

TEAMWORK

THE WOLFPACK

In 1894, English author Rudyard Kipling wrote “The Jungle Book,” a story about a young boy raised by a pack of wolves in the jungles of India. The story included a poem, “The Law of the Jungle,” which still holds many truths today, both for society in general and athletics in particular. Here are the first two stanzas of the poem:

*Now this is the Law of the Jungle --
as old and as true as the sky;
And the Wolf that shall keep it may prosper,
But the Wolf that shall break it must die.*

*As the creeper that girdles the tree-trunk,
the law runneth forward and back --
For the strength of the Pack is the Wolf,
and the strength of the Wolf is the Pack.*

Have you ever watched a nature program about wolfpacks? Wolves truly are amazing animals and are legendary with how they handle themselves within the pack. They follow a very structured hierarchy in day-to-day living, especially when they go on a hunt. They fully understand that each wolf has a specific job to do. It must be done well, or the pack will starve. From the moment they begin to stalk an animal, to the chase, to the actual attack on the prey, wolves are very cunning, calculated, and relentless until their job and the hunt is done. Through excellent communication, each wolf executes its job in a way that is always best for the pack. Any rogue or selfish behavior is punished severely and can result in death.

1. What lessons can you learn from the poem “The Law of the Jungle?”
2. Even though individual wolves are not large creatures, a wolfpack is feared across the animal kingdom... Why?
3. What happens to wolves that choose “to do their own thing?”... Why?
4. What does this team need to do to become more like a wolfpack?
5. What can you do to help this team play like a pack of wolves?

THE PACK THAT PRAYS TOGETHER, STAYS TOGETHER, AND PLAYS TOGETHER!!