

In 1986, Kansas faced Duke in the Final Four, and they wore the rarely used red jerseys in the loss.

4th
& GOAL



EARL WATT

After the game, coach Larry Brown suggested they burn the jerseys.

In Liberal's two losses this season, they have worn the black jerseys, a first for the Redskins.

Maybe it's time to burn them as well.

I love the look, and suggested years ago an all-black uniform with the red helmet.

Liberal also has a better record on the road than they do at home.

So far, the Redskins are 2-0 on the road and 1-2 at Redskin Field.

It might not have mattered what color they were wearing Friday night.

No visiting quarterback has had a performance as Peyton Tempel since Marcus Watts led the Hay Indians to an improbable win over the Redskins about a dozen years ago.

Tempel was unstoppable, and he will be a force to reckon with for the rest of Class 6A.

Back here in Class 5A, the Redskins are fine, if they can keep their heads together both on and off the field.

The fact is actions have consequences, not just for a member of a team, but for the team overall.

While football is a team sport, when you have a player that is a key part of the team, and he gets suspended for a game, it hurts everyone.

I had to share that lesson with my son in middle school when he had an altercation with another student and had to sit out a game.

He was the quarterback, and the team suffered without him, not because he was a standout athlete, but he left a hole on the squad.

For Liberal to continue the climb back to the top, players have to be committed, totally committed, which includes their behavior off the field that could affect their ability to be on the field.

Friday night's loss was not Hammond's fault, nor was it Eli Altamarino's fault for being suspended from the game.

Liberal put the best team they had on the field Friday.

But they didn't help their team compete by missing the game, either.

It takes everyone — coaches, fans and players pulling together for a common purpose.

While the margin of the loss was embarrassing, it was one game out of nine.

This team can either let that define them or even up the Western Athletic Conference record next week at Great Bend.

The good news is that so far this season, the Redskins are undefeated in the white jerseys on the road.