

# FAMILY

## THE BEHEMOTH

Imagine that you are at a gathering with a group of your friends. Next, imagine one of your friends running into the house exclaiming, "There is this 6'7" 330 pound behemoth outside. He is an All-Pro NFL lineman and is obviously irate and highly agitated. He said someone dented his new Porsche, and he wants someone to step outside and fight him. He said he's ready to kill someone!" Now, under normal circumstances, most people would not be interested in stepping outside and being the recipient of a terrible beating!

However, imagine that you are at the same gathering, and one of your friends runs into the house exclaiming, "There is this 6'7" 330 pound behemoth outside. He is an All-Pro NFL lineman and is irate! He said your mom and the rest of your family were in a car that backed into him and dented his new Porsche. He is going to beat them all to within an inch of their lives if you don't come out immediately to fight him!" How long would it take you to get outside and take him on full speed ahead? Most of us would be out there in a matter of seconds!

Obviously, this is a rather barbaric way of emphasizing the importance of family and our inherent desire to protect those we love. Scientists say that the strongest basic instinct in the animal kingdom is that of self-preservation. In other words, our strongest basic instinct is to protect ourselves against harm. I respectfully disagree! A mother lion will take on a whole pack of hyenas to protect her cub, even if it means she will probably be killed in the process. Almost any human parent would do the same! Likewise, almost all of us would risk life and limb to protect and defend our families and those we love. Throughout centuries, history has shown that perhaps the three most powerful forces on earth that we are most inclined to fight for are:

1. Our family and loved ones
2. Our homes and homeland
3. Our faith

In fact, defending our families and those we love is one of our most powerful basic instincts. Given this fact, how important is it to our team that we create a sense of unity and family?

1. Would you charge out in an instant and fight the "Behemoth" in the second story above?
2. Who do you know who you would give your life for in order to protect and defend them?
3. Who do you know who would give their life in order to protect and defend you?
4. Would it help our team to become a "family" where we have each other's backs?
5. What are you willing to do, and put into writing, to help create this Athletic Family?

**"The love of a family is life's greatest blessing." - Eva Burrows**