

## CLASS

There are two ways to do anything in life – with class, or without class. It doesn't cost any more or take any extra time or energy to have class. Having class doesn't make you any less a competitor or any less aggressive. You don't lose your edge by having class. You gain the edge.

How does class give you an edge over your opponent? Simple. You'll have the poise that allows you to concentrate better, which helps you win more. You'll have the confidence that allows you to play up to your potential, which also helps you win more often. You'll also have an edge over your opponent, because he or she will waste energy wondering why you have so much class and they don't. They'll wish they had the class you already have. Finally, in a close contest, you'll have the crowd behind you, which could be the edge you need to win.

What exactly is class? It's one of those valuable, “intangible”, personal traits that is in high demand because it's so rare. Most people, unfortunately, do not have it. Class is being a good person, showing good sportsmanship, always taking responsibility for the consequences of your actions and being considerate to others. You have class if you show pride, have humility, poise, and display self-confidence without being arrogant.

Class performers handle victory and defeat in the same way – graciously, with their heads held high. They don't brag in victory, or make excuses in defeat. They accept the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat in stride. They always praise their opponent for a job well done, and they admit their mistakes.

We can always recognize a class group by the way they warm-up. They walk to the stage in a confident manner. They have tunnel vision during the performance. All their energies and powers of concentration are directed towards the audience. They have a job to do and they do it. They are completely prepared. Their actions speak louder than their words. Even their body language, including facial expressions, seems to indicate they are rising above everyone else.

Class always shows, whether you win or lose. People can tell instantly if you have class by watching you perform and interact with others. If you have class, you don't need much of anything else to be a winner. If you don't have it, whatever else you have won't make up the difference.

Fame, fortune, trophies and glory are all fine, but they alone won't give you class. Only you can give yourself class.