

# Coaching...A Family Affair

Tammy and Steve Wieseler's story is not much different than most families today. They work hard, are devoted parents, and committed community and church members.

Tammy and Steve do what they have to, to make their family successful, and that includes their extended family.

You see, most people in Wynot, Neb., know Tammy and Steve as Coach Tammy and Coach Steve. They are coaches to Wynot's successful football, volleyball and girls' basketball programs. Plus, they hold down full-time jobs, raise five young boys ranging in ages 4-13, and run the family farm.

So how do they do it? How do they balance such busy lives?

They put their faith into their lives.

Steve says they "take it a day at a time. It's not bad."

Steve adds that farming and teaching work well together. He has his summers off to work on the farm, and during the winter he teaches and coaches at Wynot Public Schools.

"Farming can be a stress reliever, except on winters like this," he says.

When he's not busy on the farm or coaching, Steve is an educator with the Wynot School District. Steve has been coaching football for eight years (the last two years as head coach) and basketball for 11 years. Tammy has been the girls' volleyball coach for six years.

Tammy adds that the boys play an important role in their lives and "are included in everything." Whether it's coaching, watching games or participating in church, the boys are there.

"There's not many games they miss," Steve says. "Unless they are far away."

Their commitment to the church and prayer are also important.

"We have many blessings and continue to thank God for those blessings," Tammy says. "We figure it is our calling in life to be parents, coaches and teachers, so we work very hard at what we do so that we can have those fun times (as a family)."

And when they are not busy with their

own teams, Tammy and Steve are supporters of their boys' activities also. Tammy says the boys are active in soccer and baseball, as well as each of their individual sports that include football, basketball and track.

Now that is a busy schedule!

"They love their sports," Tammy says.

And with the boys being such a large part of their coaching lives, Steve says it adds to their family time. Plus there are times when the older boys know more about what is going on with other teams than they as coaches do.

The most important thing is taking the little time they do have and utilizing it.

"Someone once told me it's not the quantity of time you spend together but the quality of time," says Tammy.

You can spend 15 minutes in a room with a child but never really do anything, but if you took that 15 minutes and read a book together you gain so much more, she adds.

"That's been something we live by," she said.

For Tammy and Steve, coaching is much more than just coaching.

"It's not just going out on the floor and competing. It's about what you teach them along the way," says Tammy, who also works as a nurse at the Yankton Medical Clinic, P.C.

"It's our job to work for others and make other kids happy."

"We realize that not everybody has the same resources in life and the same ability to do the things we do. So we make sure every kid gets every opportunity to participate — whether that means picking them up or dropping them off — we do what we can to make a difference."

Steve says a successful program is when you know the kids have a purpose and a reason to play. You can't win the championship every year, but having their goal is what motivates the kids to

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