

## Editorial

# Football win teaches how to compete

Today the Daily congratulates the members of the ISU football team for their win Saturday. The 44-41 victory in triple overtime — the first overtime incident in the Cy-Hawk football series' 59-year span — was truly inspiring.

The last time Iowa State won against Iowa was in 2007. We did so without setting foot in the end zone, but rather kicking an impressive five field goals. This time, our offense was able to finish its drives at the goal line rather than the 15-yard line, as we did in 2007. Between 2007 and 2009, we did not score one touchdown against the Hawkeyes. On Saturday, we scored six.

Kicking five field goals just doesn't feel the same as earning six well-executed touchdowns. Kicking a football over a crowd of black-and-gold linebackers doesn't deliver the same effect as scoring six touchdowns by outmaneuvering, outpassing, and outmating the play their defensive line offered.

We can all take a lesson away from Saturday's game. Our economy may not be growing, unemployment may be stagnant, graduates may find it harder to get a job, and voters might be turned off by polarized politics and politicized patriotism.

But if we show up, if we compete with those people that try to get the better of us, if we give the struggle our best effort, we'll win.

Victory requires action. It is not nobler to suffer the slings of arrows and outrageous fortune in your mind only. The sea of troubles can be ended by taking up arms against them, by opposing them. Plans and ideas must be put into practice to take any effect. We should be bold, choosing to chance a touchdown in triple overtime instead of preferring the safer field goal.

Iowa State is a university. We learn here. Our campus is where companies and government agencies run experiments with new, bold, determined ideas. Our football team's boldness and skill can be applied to any of those ideas. With that boldness and skill come success.

We all have a stake in the solution of our world's problems. Sorting out the economy isn't something we should leave solely to high financiers and economists. Restoring political honesty shouldn't be left to political science majors. Use your talents, whatever they are. Harness your energies for something beyond your own gratification — solutions will neither present nor carry out themselves.

Show up on the field, and play the game. And if you go into overtime — keep playing, whether you've been there before or not. The struggle is the glory, and the achievement increases with the effort you put in.

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Send your letters to letters@iowastatedaily.com. Letters must include the name(s), phone number(s), majors and/or group affiliation(s) and year in school of the author(s). Phone numbers and addresses will not be published.

Online feedback may be used if first name and last name, major and year in school are included in the post. Feedback posted online is eligible for print in the Iowa State Daily.

## Guantanamo Bay



Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

## Detaining of combatants after 9/11 ignores US law

Following the events of Sept. 11, 2001, fear became the driver for the United States military's actions. The nation and the military wondered, "Who are these foreign men who would kill themselves in an attempt to murder thousands of Americans?" "Are there more of them?" "How can we stop them?"

In an attempt to gather as much information as possible as quickly as possible, the Pentagon and the White House decided that any valuable individuals they captured in Afghanistan and other areas abroad would be labeled "illegal combatants" rather than "prisoners of war" — allowing the military to argue that the Geneva Convention protections for prisoners of war do not apply.

They quickly set up and began using a camp on the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in southern Cuba to hold and interrogate prisoners captured abroad. The base was designed to specifically be outside of the jurisdiction of the United States court system, where the military could use an executive order from George W. Bush that prevented mainland courts from hearing Habeas Corpus writs (legal demands to be taken before a court) from prisoners and the base's remote location to hold prisoners indefinitely.

If you take the time to read some of the 20,000-word part III of the Geneva Convention relative to the "Treatment of Prisoners of War," you will quickly realize that a number of these "minimum requirements" for the treatment of prisoners, including restrictions on close confinement and transportation from a war zone for starters, have not been applied to prisoners at Guantanamo. And these are just the minimum requirements.

Have we, as a nation, stooped so low in our fear that we are not using humane requirements above those of the convention, but instead figuring out the best legal ways around this cornerstone of international law?

Former President Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney had no problem supporting the detention of illegal combatants at Guantanamo



By Rick Hanton  
 @iowastatedaily.com

Bay without trial as a way of preventing terrorism, and it seems President Barack Obama is following suit today. After initial campaign calls for the immediate closing of Guantanamo, Obama made strides toward removing unnecessary inmates from the prison, but approximately 200 prisoners remain.

Obama's attempts to move the remaining inmates to federal prisons on the mainland were foiled by Congress, which eventually passed legislation expressly barring him from using any funds to move the prisoners from the base in Cuba. That legislation was tied to a defense authorization bill, so like the debt-ceiling debate, Obama was forced (blackmailed, some might say) to sign the bill including the Guantanamo provisions or else the military would not be paid.

In my mind, while there are many choices the government could make to deal with Guantanamo, there is only one correct choice. That choice is to evaluate all detainees and set court (or military tribunal) dates for any inmates that have sufficient evidence against them. If there is not enough evidence, which is the case for many of the prisoners, then there is no choice but to release them. If we actually believe in the rule of law and the power of the courts — there is no other choice.

Of course, we can try to keep the "bad ones" on a leash and use all the resources at our disposal to keep them under surveillance to then later re-capture and prosecute them for anything we can prove. But until that time, we simply cannot hold them indefinitely without trial or due process and sleep soundly at night.

Just consider it for one minute. What would you feel like if, guilty or not, the U.S. government one day snatched you from your home and stuck you on an island in an 8-by-

7-foot cell with as little as 2 hours of exercise time outside per day? Then they held you there with no hope, no hope of release and no hope of escape — perhaps because they think you're a terrorist but don't have enough evidence to prosecute you for your crimes — so you live in limbo.

This is not just a fictional idea. I found interesting accounts about Majid Khan, a legal U.S. resident who has been held at Guantanamo Bay since he left the U.S. to visit his wife in Pakistan back in 2003 due to his family ties to purported terrorists. He has been held in detention without trial for eight years now. Eight years! For college students like us, that seems like a lifetime — and perhaps it is.

Khan, now 31, has been held in prison by the CIA and U.S. military since he was 23. In the next eight years of my 23-year-old life, I'd like to get a good job, get an apartment or condo, spend quality time with friends, perhaps get married, maybe have kids — and this man, who is not so different from me, has had only the prospect of a small cell and little human contact for years.

Who are we? What did we do with the pre-terrorism United States of America that believed in the rule of law and the justice of the courts? Are we so afraid of these 200 men that we must create a level of hell here on Earth and leave them there with no way out until the end of the endless war on terror?

Some may have done bad things, made bad decisions based on skewed religious beliefs, but they're not animals to be kept in cages at the zoo — too dangerous or changed by captivity to be released back into the wild. They're humans like us, they're men like us, and they should be treated as such.

So do me a favor and call or email your representatives and remind them of the facts of the matter. This is not what we do to our fellow man. We should be apologizing profusely to the 775 men held at the prison rather than writing new laws to imprison the remaining few forever. I hope Obama can follow through on his promise to close Guantanamo, as it has hurt our country's image too much already.

**Rick Hanton** is a senior in computer engineering from Arden Hills, Minn.

## Sept. 11

# Ten years later, remember we still stand united

A decade ago, our country was devastated, we mourned as a nation, and now we unite and remember. The repercussions will not only be felt once a year or even once a decade, but will occur every day and every time we look to the skyline of New York City.

Whether it is by word of mouth that memories be passed down to our children and grandchildren, or through textbooks, pictures and video documentaries, our country will forever be reminded of a single action that not only broke our hearts, but helped us grasp the hands of our neighbors and send a message back to the world: United we stand.

Everyone can remember with vivid detail when a traumatic event happens. To our parents, ask them about where they were when Kennedy was shot, to your grandfather, ask about one event: Pearl Harbor.

Watch as their face changes, then without hesitation describe their clothes, what they were thinking at that moment, what they might have been eating or doing.

It is amazing how as a na-

tion, one event can make us all remember.

I was walking up the stairs; they were blue. I was in fourth grade at Jefferson School on my way to have breakfast with my family's friend Mr. Ort.

I had on my plaid jumper, and I walked in and saw a TV in the corner zoomed in on smoke. I thought a tornado had happened again, possibly in Oklahoma. I asked him what happened; he simply brought me over and told me that it wasn't a tornado, but a plane in a building in New York.

At that moment, my heart sank. I couldn't comprehend the entire thing; I had never seen the twin towers before, until I saw another plane fly into it, now engulfed in a blazing inferno. It was almost slow motion, and then I saw it enter the second tower.

The whole day we watched the TV. Nobody did anything productive in class; multiplication tables and spelling exercises were forgotten.

From that day, citizens were



ISU students pray at a candlelight vigil for the people who lost their lives during the tragic event on Sept. 11, 2001 at the Campanile. Now, 10 years later, the U.S. still stands united.

terrified, beaten and broken, and yet rays of hope started to bring us out of the dark place that surrounded us — stories of brave men and women who were from the New York City Fire and Police Department, and volunteers who helped find survivors.

It has been 10 years, and our men and women in the military

are still fighting a war in order to stop terrorism, to ensure that the world is safe and no other nation or child has to remember when their own form of a tower crashes down.

**Caytlin Hentzel** is a junior in event management from Fort Madison, Iowa.