

Winning is Not Everything

The first of three elements in the mastery approach to coaching is effort. Naturally every coach wants effort from all players. Coaches will ask “did we play hard?” or “did we outwork the other team?” When the team wins it is often attributed to a good solid effort. If the scoreboard does not reflect success however effort is often times overlooked. Coaches say they value effort however this is when the subtlety of coaching comes into play. If good effort does not result in success on the scoreboard the dialogue quickly returns to measuring results by the scoreboard rather than remaining focused on the long term goals and objectives of quality coaching. Parents and players alike begin to question the lack of scoreboard results. This trap can be avoided with a clear commitment to the “effort, learning and mistakes are OK” (ELM) approach to coaching. This approach is focused on long term development instead of short term measurements.

In order to develop a culture that values a strong effort every day the coaching staff and parents must accept the view that encouraging effort and recognizing effort will play a central role in player development.

Next month we will discuss “Learning” as part of team culture.

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