



Klaas puts on his best face

Photos and Story by
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Head men's basketball coach Don Klaas is very passionate for the game. This is reflected in his 645-288 COD record. He is in his 30th season and is no rush to retire.

Klaas played guard in high school and college. "I have always been a competitive player, and that has carried on into my coaching style," Klaas said.

Klaas refers to his team as a finger that needs to come together into a fist.

"Any athlete that plays for me must give everything they can to win. As a coach, I try to help the athlete reach his potential," Klaas said.

His expectations for his players are high. This can be seen in competitive play as well as in practice.

Klaas is very animated. It is not unusual to see him patrol the sideline looking for mistakes that need to be fixed.

When he sees a player not doing his job, his face blows

up with emotion.

"In a game he is very vocal when you do something wrong. He is silent when you are on your game," forward Jon Gillett said.

Klaas is aware of every move that his players make. During their 88-60 loss to Waubensee Community College, Klaas never gave up hope. He used his passionate gestures to keep his players on their toes.

University of Indiana had Bobby Knight, North Carolina University has Henry Dickerson and COD has Don Klaas.