

Enjoy an edited version of Walt Mueller's article from www.cpvu.org

By Scott Deneen, Pastor to Youth and Families

I learned some amazing lessons about life when I was a starting forward on the worst basketball team in the history of the world. With "St. Mark's" emblazoned in road cone orange across the front of our jet black polyester jerseys, our hearty band of clumsy wannabees would begin warm-ups hoping "tonight's the night we'll win our first one." We never allowed the fact that we had difficulty putting the ball through the hoop during the pre-game lay-up drill to shatter our dream.

For two seasons, we never gained control of the ball on the opening tip-off. And when the final buzzer sounded, we never walked off with the scoreboard tilted in our favor. No team ever scored less than 100 points against us, and we never scored more than 12 points in a game. In my entire two year basketball career, I poured in a whopping two points.

Do you know why I smile fondly as I remember that experience? Because it was fun. Our coach and parents never yelled. They always encouraged. They never made us feel like losers. If and when we scored, the entire place, would erupt with a cheer. Because of that, I can remember every detail of the one basket I made. I've forgotten my dozens of shots that missed. When the game was over, we always smiled. Playing for St. Mark's taught me a lot about attitude, character, and the fact that basketball is only a game.

As you evaluate the role you play in the lives of the kids you parent and/or coach, consider these questions:

Who's out on the field? Unfortunately, some parents see their kids as a second chance to fulfill dreams they themselves never realized. Best selling recording artist Alanis Morissette's gripping song Perfect echoes the experience of too many kids: "I'll live through you, I'll make you what I never was/If you're the best, then maybe so am I. . . you'll make up for what I blew/what's the problem. . . why are you crying?"

What's on your mind? Mark understood when his talented 17-year-old son Travis asked to quit playing ice hockey. The win-at-all costs mind set of his coaches and teammates' parents had finally gotten to be too much for Travis. Mark says that in youth sports today "the child's welfare is becoming less and less important. The focus should be on instruction and developing character. But you wonder about some of the coaches and parents today . . . the bottom-line is that I never saw Travis smile when he played. . . I supported his decision 100 percent." As a result of their decision, Travis Howe won't be the third generation of the Gordie Howe family to play in the uniform of the National Hockey League's Detroit Red Wings. For the Howe's, character won out over winning.

What's in your heart? Are the desires of your heart to see your child do his/her best. Or, is your heart set on a standard or level of achievement that is impossible for your child to attain. When sports psychologist Rick Wolff worked for the Cleveland Indians, he was surprised to discover that there were a large number of major league ball players who didn't allow their kids to get involved in Little League baseball. The reason: the pressure on kids to excel beyond their ability and potential. Instead, they encouraged their kids to skateboard, ski, or anything else to keep them from the unnecessary pressure placed on youth league baseball players. After all, it's only a game . . . and they're only kids! Let them play and have fun!

What's coming out of your mouth? "Frustrated parents . . . can attack the umpires, berate the managers and coaches, and demean the players on the field with impunity", writes Fortanasce. "Some go the full hundred yards in criticizing their children's teammates - and even their own children." I've watched young kids cower and teenagers become bitter in response. And even if they do respond with improved performance, are those critical attitudes qualities that we want to nurture in our kids? Children learn from example. If we're going to scream anything, it should be words of praise, encouragement, and acceptance.

Our children will grow up with memories of their childhood sporting experience. Those memories will be either positive or negative. Let's make them good ones.

Hope you enjoyed what you read!
Pastor Scott

Upcoming Youth Events

- **Youth Group**
Sundays 6:00—7:30pm
Middle & High School
- **Imagebearers**
Sundays 6:00—7:30pm
1st—5th grade
- **Mission Conference**
Flag Ceremony
Talent Show
October 19th & 21st
- **Operation Christmas Child** November 22nd
- **Live Christmas Scenes**
December 21st & 22nd



Photo by James Guffey

Parent's Answer Book by Dr. James Dobson

Tyndale Publishing (2003)

Q. 255 Will you please explain in greater detail the role of power in the life of a teenager?

Let's begin with a definition. *Power* is the ability to control others, to control our circumstances, and especially, to control ourselves. The lust for it lies deep within the human spirit. We all want to be the boss, and that impulse begins very early in life. Studies show that one-day-old infants actually reach for control of the adults around them. Even at that tender age, they behave in ways designed to get their guardians to meet their needs.

The desire for power is evident when a toddler runs from his mother in a supermarket or when a ten-year-old refuses to do his or her homework or when a husband and wife fight over money. We see it when an elderly woman refuses to move to a nursing home. The common thread between these and a thousand other examples is the passion to run our own lives—and everything else, if given the chance. People vary in intensity of this urge, but it seems to motivate all of us to one degree or another.

Now, what about your sons or daughters? Have you wondered why they come home from school in such a terrible mood? Have you asked them why they are so jumpy and irritable through the evening? Perhaps they are unable to describe their feelings to you, but they may have engaged in a form of combat all day. Even if they haven't had to fight with their fists, it is likely that they are embroiled in a highly competitive, openly hostile environment where emotional danger lurks on every side. Am I overstating the case? Yes, for the kid who is coping well. But for the powerless young man or woman, I haven't begun to tell their stories.

That's why they are nervous wrecks on the first day of school or before the team plays its initial game or any other time when their power base is on the line. The raw nerve, you see, is not really dominance but self-worth. One's sense of value is dependent on peer acceptance at that age, and that is why the group holds such enormous influence over the individual. If he or she is mocked, disrespected, ridiculed and excluded—in other words, if that individual is stripped of power—he or she feels it deeply.

Basketball News



Feet First

In basketball more than any other team sport, a number of injuries, short and long-term, can be traced back to the sneakers players wear. The demands of the sport - extreme linear and lateral movements - put particular pressure on the feet that in turn can affect ankles, knees and the lower back. Indeed, if a young player experiences foot pain, multiple ankle turns or sprains, pain or pressure in and around the knee, or complaints of lower back pain,

it's possible his or her sneakers are responsible. Blisters on the feet are also an indication the player's shoes are either too big, too small or have insufficient support around the foot and ankle.



"My father gave me the greatest gift anyone could give another person, he believed in me."
- Jim Valvano



Photo by James Guffey

Isaiah 41:10

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

2006 World Missions Conference

"God Last Command, Our First Concern"

Don't miss out on First Presbyterian's 2006 World Missions Conference with keynote speaker, Dr. Henry Krabbendam and Children's Conference Leader, Susan Smith.

Schedule:

Thursday, Oct. 19

7:00 PM—Opening Ceremony & Worship, Children's Conference

8:00 PM—Refreshments & Fellowship with Missionary Guest

Friday, Oct. 20

6:00 PM—Covered Dish Dinner

7:00 PM—Worship Service, Children Conference

8:00 PM—Dessert & Fellowship with Missionary Guest

Saturday, Oct. 21

6:00 PM—Tom Barton's BBQ Dinner, Please Sign Up

7:00 PM—Variety & Gong Show Plus Missionary Presentations

Sunday, Oct. 22

8:30 AM—Worship Service

9:15 PM—Continental Breakfast

10:00 AM—Sunday School with Missionary Speakers

11:00 AM—Worship Service



First
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Church
Stanley, North Carolina

Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

Morning Service

8:30 Worship Service

9:45 Sunday School

11:00 Worship Service

Evening Service

6:30 Worship Service

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