

by Chris Graham
Baseball Committee Member
Coach of *Heaven Eleven*

BRAVES WIN!! BRAVES WIN!!

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 ballgame. 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. Jekyll 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."

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

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

Summer Happenings

Pre-School (ages 3 - 5)
School Age (rising 1st - 6th grades)

Son Rock Kids Camp
Tues., Aug 4th
Pool Party - Stanley Pool
6:30pm - 8:30pm

Son Rock Kids Camp
Tues., Aug 11th
Peter Helps A Lame Man
Pre-School 10:00am - 11:30am
School Age 1:00pm - 3:00pm



Photos in this newsletter are courtesy of
Anne Abernathy Photography



TEEN REBELLION Youth specialist Tim Sanford encourages parents to realize that children always do things for reasons. He explains that many times parents don't know the *real* reason behind a teen's behavior. He says, "God didn't make us random beings, so our behavior (even rebellious behavior) is stemming from a reason. It's important to get to the 'itch' (core reason) behind the 'scratch' (outward behavior or attitude)." Whether dealing with basic issues such as respect or complex issues such as at-risk behavior, parents sometimes struggle to understand the difference between healthy teenage autonomy and blatant teen rebellion. What looks like rebellion may actually be a teen's natural "itch" for greater independence.

In his book *Losing Control & Liking It*, Sanford offers some explanation about the struggles most parents face with their teens. He writes: "Your teenager is in the process of moving away from you. Therapists have a term for this: *developmental individuating*. It means your child is doing the following: disconnecting, leaving the nest, launching out, becoming his own person, growing independent, becoming a free moral agent."

These phrases sound nice and inviting when they crop up on a psychology test covering the "developmental theories" chapter. But they don't always sound so positive and gentle when they're lived out in your family room or kitchen.

Focus on finding what hurt motivates the rebellion in your teen, then commit to prayer and forgiveness as the first steps in restoration. Dr. James Dobson ([Focus on the Family](#)) encourages parents, "Don't panic; stay on your child's team, even when it appears to be a losing team, and give the whole process time to work itself out."

Ephesians 2:8

*For it is by faith
you have been
saved, through
faith - and this
not from
yourselves, it is
the gift of God*

Baseball News

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Season Finale

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15th

Details to be released soon!



RUTGERS

Guidelines for Supportive Parents

David A. Feigley, Ph.D.
Youth Sports Research Council
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Few youth sports programs are successful without the support of parents. Below are a few guidelines we can share with concerned parents who are striving to support their young athletes.

Supportive parents:

- emphasize improved performance rather than competitive ranking.
- decrease the pressure to win.
- believe that sport's primary value is the opportunity for self-development.
- understand the risks.
- communicate their true concerns directly with the coach.
- understand and respect the differences between parental roles and coaching roles.
- control negative emotions and think positively.
- avoid using fear.
- avoid criticizing.
- recognize and understand expressions of insecurity.
- avoid the use of guilt.
- show empathy for their child.

**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

6:30 Family Worship

On the first Sunday night each month, we'll have a family meal at 6pm & worship at 7pm

Call us at 704.263.4275

Visit us online at

www.fpcstanley.org

Team Rosters
Game Schedule
Parent's Corner