

## **FLAT-FOOTED**

**Facebook post March 24, 2025**

For some reason I've been thinking a lot about this. What does it mean to be caught flat-footed? How does it feel? What conditions precede and lead to it?

This has been a long term theme of my life. I had a father in law who once said to me, there are two kinds of people in life: those who make things happen, and those who ask what happened. My own dad was the latter, passively sitting around reading or watching the news and reacting to it. That was his lifestyle.

He didn't have a playbook, he didn't have a game plan; he just waited for something to react to; he waited for his ship to come in. Once I told him, so you're waiting for your ship to come in. Did you send one out? If you didn't, then there is no ship. You will be waiting forever.

He didn't like plans, clocks, calendars, or schedules because he felt boxed in by them. He had an artistic temperament and liked to keep his options open and reserve the prerogative to follow his impulses.

Dems are flat footed now, they were caught flat footed in the last election, and now they're reacting, resisting, protesting, in some cases violently. Their popularity is at an all time low because they have no message, no principles, no agenda, no leadership. Just resist, that's the best they've got. Well, you need more than that to lead and run a country.

By contrast, Project 2025 is a playbook. You may not like it, and neither may I, but it is a playbook and it's what helped get us where we are. The Repubs were not flat footed. They were ready and they hit the ground running.

What is the Boy Scout motto? Be prepared. I've been shaped by it my entire life.

This takes me back to Mr. Gleason's wrestling class at Fairhaven Middle School. What a man, what an athlete. He could do pushups on his fingertips. He was ripped. So was Coach Bill Baker at Sehome. Those men weren't just PE teachers, they were phenomena.

Coach Gleason taught us how to stand, he taught us a wrestling pose: on the balls of your feet, knees bent, weight forward, elbows tucked, hands out and ready for whatever. Alert. Vigilant. Like a coiled spring, ready to act.

This is the diametric opposite of being flat-footed. It's how we should be, all the time.

And not just physically. Mentally, spiritually, and emotionally as well. Always on the ball. Always thinking ahead. Always owning the initiative. Always in control.