

The Circle of Serenity

Michael S. Leach

(An address to the Holy Cross Football Team)

In Ralph Wiley's book entitled *Serenity*, he suggests that a champion operates in a metaphysical zone of utter calm and control, an abstract domain devoid of distractions and doubt.

This mystic realm is somehow "circular," like the tranquil eye of a hurricane, impervious to surrounding turbulence. Only a champion – composed and self-contained, poised and proud – knows the elusive orbit of this surreal sphere.

This team has earned the privilege to embark on a post-season odyssey. As your journey begins, seek transcendence into the circle of serenity. Its brightness will surprise you, its peacefulness will comfort you, its clarity will inspire you, and its charm will guide you to glory.

You'll know you're there when you become less amazed when good things happen and less bewildered when bad things happen. You'll know you're there when your reaction to success becomes less animated, less hysterical. You'll know you're there when victory becomes your destiny.

But perhaps even more importantly, your opponent will know you're there when he witnesses your endurance for just one moment more. He'll know you're there when he observes your eyes. What he beholds is a transparent and dispassionate stare. Much to his chagrin, he confronts the stoical eyes of the Tiger – a true champion at home in the circle of serenity.