

What It Means to be a Laker

Contributed by Justin Hester
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Last weekend's games made many season ticket holders' passes worth the money. The Lakers, kept it interesting while they won both games. There were missed chances and sloppy play (can anyone say "second period of Saturday night"?), but more importantly there were two wins, including an overtime win on Friday. Not only that, but the team showed that they can mesh together, and play as one on-ice cohesive unit that includes offense and defense. And this cohesive play was what led to two wins. That and some good senior night karma according to Coach Roque: "how fitting was it that Blaine and Dan got goals tonight, must have been good karma."

But the score (2-1 and 5-3 respectively) wasn't important, what was important is that this weekend this reporter, and many other fans, were reminded what it really means to be a Laker. We all know that this year has required the Lakers team to work for everything, and most of the time they have come up short. And, while I as a loyal fan and reporter may have complained about the losses, the team and coaching staff never did publicly. That is what it truly means to be a Laker: to confront the challenges you are faced with and defeat them with limited resources, all the while understanding that complaints won't get you anywhere, but truly hard work will.

Saturday night was senior night at Taffy Abel Arena, and it once again provided another example of what it means to be a hard working Laker. Jason Blain was honored, along with Dan Eves and Justin Gutwald. And while all of the players are important parts of the team and hard workers one of those men stood out above them all. Jason Blain has single-handedly managed to juggle more than I could imagine. He has managed to maintain a 4.0 GPA, play on the team, be a good husband, and to top it off a father to his daughter. I can honestly tell you that I am not a 4.0 student, and I could not imagine being a father at this time in my school career, but to be both and more is unfathomable. Jason Blain has once again shown us what it means to be a true Laker, hard work.