

Last year at this time I wrote my column about how I can't root for Carroll the rest of the way, and after a year where I opened a dialogue with some at Carroll, some of it positive and some of it negative, there has been nothing that has changed that point of view.

**4th
& GOAL**



EARL WATT

It's not that Carroll has bad kids or bad families.

To the contrary, they have exceptional families, exceptional kids, and they have exercised their freedom to send their kids to private school.

I would defend their right to do so against anyone who would try to deny them that choice.

It is that consolidation of several things that gives Carroll an edge — a concentration of support, wealth and talent.

The question is, where does it come from? That talent, support and wealth comes from in and around Wichita. And a few students from each of the public school districts is all it takes to tip the scale. In other words, while this is all consolidating in one school, it is depleting it from others.

Again, that is fine, it is their choice.

If I coached in Wichita, I would drop Carroll from my schedule

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But it is also the choice of those other schools in Wichita that are contributing involuntarily to Carroll's success whether or not to put them on the schedule.

If I was losing my talent, wealth and support, why would I want to schedule them?

I remember when Liberal had an incredible run the old fashioned way, by doing it with people who actually lived within the district.

The Redskins had to travel to Albuquerque, Denver, even Cheyenne, Wyo., for high school games.

If Carroll is as good as Liberal was then, why are the other Wichita schools scheduling them?

Hutchinson had a strong run over the past dozen years, and they added Missouri powerhouse Rockhurst to their schedule.

You don't see anything like that on Carroll's schedule. Instead, they continue to play against the very same teams that they depleted of talent, wealth and support.

I would have a hard time if I were the coach or athletic director at Wichita West, or North or Northwest or even Wichita Heights wanting to put them on my schedule.

Sure, they have the City League, but I would opt out so that my team was playing someone that had to play by the same rules I did.

Sure, Carroll isn't on Liberal's schedule for the next couple of years due to redistricting, but other than being forced by KSHSAA to have to play district games, I wonder why any public school in Wichita would want to reward a system that caused harm to their program.

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If Carroll is as good as they believe they are, why aren't their leaders seeking tougher games like Liberal and Hutch did?