to increase my capacity for work, not to make it easier to play. I needed to work in order to be more productive in my time on the floor. Tough players play so hard that their coaches have to take them out to get rest so they can put them back in. The toughest players don't pace themselves.

<u>Take responsibility for your teammates</u>: Tough players expect a lot from their teammates, but they also put them first. When the bus leaves at 9 a.m., tough players not only get themselves there, but they also make sure their teammates are up and get there, too. Tough players take responsibility for others in addition to themselves. They make sure their teammates eat first, and they give credit to their teammates before they take it for themselves.

<u>Take a charge</u>: Tough players are in a stance, playing the ball, and alert in coming over from the weak side and taking a charge. Tough players understand the difference between being in the right spot and being in the right spot with the intention of stopping somebody. Some players will look puzzled and say, "But I was in the right spot." Tough players know that they have to get to the right spot with the sense of urgency to stop someone.

<u>Get in a stance</u>: Tough players don't play straight up and down and put themselves in the position of having to get ready to get ready. Tough players are down in a stance on both ends of the floor, with feet staggered and ready to move. Tough players are the aggressor, and the aggressor is in a stance.

<u>Finish plays</u>: Tough players don't just get fouled; they get fouled and complete the play. They don't give up on a play or assume that a teammate will do it. A tough player plays through to the end of the play and works to finish every play.

**Work on your pass**: A tough player doesn't have his passes deflected. A tough player gets down, pivots, pass-fakes, and works to get the proper angle to pass away from the defense and deliver the ball.

<u>Throw yourself into your team's defense</u>: A tough player fills his tank on the defensive end, not on offense. A tough player is not deterred by a missed shot. A tough player values his performance first by how well he defended.

<u>Take and give criticism the right way</u>: Tough players can take criticism without feeling the need to answer back or give excuses. They are open to getting better and expect to be challenged and hear tough things. You will never again in your life have the opportunity you have now at the college level: a coaching staff that is totally and completely dedicated to making you and your team better. Tough players listen and are not afraid to say what other teammates may not want to hear but need to hear.

**Show strength in your body language**: Tough players project confidence and security with their body language. They do not hang their heads, do not react negatively to a mistake of a teammate, and do not whine and complain to officials. Tough players project strength, and do not cause their teammates to worry about them. Tough players do their jobs, and their body language communicates that to their teammates -- and to their opponents.

<u>Catch and face</u>: Teams that press and trap are banking on the receiver's falling apart and making a mistake. When pressed, tough players set up their cuts, cut hard to an open area and present themselves as a receiver to the passer. Tough players catch, face the defense, and make the right read and play, and they do it with poise. Tough players do not just catch and dribble; they catch and face.

**Don't get split**: If you trap, a tough player gets shoulder-to-shoulder with his teammate and does not allow the handler to split the trap and gain an advantage on the back side of the trap.

<u>Be alert</u>: Tough players are not "cool." Tough players are alert and active, and tough players communicate with teammates so that they are alert, too. Tough players echo commands until everyone is on the same page. They understand the best teams play five as one. Tough players are alert in transition and get back to protect the basket and the 3-point line. Tough players don't just run back to find their man, they run back to stop the ball and protect the basket.

<u>Concentrate</u>, and encourage your teammates to concentrate: Concentration is a skill, and tough players work hard to concentrate on every play. Tough players go as hard as they can for as long as they can.

<u>It's not your shot; it's our shot</u>: Tough players don't take bad shots, and they certainly don't worry about getting "my" shots. Tough players work for good shots and understand that it is not "my" shot; it is "our" shot. Tough players celebrate when "we" score.

**Box out and go to the glass every time**: Tough players are disciplined enough to lay a body on someone. They make first contact and go after the ball. And tough players do it on every possession, not just when they feel like it. They understand defense is not complete until they secure the ball.

Take responsibility for your actions: Tough players make no excuses. They take responsibility for their actions. Take for example. With 17 seconds to go in Wake's game against Duke on Wednesday, Scheyer missed a 3-pointer that bounced right to Johnson. But instead of aggressively pursuing the ball with a sense of urgency, Johnson stood there and waited for the ball to come to him. It never did. Scheyer grabbed it, called a timeout and the Blue Devils hit a game-tying shot on a possession they never should've had. Going after the loose ball is toughness -- and Johnson didn't show it on that play. But what happened next? He re-focused, slipped a screen for the winning basket, and after the game -- when he could've been basking only in the glow of victory -- manned up to the mistake that could've cost his team the win. "That was my responsibility -- I should have had that," Johnson said of the goof. No excuses. Shouldering the responsibility. That's toughness.

<u>Look your coaches and teammates in the eye</u>: Tough players never drop their heads. They always look coaches and teammates in the eye, because if they are talking, it is important to them and to you.

**Move on to the next play**: Tough players don't waste time celebrating a good play or lamenting a bad one. They understand that basketball is too fast a game to waste time and opportunities with celebratory gestures or angry reactions. Tough players move on to the next play. They know that the most important play in any game is the next one.

Be hard to play against, and easy to play with: Tough players make their teammates' jobs easier, and their opponents' jobs tougher.

<u>Make every game important</u>: Tough players don't categorize opponents and games. They know that if they are playing, it is important. Tough players understand that if they want to play in championship games, they must treat every game as a championship game.

<u>Make getting better every day your goal</u>: Tough players come to work every day to get better and keep their horizons short. They meet victory and defeat the same way: They get up the next day and go to work to be better than they were the day before. Tough players hate losing but are not shaken or deterred by a loss. Tough players enjoy winning but are never satisfied. For tough players, a championship or a trophy is not a goal; it is a destination. The goal is to get better every day. Anybody can talk. Not anybody can be tough.



#### Please list the 5 Areas where you are the toughest:

1
2
3
4
5
Plan to use these skills to contribute to our team every day.
List two toughness skills that you plan to add to your game.
·

### MISSION



# 25-26 TEAM MISSION STATE CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY TO WIN EVERY GAME

Defense: .65 DER	Offense: 1.00 OER	<u>Chemistry</u>
Effort Score	Spacing	Positive Talk
Steals	Screening	High Energy Bench
Deflections	Cutting	Body Language
Charges	Ball Security	Response to Adversity
Early Help	Shot Selection	Do not say stupid stuff
Rebounding	Rebounding	oC'D
Transition	Transition	H D H

## WORDS FROM WINNERS



#### **Words from Winners**

"I do the best I know how – the very best I can; and mean to do so until the very end. I will get ready, and then, perhaps my chance will come."

Abraham Lincoln

I want to be remembered as the guy who gave his all whenever he was on the field.

Walter Payton

There are only two options regarding commitment; you're either in or you're out. There's no such thing as life in-between.

- Pat Riley

You can't get much done in life when you only work on the days you feel good.

— Jerry West

Happy are those who dream dreams and are ready to pay the price to make them come true.

- Leon J. Suenes

I learned that the only way you are going to get anywhere in life is to work hard at it. Whether you're a musician, a writer, an athlete or a businessman, there is no getting around it. If you do, you'll win – if you don't, you won't.

Bruce Jenner

Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Willing is not enough; we must do.

- J. Wolfgang von Goethe

We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act but a habit.

— Aristotle

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

# HORIZON HIGH SCHOOL HUSKIES BASKETBALL

If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.

John Quincy Adams

"Every player on the squad, regardless of the amount of personal publicity or public acclaim he may receive, must always place team welfare above personal desires. This is not easy, but it is necessary. Each individual must work and prepare for the opportunity when his team can capitalize on his particular strengths, and he must do everything within his power to help his teammates to do likewise. There can be no envy or jealousy, but rather a sincere desire to have the team do well."

John Wooden

Victory belongs to the most persevering.

Napoleon Bonaparte

"To get where you want to go, you've got to drive yourself and push yourself relentlessly. You've got to want to win so badly that the thought of coming in second is simply intolerable. And you've got to pay the price of winning. Paying the price, in anything you do, is spelled W-O-R-K. Days and nights of work. And it's too bad that many men – men who are born with the basic talent – think of 'work' as a dirty word."

Bill Russell

"There are plenty of teams in every sport that have great players and never win titles. Most of the time, those players aren't willing to sacrifice for the greater good of the team. The funny thing is, in the end, their unwillingness to sacrifice only makes individual goals more difficult to achieve. One thing I believe to the fullest is that if you think and achieve as a team, the individual accolades will take care of themselves. Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence win championships."

Michael Jordan

"The quality of a person's life is in direct proportion to their commitment to excellence, regardless of their chosen field of endeavor."

Vince Lombardi



"The question is who will give up first. I believe you will pass out before you are overworked, but most people don't know that. They think they are overworked so they stop. They weren't beat physically. They were beat mentally."

John Havlichek

"Do the thing you fear the most and the death of fear is certain."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are."

Teddy Roosevelt

"In close games, when the pressure intensifies and the margin between who wins and who loses can be as thin as an eggshell, we believe that all our hard work, all the long hours, and all the perspiration will enable us to come out on top. Why? Because we deserve it. We deserve our victory!"

- Rick Pitino

"If we're playing hard in practice, under game-like conditions, then we're just naturally going to play smarter and better during a game. That's why all our practice drills are as game-like as possible."

- Mike Krzyzewski

"Once practice starts, we work hard, and that's the best conditioning there is. Everything counts. Every little thing counts. Run hard, play hard, go after the ball hard, guard hard. If you play soft, you won't ever get into shape."

Pete Carril

"I continually stress to my players that all I expect from them at practice and in the games is their maximum effort."

- John Wooden

"Prepare for every practice like you just lost your last game."

Don Meyer



"No one is bigger than the team. You're going to be on time, you're going to play hard, you're going to know your job and you're going to know when to pass and shoot. If you can't do those four things, you're not getting time here and we don't care who you are."

Hubie Brown

"I'll show you some amazing wonders that have come about because people have dared to dream their dreams – and then had the courage, ingenuity, and perseverance to hammer those dreams into reality."

Pat Williams

"A wise man will make more opportunities than he finds."

Francis Bacon

"Desire is the key to motivation, but it's the determination and commitment to an unrelenting pursuit of your goal - a commitment to excellence - that will enable you to attain the success you seek."

Mario Andretti

"Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important that any one thing."

Abraham Lincoln

"That's what building a body of work is all about. It's about the daily labor, the many individual acts, the choices large and small that add up over time, over a lifetime to a lasting legacy. It's about not being satisfied with the latest achievement, the latest gold star, because the one thing I know about a body of work is that it's never finished. It's cumulative. It deepens and expands with each day you give your best. You may have setbacks and you may have failures, but you're not done. You haven't even started."

- Barack Obama

"Be a yardstick of quality. Some people aren't used to an environment where excellence is expected."

- Steve Jobs

"You can do anything you set your mind to, man."

Eminem



### TRAINING RULES



#### **Training Rules and Expectations**

1. **Concentrate on your grades and homework.** Husky basketball players are winners in the classroom and on the court.

"Excellence is the gradual result of always trying to do better." - Pat Riley

2. **Act like a champion at all times.** To be a winner, you must be a winner in everything that you do. This includes in the classroom, in social situations, and at home. 100% effort is expected in all activities.

"I'm busy working on every aspect of my game - defense, shooting, rebounding - but I really want to become a better overall team player. Help my teammates become better players out on the court in order to win more ball games. My mother taught me to always be strong and always work hard. I'm a lot like her in that I work hard for what I want." — Kevin Durant

4. **Get the proper amount of sleep each night** and be consistent about what time you go to bed. An athlete needs proper rest.

"Sleep is extremely important – I need to rest and recover in order for the training I do to be absorbed by my body." – Usain Bolt

5. **See your coach first about any injuries.** He will send you to the trainer if it is appropriate. The trainer will determine if you need further medical attention.

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." – Benjamin Franklin

6. **Missing practice is not acceptable.** Sickness, family emergencies, or studying are the only exceptions to this rule. If you fall behind in your studies, talk to your coach and he will determine the best course of action regarding practice.

"Practice isn't the thing you do once you're good. It's the thing you do that makes you good." - Malcolm Gladwell

7. Contact your coach if you are going to miss practice. If you need to leave school during the day or if you stay home from school, contact your coach in the morning to inform him that you are out of school and will not be in practice. Communicate as soon as possible with any scheduling conflicts which could result in missing practice time.

"Effective teamwork begins and ends with communication." – Mike Krzyzewski



8. **Eat balanced meals at regular hours.** Use common sense in snacking. Nutrition is extremely important for peak performance.

"You cannot out-train bad nutrition. It's impossible." - Scott Eastwood

9. **Dress appropriately for team functions.** Appropriate dress for game days, bus trips, etc., will be determined by the varsity team.

If you look good, you feel good. If you feel good, you play good." -Deion Sanders

10. **Be on time for all team functions.** On time for practice means on the floor dressed and ready to practice at the appointed time. On time for bus trips means to be at school 15 minutes before the scheduled departure time. "Preparedness and punctuality are two of the most important qualities of a leader."— John Andreas Widtsoe

- 12. **Avoid unacceptable social situations** that could put you in danger of breaking any training rules. Dating and parties are an important part of your growth and development. Follow school rules regarding drugs and alcohol. "Drugs are a waste of your time. They destroy your memory and your self-respect..."—Kurt Cobain
- 13. **Support all members of our program** with enthusiasm. Each of you is an important part of this program. This includes attending games at all levels to support your program. Talk with your coach regarding any time conflicts.

  "I think team first. It allows me to succeed. It allows my team to succeed. LeBron James
- 14. **Act with class on and off the court.** We will be positive leaders in the school and in the community. We will treat the people in our lives with the proper respect and our conduct will be exemplary, not only in basketball, but in every activity in our lives. Horizon Basketball Players are Champions.

"Make sure you live in the moment and work your butt off every single day, and I hope I inspire people all around the world to just be themselves, be humble, and be grateful for all the blessings in your life."

— Stephen Curry

15. **Be Coachable.** Listen when a coach or a teammate speaks. Work to do what you are asked to do by the coach. If you don't understand the rationale or disagree with the instruction, share your opinions with the coach before or after practice.

"My best quality was that I was coachable. I was a sponge and aggressive to learn."

– Michael Jordan



# GAME AND PRACTICE SCHEDULES

#### **Schedules**

The practice schedule is provided to give you a guide to the court time currently available for practice. It is subject to change due to scheduling conflicts, inclement weather, and other possible conflicts that, for a variety of reasons, cannot be anticipated. If school is cancelled for any reason, you will be contacted giving you information on the status of the scheduled practice or game for that day. We will communicate through the Horizon1440 App and the InstaTeam App. The schedules are online at:

https://www.huskyhoopsclub.com/teams/default.asp?u=HUSKYHOOPS&s=bas ketball&p=schedule

The schedule is for court time only. It does not include meeting times, team functions, or time for weightlifting. It is important that you communicate with your coaches and teammates daily, so you can participate fully in all activities. Parents make many sacrifices to allow you to make a significant commitment to basketball, so they also deserve to be informed immediately of any necessary schedule changes. Any changes in the schedule will be immediately posted on the Husky Hoops Club website to keep everyone well informed of all activities. If you are unable to be at practice, it is imperative that you let your coaches know as soon as possible. The coaches schedule every activity in practice, and your presence is important to that schedule. Thanks!



### **PLAYBOOK**



### **SCOUTING REPORTS**