

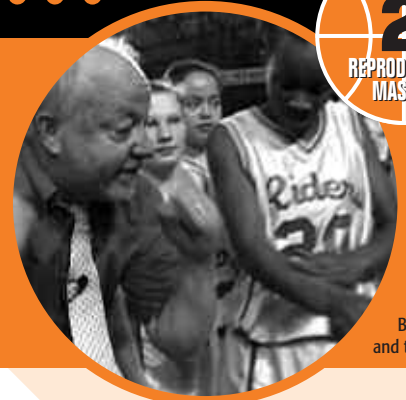
A TEST OF CHARACTER

“It’s not about winning and losing, but about how hard you tried, how you overcome obstacles emotionally, how you rely on other girls and how they rely on you.”

– Coach Bill Resler



Cheering the team to victory



Bill Resler and the team

PART A. The real-life teens in Miramax Films’ *The Heart of the Game* exhibit strong character under difficult circumstances.

The **Roosevelt Roughriders** girls’ basketball team agrees to allow Darnellia (dar-NEE-lee-uh) Russell to play on the team in the state championship even though it means that they may have to later forfeit these games.

Coach Bill Resler puts every player on his team into the state championship game instead of only using his best players—espousing his philosophy that teamwork is more important than winning.

Darnellia Russell has the courage to go to a school out of her neighborhood. She comes back to school after missing a year, deals with legal issues surrounding her ability to play, leads her team to a basketball championship, and graduates with honors.

Think about a difficult situation in the life of someone close to you, where strength of character was key.

What was the situation? _____

What choice did that person make that displayed character? _____

What was the outcome? _____

What different outcome might have occurred if he or she had made another choice? _____

Given the perspective of time, would the choice have been the same today? Explain. _____

PART B. Many sports heroes and popular entertainers are considered role models in our society. As a group, choose a famous person who is *widely considered* a role model.

Consider the traits of good character—*trustworthiness, fairness, respect, caring, responsibility and citizenship*—when discussing the following questions:

- What character traits went into your decision? What actions?
- Who is presenting this person to the public as a role model?
- Is it fair to expect a person with unusual athletic or performing abilities to serve as a role model? Why or why not?
- What are the risks when an athlete or performer demonstrates inappropriate character traits?
- Does it matter to you if a role model is male or female? Why or why not?
- Choose another famous person that your group considers a role model and answer the questions above. How do your answers differ?



Future members of the Inner Circle

Look for **THE HEART OF THE GAME** coming to a theater near you this summer.

Go to www.heartofthegame-film.com to find out when the film is coming to your area or for group sales information.