Monday, October 27, 2008

First Presbyterian Church
Stanley, North Carolina

SOARing

Sports **O**utreach **A**nd **R**ecreation Newsletter

"Braves Win! Braves Win!"

by Chris Graham
SOAR Coach and Official since '92

"In EVERYTHING you do, do it as working for the Lord" Colossians 3:23

The late Skip Caray of Atlanta Braves fame would often yell those words when the Braves pulled out a close win at the end of a game. It was as if there was nothing better in the whole world at that very moment than the fact the Braves won a ball-game. You also got the feeling that if they lost, it was the end of the world!

Many of us follow sports teams, whether they are professional athletes or a squad of 6-9-year-olds. And of course, we always want "our" teams to succeed in the form of a victory on the scoreboard....but sometimes that desire for victory can overshadow and even overwhelm our Priority List. Our Priority List should be simple: God first, others second, myself third.

But there's just something about competition that sometimes causes many of us to turn into Dr. Jekyl and Mr Hyde---and that Priority List then goes WAY out of whack... more like, "ME first, others a distant second, and God, well, you're #3--if I even remember You at all."

Basketball seems to be one sport that sets that trap of forgetting our priorities. The adrenalin, the fast pace, the enclosed gym that amplifies crowd noise, etc---each of those can tempt us to scream negative comments toward players, coaches, and referees if the score of the game is not going our way. We can be calm, laid-back, easy-going folks 23 other hours of the day....but put us in a close basketball game, and wow---we can turn into a person we don't even recognize!

Chris with his dog, Hans

I have either played or officiated sports for 40 years...and STILL sometimes have trouble controlling my competitive drive. Can a Christian do that-----be competitive and not turn into a demon while doing so? The answer is a resounding YES! And the basis for that is in our league verse that you can see on our gym wall--Colossians 3:23. In EVERYTHING you do, do it as working for the Lord. That means not only your work, school, family--but also your play. God wants us to do our best, which means playing hard, hustling, and playing as a team---AND doing it FOR Him, not AGAINST someone else. In other words, keep the Priority List even while playing sports. By putting God first, we play in love with our brothers and sisters, by showing respect, sportsmanship, encouragement, humility, and not being quick-tempered--just to name a few Christlike qualities.

It CAN be done! The last time I checked, the sun still came up the next day after a scoreboard told me a team playing a game had lost. Ask God to help you keep your Priority List straight, and you'll find yourself enjoying sports (and life) even more.

Upcoming Youth Events

Youth Group
Middle & High School

Sunday Night
Bible Study
6:00 - 7:30pm

Wednesday Night
Open Gym, Eat Out, etc.
6:30 - 8:00pm

Children's Ministry
Sunday Nights

Nursery
Infant - 2 yrs.
6:00 - 7:30pm

Preschool Age
3 yrs. - Kindergarten
6:00 - 7:30pm

Imagebearers
1st - 5th grade
6:00 - 7:30pm

Photo compliments of James Guffey

Know Your Role
CHOOSE ONE. RESPECT THE OTHERS.

ATHLETE | COACH | OFFICIAL | FAN

Bruce Brown, National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA)

If you're a FAN (which most parents are):

- Be a positive & encouraging supporter.
- Cheer for good plays on both teams.
- You're not the coach, so don't shout out instructions.
- You're not the official, so don't offer opinions on the officiating or on a particular call.
- It's your job to help your child keep it all in perspective. That means keeping everything in perspective for yourself, too.

Kids ask tough questions...

At the Basketball clinic, players were given an "Open Mike" opportunity to ask our pastors a question. Here's one answered by Pastor Dave.

Q. Why do I have to obey my parents?

God designed things so that they *work* ***right*** for everyone when children obey their parents. For your own good, and the good of everyone else, God tells children to obey their parents. In His fifth commandment, God says, *"**Honor** your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you."* (Exodus 20:12) [***honor*** means to *respect* OR *treat right*]

In the New Testament, Paul reinforces this command by writing, *Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.* (Colossians 3:20) [also, see Ephesians 6:1-3]

Billy Graham responds to one mother's question: We have two children, and they are as different as night and day. One is very easy to get along with, while the other is much more difficult and rebellious. How can we keep from playing favorites? Frankly, it's hard to like the difficult one as much as we do the nice one. — Mrs. L.F.

A: Dear Mrs. L.F.,

Don't take the easy way out; don't love the child who is easy to love and ignore (or even dislike) the one who is less lovable. You not only will damage them, but you will bring great harm to your family.

Do you remember the story of Isaac and his wife, Rebekah, in the Bible? (You can read about them and their family in Genesis 25-27.) Isaac and Rebekah had twin sons, Jacob and Esau. The problem was that Isaac loved Esau more than he did Jacob, while Rebekah loved Jacob more than she did Esau. The result was almost constant conflict—conflict that could have been prevented if they had acted more wisely.

Begin by realizing that God gave both of your children to you, and God loves both of them equally. Thank God for both of them, and ask Him to help you love them the same way He loves them. In other words, ask Him to help you see both of your children through His loving eyes.

Yes, one may take more effort than the other, but God will reward you for your faithfulness. After all, aren't we often just like difficult children in the way we treat God? But God still loves us, and "Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps" (1 Peter 2:21).

Psalm 118:8

It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man.

Photo compliments of James Guffey

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First Presbyterian 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

6:00 Care Groups

Image Bearers

6:00 Youth Group

Call us at 704.263.4275

Visit us online at

www.fpcstanley.org

Team Rosters

Game Schedule