

Philosophy of Sport Assignment

Katie Hughes

Michigan State University KIN 855

The role of a coach is very important in the sport environment. As a Christian, a lot of my philosophy relates to the morals and values of my faith. Christian or not, all coaches should try to be as ethical as possible and make a difference to their players. I want to push my players, but make sure they know they are valued. I want to build genuine relationships between myself and players and amongst players. I want to develop players and guide them towards their potential. There are so many obstacles that will arise, from events at practice to difficulties throughout an entire season. I hope my players see how I act and react in all scenarios to show that I have nothing to hide and that they can see me in all circumstances. Being a coach is a public role for all to see. I hope my passion and enthusiasm for students and athletics comes through in my coaching. There are so many differences to consider when coaching at different age levels. A lot of the purpose is the same, but there are many areas to tweak for each age level. My philosophy on coaching keeps in mind what is best for the players for their overall development as a player and an individual.

The role of sport

The role of sport plays a unique part in our society. It provides, fun, entertainment, education, employment, and promotes health and fitness, among other functions. Athletics provides a fun environment for fellowship and community with friends and strangers. It is entertaining as friends and family can come and watch the games. Through watching games, it may allow friends and family to travel to new places to watch their teams play different opponents. Sports bring people together as it is good conversation the following days after a great game, play or sequence. It can bring a community together to rally and cheer one the team together. Sport is great for society as it provide jobs for vendors, referees, clean up crews, etc. and is good for the economy. It differs on some specifics per level or age group. Sport can also

inspire non-athletes to take better care of their bodies and participate in better health or fitness practices. When spectators see people in such a great shape, it encourages a healthy or more active lifestyle.

For youth sport, the role of sport is very important to the development of an athlete. This is both physically, emotionally, and mentally. According to the Young Men's Christian Association, or YMCA ("The Y for Youth Development," 2011) they say,

"We believe the values and skills learned early on are vital building blocks for life. Because of the Y, more young people in neighborhoods around the nation are taking a greater interest in learning and making smarter life choices. At the Y, children and teens learn values and positive behaviors, and can explore their unique talents and interests, helping them realize their potential. That makes for confident kids today and contributing and engaged adults tomorrow."

I agree that the values and skills learned at a younger age lay a foundation for years to come. Sports allow for the learning of numerous life lessons. Getting children involved in sports at a young age teaches them lessons to build on as they continue to grow, whether or not they actively pursue athletics. Like the YMCA, the American Youth Soccer Organization, or AYSO, has similar values. "AYSO's philosophies are living tenets that separate it from other sports organizations. They are Everyone Plays®, Balanced Teams, Open Registration, Positive Coaching, Good Sportsmanship and Player Development" ("AYSO's Six Philosophies," 2011.) AYSO also sees the value of giving each child the playing time to develop skills and balanced teams so there is a more fair chance of winning. I love that they instill positive coaching as a living tenet and recognize how important coaches are at this stage of life. Every parent and coach goes in knowing that there is a positive expectation from coaches in relation with other coaches and parents. The coaches will be positive influences on the young players. AYSO wants the

children to have an all around positive experience from playing in the league and interacting with each other and the coaches.

For the high school level, sport allows high school students to utilize their skills and love for sport at a more competitive level. In Ohio, the Ohio High School Athletic Association, or OHSAA, claims they want to “honor our ultimate purpose, which is to foster lifelong values, good citizenship, ethics and a fair-play approach to life among student-athletes while promoting safe and sporting-like athletic environments” (“OHSAA,” 2010.) We can see how the role of sport changes a little from the youth level to the high school level. The high school level strives to promote the same values at the younger level, but with more sport emphasis. It is more about the specific skills necessary to be developed in the sport and less about the behaviors. While values are still extremely important at any age level, the high school level has more of a focus on skills and level of play. It is interesting to see how what other high school organizations focus on. In Alabama, the Alabama High School Athletic Association, or AHSAA (“AHSAA Mission,” 2008) says,

“The purpose of the AHSAA is to regulate, coordinate and promote the interscholastic athletic programs among its member schools, which include public, private and parochial institutions. Currently, there are 401 senior high members and 287 junior high and middle school members with more than 75,000 students participating in the program.”

For the college level, sport can play a major role in a student’s college experience. Sport can be a deciding factor on where a student chooses to attend college. Besides being a dedicated student, sport can take up much of the remaining time leftover outside of class and homework time. Sport can play a major role for spectators at the college level, too! It provides opportunity to be involved with a team without actually being on the team. From marching bands to cheerleaders, to fans, there are many ways to be involved with a team. Each of these roles

impacts the game as a whole at a college event. The role of sport can transform a college campus. Currently, Calvin College in Grand Rapids, MI is reviewing their options to start a football team. Since its existence in 1876, Calvin has never had a football team. I can imagine the impact and changes it would bring to campus if football was instated!

For all age groups, sport has the opportunity to bring people together. It brings both competitiveness and common interests to the game. I played AAU basketball and I had the opportunity to play girls from all across the country. It was a unique way to connect and meet other players who shared similar interests as me. I also had the opportunity to spend three weeks in Merida, Mexico to teach and coach girl's basketball. I stayed with a host family and I would never have met them had it not been for the coaching experience. The Olympics are a great example of how sport brings our world together. No matter the politics, relationships, or other issues, the concerns are put in the background as the world watches together the great talent of athletes and sport.

Another role of sport at any age level is the concept of a team. Every single player on the team should have a role. One role might be a great defensive player. Another role might be three-point shooting. We need to keep in mind the players that don't see as much play time, for they have defined roles as well. They are encouragers and help to develop the skills of everyone on the team during practice. It is important as the coach to discuss the different roles on the team and how they are all important to the success of the players and the team as a whole. Each player should know what their role is on the team, and the coach can go over that with each person. The players should also know the roles of everyone on the team. While specific roles may differ, all players must accept that they are a *team* player and they will do all that they can to assist their teammates, coaches, and opponents both on and off the court. Jeff Guerrero (J. Guerrero,

personal communication, September 20, 2011) said, “I want to push my athletes to achieve excellence while transferring the character and mindset to adult life.” Coaching our athletes on the court is just as important as coaching them as people off the court.

Sport provides the opportunity to develop lifelong skills that are used outside of the game. It promotes skills that will continue into life long after the season is over. Athletes learn about teamwork, sportsmanship, respect, etc. This is important as the sport develops the athlete as a person for years to come. Sport also develops discipline to work hard and be fit so you can be of most use to the team. Dedication, hard work, and passion for the game may account for more than an athlete with natural ability that is lazy. I want my players to work hard to be better than they already are.

There are a few negative roles that sports promote in our society. One of the biggest negative roles sports plays is the gambling on teams and athletes. It can be an addicting habit where people can lose a great deal of money. Players may be offered bribes to play for one school or to act a certain way during a game. Another huge negative role includes the violence that can occur between fans. Just recently a man was badly beaten outside of a major league baseball game by opposing fans. With alcohol, adrenaline, emotions, and other factors together, fans can become aggressive quickly and the situation can get out of control. Sport needs to remain as pure as possible. If events like the beating occur frequently, alcohol will need to be banned from events. Referees and event personnel have to always be on guard for players, coaches, and fans who choose to act irresponsibly. As a whole, nationally televised events portray sports in a positive fashion and do not focus on negative actions that take place at a live event.

Objectives at different levels

There are different objectives depending on the level of play. At the youth sport level, I would rank the objectives from most important to least important in the following order: fun, education, fitness, entertainment, winning, and business. Youth are typically playing a sport to begin with because they want to have fun. They see their friends playing and see it as an opportunity for fellowship. John Shannon (J. Shannon, personal communication, September 20, 2011) said, "I want to have fun with the kids! I want to teach them the skills, but make sure they have a good time. Kids grow up so fast and I want sports to remain about fun and nothing else at this stage of life." What great inspiration to think about fun throughout the game for children. I see youth sports as a critical time to incorporate multiple objectives because it serves as a foundation to growing through the sport. Children soak information and non-verbal communication up. What they hear and see adults they trust doing, they will do. It is a prime time to set good examples and teach morals, values, and skills that will provide building blocks for the future. Because childhood obesity is continuing to rise, it is also important to instill the importance of fitness at a young age. Increasing childhood activity seems to be an issue that parents will need to be intentional about as more and more people are obese. Youth sports are forms of entertainment for families to get together in community and watch their children learn and play together. I think that children want to win their games, but it is more about the experience for them than winning.

At the high school level, I would rank the objectives from most important to least important in the following order: fun, education, fitness, winning, entertainment, business. These objectives are almost the same for the youth level, but I think they can have a different emphasis at each objective. In high school, athletes are students and teenagers. This is an important time in

their lives as they discover who they are as people and what they will accomplish in the future. High school athletes have many alternate opportunities to partake in, so if it is not fun for them, they can walk out the door and find something different. They have a choice and they have more choices to look at. Teenagers are still developing their skills and the education portion is very important. They can continue to define their skills and improve what they do during the game. High school students, more than youth, recognize the desire to win the game. There is more at stake during the game and a different motivation for the finish. As a coach, I want to see my athletes as successful. Winning does not equate success, but accounts for something. High schools promote more of a business environment (pay to watch the game, raffle ticket sales, etc.) It is a great form for entertainment for families and friends to get together to watch a game. From the perspective of the coach, these last few objectives are not as important to the development of the athletes. Rob Stefanowski (R. Stefanowski, personal communication, September 15, 2011) said,

“My coaching philosophy is that we are in for the athletes. When a season is over, I want the students to want to play again. I want them to enjoy their experience and learn from it. Just like teaching it is not just about teaching a subject, coaching is not just about the sport, it is about teaching the whole person. I want my former players to want to coach and stay involved with the sport for a lifetime.”

I very much agree with Rob's view on coaching the athlete as a whole person, and not just teaching them the skills of the specific sport. The objective of coaching at this level includes much more than drills. High school students are at a unique stage of life and development where coaches can make a huge impact both on and off the court.

At the college level, I would rank the objectives from most important to least important in the following order: winning, business, entertainment, fun, education, fitness. I say that winning

is the most important objective at this level for a few reasons. They players are typically being paid, through scholarships, to play the sport. This requires extreme dedication and work and the players should be in it to win it. Winning goes along with the following two objectives as fans pay to watch the players in the game. Fans also want to see the players have fun! If players were not having fun and enjoying themselves through the sport, they should not be playing any longer. Education and fitness are the least important objectives at this level as the players should already have a sound foundation of how to play the game and the fitness levels that it requires. These objectives are still important, but are no longer a main focus like they were at other age levels. The maturity level that is expected as the athlete gets older allows for a different focus. Different age groups require different requirements. As a college soccer coach, Cody Peterson (C. Peterson, personal communication, September 22, 2011) said, “As a coach I feel that my role is to help athletes in the sport realize their potential both on and off of the field. Sports are an integral part of the educational process because of all the life lessons that can be learned in competition.” I agree that college students need the continual guidance of life lessons both on and off the court.

There comes a time in a career when an athlete has to decide if they enjoy the sport enough to keep pursuing it. Fun should always be one of the top priorities and objectives for the athlete. There could be multiple reasons for an athlete to pursue a sport, but having fun should near the top of the list. Coaches can help play a role. I decided to stop playing basketball after my freshman year in college. It was one of the hardest decisions to make and I had many discussions with my coach about the choice. Of course my coach wanted me to continue to play, but more than her selfish reasons, she wanted me to make the best decision for myself. At this

point in my life, I had succeeded at what I had set out to do and now I wanted to focus on other things in my life.

My coaching objectives at any level are to connect with my players, help them grow both on the court and off the court, and to help them reach their goals. Each individual player will have their own specific objectives and I want to help each player go where they want to go. I want to see each player reaching their potential, but I am not going to want it more for them than they want it for themselves. If a player is not willing to learn or is not coachable, there will be concerns. Julie Walton (J. Walton, personal communication, September 8, 2011) said,

“Essentially, when it comes to sport, I believe a coach has the responsibility to train athletes first in fitness, then skill, then strategy, then teamwork (which is often part of strategy), then in behavior (note I do NOT say character). It is the coach's responsibility to also train athletes to bring their best to every practice and every game, out of respect for the coach, teammates, the sport, and, most importantly, the competition. We honor our competitors when we bring our best game.”

Julie hits the nail on the head when she talks about athletes bringing their best and their respect to each other and everything that has to do with the game. It would be an interesting idea to ask each athlete individually at the beginning of the season what they want to bring to the game and to the team. Sport says a lot about a person and you may be able to know more about a person just watching them on the court than hearing them speak. Sport is an opportunity to show your character in all kinds of situations.

Definition of success/Role of winning

As a coach, I would define success as improving the development of a player's skills and abilities. As a coach in general, I want to improve the skills of the players from where they are at the beginning of the season to a higher level by the end of the season. By my definition of

success, if my team loses twenty games during the season, but improves their level of play throughout the season, then we have been successful. One of the goals of sport is to improve the level of play so the athlete is better than they were before. Even if the losing season wasn't great, it may set up the players to be even more successful for the following season or another athletic opportunity in their lives. Brian Bolt (B. Bolt, personal communication, September 10, 2011) said,

“Regardless of the effort and talent a person or team brings to a contest, chances are, the other person or team is bringing the same thing. This is the essence of competition – teams or individuals comparing performances on a given day. When it works well, opponents lift one another to higher heights; each competitor has a responsibility in the process. Of course, some sports teams tend to win more than others, but every professional franchise, college program, high school team, individual competitor, or coach, if they play long enough, will have their ups and downs. Winning is the primary goal of sport, but success defined only by winning is inevitably a losing game.”

There are many coaches of all age levels who only see winning as success. I can imagine these coaches would run their practices differently than I would. When players see winning as the only goal, there is a lot to be lost in the improvement process. I can remember having the best game of my life in my senior year of high school, but we lost the game in the end. I was on such a high from performing at my greatest that it did not matter as much to me that we lost. I want that feeling for my players.

The role of winning probably means a lot to most people. I love to win games – who does not love to win? I want my players to know that at the end of the game, I hope to be the winners. Teams can pick up bad habits when playing teams without a lot of foundational skills. Sometimes we play to the level of our opponents, both low and high. We can learn from the habits our opponents. I want to see my players win at the end of every game! But winning is not

everything to me. I would much rather see my players play their absolute best and lose compared to a game where we win and destroy the other team. Brian Bolt said, "When we practice and compete, our goal is to win. However, we will not sacrifice our principles, even if it helps us win." I agree one hundred percent with this statement. I never want to win because myself or my players took a shortcut by cheating in some way to get there. Winning should be the outcome of all of our successful practicing and using our skills during the game. We all feel so much better when we win against teams that are good. We know we have risen to the occasion and have demonstrated that we play well, too. I also want to win knowing that I won out of sheer talent and determination, and no other factor such as cheating or steroids. Pure talent and athletic ability define a winning team much more than dishonest activities.

Gender equality

There should be equal opportunities for males and females both as players and coaches. As players, males and females should have equal opportunities in all aspects. One of the issues that comes up is game nights and times. Sharing the gyms between freshman, JV, and varsity male and female team gets interesting to schedule. Regardless of what the schedule looks like, it should be fair to all parties on which nights and times the teams play. We all know that typically Friday evenings draw the biggest crowds, so it should be on a rotation which teams get to play. It should also be coordinated with any outside games and events going on. It should be fair to all teams involved. Another gender issue for players includes females playing on typically male dominated teams, and vice versa. If a female wants to play on the football team, more power to her! As long as the athlete knows the rules and knows what is expected of them, I do not see there being an issue.

As coaches, males and females should have the right to coach whatever sport or team level they want. The biggest factor on hiring a coach should be if he/she has the ability to be a successful coach for the team, not what gender he/she is. Most of my coaches growing up were males and I never thought anything about it. I think we see more male coaches coach female teams than female coaches coaching male teams. This might just be more traditional, or perhaps a preference from the female coaches. As long as the coach is knowledgeable in the sport and comfortable coaching the team, it should not matter who has what gender. Players should also respect the coach, no matter what the gender. Coaches should not have to prove themselves because of their gender. If anyone has an issue with the coach, it should be for coaching reasons and nothing more.

A coach's sexual preference should not prohibit them from coaching a team. When hiring a coach, the school has to decide what is most important in the qualities of the coach they are looking for. I am assuming that sexual orientation would not be on the list. Schools should hire based on qualities they are looking for, not sexual preference. Potential coaches should be up front with anything they believe may be controversial or of concern. For them, that may be sexual preference. Any coach, no matter the gender, has to be careful with how he/she interacts with the players. In our society now, male coaches have to be extremely careful with how they interact with female athletes. There should be no separate rules or any major differences depending on who they coach is. Overall, the coach should be a good role model for the team they are coaching and the environment they are in.

Equality for people of color

Along with the previous discussion on gender equality, it is essential that all people of color have the right to play in any sport. Sport plays a major role in bringing people together and

it is in this area specifically that color should never play a role. I do not think that color in itself should be ignored as every person has a heritage and history that is unique to them. This should be celebrated! Athletics allows for athletes to come together as one team, league, or sport to unite in their talents and nothing else.

I do not believe there is an unfair advantage for any person of color in any sporting arena. Some may say that people from Kenya have an advantage running because of their genetic makeup, or that African Americans can play football better. Each sport may have people of certain countries or colors that dominate the field. It should make every other athlete work that much harder to practice and play at the best level. As a coach, I will always play each player based on talent and not on color.

From a coaching standpoint, coaches need to address each player equally. The coach must set the example and not tolerate any sort of inequality amongst players, opponents, or fans. Off of the field, fans have the social responsibility to continue to remain conscientious citizens in the push for the end of racial discrimination. When fans get upset or want to taunt players, it may be easy for them to judge them based on talent or color of skin. Every player has the right as a human being to be treated with respect. There should be much harsher penalties for fans who choose to act inappropriately towards people of color. Coaches must never ignore slang comments or actions between players and must always set the example. Players can learn from each other, no matter the color.

Cutting players

When it comes to cutting players, I believe it should be different depending on the age group. For youth sports up until high school, every child should be able to play on a team. Within the team, each child should have the right to play a certain amount of time during the

game. AYSO will not cut players and they will make sure players have fair playing time. I like that all children have the opportunity to play as it may open doors for them. They may develop the skills necessary to pursue the sport more than they originally thought they might. Having all children play also promotes teamwork with all skill levels. It makes the players rely on everyone on the team. As the children get older up until high school, they can see where their ability lies amongst their peers and see where they will fit in with the team. There are also more opportunities for extracurricular activities as students get older, so there are more options to pursue.

When athletes reach the high school and collegiate levels, it is fair to cut players. These games are more competitive and coaches should be able to choose who has the best skills for what they are looking to accomplish. It also teaches the young adults that life is not fair and they will not get chosen for everything they try out or apply for. By continuing the approach of “everyone plays,” this may lead to false expectations of the real world for the athletes. Sports should help to prepare the students for life in the long run and should only want to set up the students for success. By this stage of life in high school, athletes should have a good idea about how their skills are in relation to their teammates and it should not be as much of a surprise if they are cut from the team. There are so many other sport and extracurricular activities for the athlete to look into.

When cutting a player, the coach should meet with the player on a one-on-one basis to discuss. The coach should give specific reasons as to why the player did not make the team so the player has concrete reasons. The player can take these reasons and try to improve on them to try out again the following season, or the player may decide that this sport is not the right fit for them. By having the reasons, the athlete may see that these skills could be better utilized in

another avenue. The coach should help assist in this way by pointing the athlete in another direction. Throughout the conversation, the coach should provide positive feedback so the player feels worthy and does not walk away feeling useless.

Pay-to-play

For almost all forms of sport, there is some sort of pay to play requirement. From youth sports through high schools, children and students pay to be able to participate in the sport. The funds are used for all sorts of uses and can help support the sport in the long run. There are both pros and cons to this pay to play requirement.

There are some great things about the pay to play initiative. The biggest thing it does is bring in more money for the district. With more money, schools can improve facilities or development for the staff, which both impact all of the students. Another advantage is that it shows the level of commitment from a player (or family) to pay to be apart of the team. Once money has been given, players are more likely to care more about their success. If their families have paid, it may show commitment and support from home. Pay to play might be in place because a district is struggling to meet all of their finances. Pay to play allows the sports to continue to be offered and may even save sports from being canceled. Sports play a huge role in the life of a student and school.

There are some things that hinder sport because one has you pay. Athletes may not be able to participate if they do not have the money. This may discourage them to look into activities that may not be fruitful. An extension to the pay to play requirement is that if students are not participating because they cannot pay, this does not allow for the fitness, fun, and educational aspects that sports provide. There are alternatives that may not be costly, but nothing can replace the athletic environment. Also, the money that is brought in from the pay to play

program may not go back to the sports programs specifically. Is it fair to have just the students that play sports pay for initiatives because the school needs or wants more money? In this case, schools should find alternatives to cut costs in other areas for find initiatives without making athletes pay.

Personal ethics and sportsmanship

As a coach, it is my job to make sure I am ethical and display good sportsmanship in all scenarios. As a Christian, this is part of my everyday life anyway. If I am going to be the leader for my team, I have to walk the walk and talk the talk. I will not impart my Christian values intentionally on my players, but all of the values are very applicable to sports. Treating other players and coaches the way you want to be treated is the golden rule that applies to all situations. It can also apply to the referees and spectators. I would like to talk about my faith with players, but know that this is not always acceptable depending on the school. Brian Bolt said, "Sport does give access for relationship, witness, and modeling of behaviors and community." As a team, we will respect our teammates. We will respect the officials. We will respect the other team and their coaching staff. We will respect the game and the rules. These basic statements cover multiple situations.

When coaching youth sports, this again is the prime time to address characteristics about the game. For example, we should teach the kids that we shake hands after the game, and that we tell the other team good luck before the game starts. Children seems to get away with more bad characteristics because they push the envelope more, or they simply have not been taught at home the proper way to handle themselves. Parents and other coaches think they have more of a say with their child in the game. Parents can be nasty and ruin the fun of the game for everyone if they think something was not handled the right way. As a coach, it is my job to remind

everyone the goal of the game and continue to be an example of moral ethics. Children look up to the adults that they respect and will model what they see, so it is crucial to always be a positive role model.

I think it is true that for the most part, all high school and college athletes know what is right and wrong behavior and sportsmanship within the sport. Even though they know, they may choose to do something inappropriate. Anything that is inappropriate or not tolerated should be addressed right away. Whether it is a small or large action that needs to be discussed, I want to address that in front of anyone that is around. This shows to everyone where I stand on a certain issue and leaves no room for guessing. It also shows that I will not hesitate to address an issue. Once the discussion is over, we move on and continue whatever we were previously doing. Being open and up front about any issue is the key. Athletes at this age are still impressionable and very relatable. Forming good relationships with my players is important to me because I want to build their trust. Once they trust me, I wanted set good relationship boundaries with my team. I do not want to have a power relationship between coach and player, but there is the boundary to be respected.

I really like the idea of a twenty-four hour rule with parents at any age level. If a parent or any spectator has an issue where they are upset and would like to talk to me, I want to talk to them when they are in a more calm state. Waiting twenty-four hours allows there to be more accomplished in a conversation where emotions are not taking control. It can also show the parent if the conversation is even important or necessary a day later. After that time frame, I would gladly have a conversation with anyone interested. Open communication is the key to successful relationships.

One issue that was relevant when I was a high school athlete was the issue of recruiting in high school sports. There was one team in our conference that had a few transferred players from other teams in the league, and they were a powerhouse. Our team did not like playing them because we felt we had an unfair advantage. Our team had worked hard together to develop our skills, while the other team worked hard to recruit players who already had the skills. I think it is more fun to play against teams with similar skills so the game is better and more enjoyable. I do think it is good to play against teams that are better than you because you can see where you need to develop and they can make you better. However, athletes should be “home grown” within the district. The team should be proud of their athletes and their abilities, not that the district has the ability to recruit good players.

An issue I did not have to deal with was performance enhancement drugs. I went to a small, Christian college and no one there even thought of using those, along with the rest of our conference. This is something that I will have absolutely zero tolerance for. I do not ever want to win or be successful because our team took a shortcut of some sort. There is no greater feeling to know you have won or been successful because of all the hard work and dedication that you put in.

At the end of a game, I want to be able to say with my players that we all tried our absolute best to be successful with the talent that we have. This does not include any cheating or shortcuts that get us through. We want to be able to say and show that we have completed the game with integrity, no matter the outcome. As a coach I do not ever want there to be a question about the ethics of our team or practices. I want to be known as a coach who takes the game seriously, and also takes ethics and sportsmanship seriously.

Conclusion

Coaches play much more of a role than anyone gives them credit for. They have multiple hats to wear and must guide their players in numerous ways. It is important to have a philosophy that the coach with can stand by in any situation, where it should not be a surprise what the coach may do. As a Christian coach, I hope my players can see the values in what I teach and how I teach them. I want my athletes to develop to be better than they ever thought they could be with a positive learning experience. We know there can be multiple road blocks along the way and it is the job of the coach to know how to act or react on the fly. Even though my philosophy will differ at each age level or school setting, good morals and ethics will remain through the ages. All athletes can learn to do what is right, even if it is changing from bad habits and learning to do the right thing for the future. At the end of the day, I want my players to be able to say with me, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." This bible verse out of 2 Timothy from the New International Version bible applies more to life, but is very applicable for athletes as they play games and develop in their sport. At the end of the day, I hope my players see how much they have developed as an athlete and as a person.

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