

**Finish What You Start – Newsletter #94 Bruce Brown/Rob Miller –
Proactive Coaching LLC**
www.proactivecoaching.info

I was listening to a program where three “experts” on college entrance were discussing things that help high school students be selected for schools where acceptance is very competitive. One comment really hit home. The question was, “does it help for the student candidate to play sports?”

The answer was, “any team activity is helpful whether it is music, drama, athletics etc. But the two key things we look for are:

- 1) Did the person make a positive difference on the team?
- 2) Did they see it through and stay with it for the long term?

In other words they thought it was more important to be a positive contributor in some role than to be a star and it is critical that you finish what you start. These were character traits that these experts say gave the potential students the best chance to succeed at the highest level.

I had the honor of speaking at a conference in Washington DC to a group of high school athletic directors representing some of the strongest high school athletic programs in the nation. When sharing some philosophies and ideas about intentionally teaching and modeling character I heard a very strong statement of belief from one of these leaders. At their school, if an athlete quits a sport during the season, they are not allowed to turn out for another sport the whole time they attend.

Whoa... One of their core values involves teaching young people valuable life lessons that will benefit them for the rest of their lives away from athletics. They believe that this standard teaches young people to think seriously before they turn out for a sport - that turning out means you are committed. Commitment means you finish what you start. Obviously they had some “exceptions” and discretion for personal or family tragedies but what a great lesson for all of us. Don’t quit – Finish Strong.

Some Recent Proactive Coaching Facebook Posts:

Parents... When parents try to control their child’s athletic destiny by manipulating every detail to make sure they are always successful, research has found they often

raise unsuccessful kids. Your child has a far greater chance of success if he focuses on preparation, effort, attitude and enjoyment.

Parents... From Raising a Confident Athlete booklet...If you want to raise a strong, confident athlete, stop making excuses or blaming others every time they are disappointed or unsuccessful. Otherwise, you are likely to raise a weak-minded, spoiled, “poor me”, excuse maker who can’t compete.

Coaches and AD’s... I saw a coach the other day in the middle of the game shrug his shoulders and raise his palms and say loudly to his players, “I’ve taught you that!” It made me think two things...

- 1) He was letting everyone know that the player’s mistakes were not his fault
- 2) The reality is, if players can’t do it, you haven’t taught it – you may have introduced it, drilled it, and practiced it but if they aren’t doing it, don’t consider it “taught”

Competitors... Athletes who constantly demonstrate bad attitudes are victims of their own weaknesses and forfeiting their freedom to choose to enjoy the experience and to be a great teammate.

Team Leaders...No one respects or follows mediocrity for long. Leaders who earn the right to lead need to give everything they have to what they do. Talent is important but the best leaders also bring great passion and hard work. Put your heart into your team. Lead!!