

Urban gets blunt with parents: 'Support your coach; be part of the solution'

When asked what advice he would give a kid who wants to play for him, Urban Meyer delivered a message to both parents and athletes.

Meyer was speaking at a fundraiser Friday for the Ted Ginn Academy, where Ohio State quarterback Cardale Jones went to school. Meyer began by mentioning that, after the 2014 loss to Virginia Tech, Ohio State had lost three of four games dating back to 2013. He says the Buckeyes were able to turn it around and win the national championship in part thanks to great families.

“When you’re hit in the face — we all get hit in the face in work, family or social situations or team situations — there are only two choices,” Meyer said. “You can be part of the problem, or you can be part of the solution.”

The OSU players were part of the solution, and even when quarterback J.T. Barrett went down with injury in the regular season finale, Jones preparing like part of the solution was the key in the Buckeyes finishing it off and winning the national championship. Meyer made a point to also credit those around Jones.

“Unfortunately, I have a bunch of friends who are high school coaches that have parents that are part of the problem,” Meyer said. “Why is your son not playing? He’s not playing because he’s not good enough. My son plays high school football, and I have to calm my wife down sometimes. The kids learn from somewhere. A guy like Cardale Jones, he could very well have been part of the problem.

“This is a really important conversation. Take this home with you: Could you imagine right now if Cardale Jones would have been complaining, complaining about everything, not staying focused on being a backup quarterback, could you imagine how the season would’ve ended? But with (his family and mentors), he stayed focused. He kept working. Kept working. At one point, it was his job to go do it. That’s all being part of the solution. That’s why we won. Because we had a lot of players and families that were solutions.”

Meyer's comments bring to mind recent comments from other coaches when it comes to dealing with parents, following the Diddy incident at UCLA. Former Oregon defensive coordinator Nick Aliotti said he'd never talk to parents about their son's playing time. Don't underestimate how important good parents are to a team's success.

"Sometimes I hear stories, and I've seen, where the parent's an idiot," Meyer said. "Quit bothering the coaching staff. Support your son. You ask what advice I would give? Support your coach at all costs. You don't have the answer. I spend 15 times the amount of time with that guy (Jones) as my son. When parents come to me and start explaining to me how to coach a team, I've got a problem with that. That'd be my advice. If you're parents, brothers, sisters or are an athlete yourself, if you get hit in the face, support your coaching staff, make a difference, be part of the solution. If you do that, you win championships.

"That's why we won. That guy was part of the solution. The table was set by (family and mentors). God gave him the choice of free will, and he was part of the solution."

Watch Meyer's comments below, courtesy of Eleven Warriors.