

# opponent shows class on court

*By Bob ...* —A high school basketball game between Madison High and its rival school from DeKalb, Illinois, became a showcase of sportsmanship. Although the mother of Madison senior Johntell Franklin had just died, he came to the game and asked to play.

Because Franklin played but wasn't listed in the scorebook, game officials had to give the DeKalb team two

technical free throws. Darius McNeal volunteered for DeKalb and missed on purpose. "It was the right thing to do," he says.

Although DeKalb lost, coach Dave Rohlman says his team learned an unforgettable lesson.

**Source:** *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*



What's your reaction to

this story? Why do tough times often bring out the best in people? Why do you suppose Franklin wanted to play, despite his mother's death? Are you surprised McNeal missed the free throws on purpose? Why or why not? How do you think that made Franklin feel?

Would you have been willing to hurt your statistics to boost a rival? Why or why

not? What examples of sportsmanship have you witnessed? Think of a time you helped an "enemy": How did that feel? Why did Jesus insist on us doing something that seems impossible—to "love our enemies, and pray for those who persecute us"?

*Illustration by ...* Proverbs 3:27-29; Mark 12:28-34; Romans 12:17-21; and 2 Peter 1:5-11. 4