



*The following is something I found a while ago in the back of one of my playbooks. It is a letter that was written to me by a parent and I kept it just to remind myself of my true role as a coach. Especially on days when I was doubting myself!*

Dear Coach,

We hardly know each other, and yet very shortly we will have quite a lot in common, namely, my son Sam. Now that your season is about to begin, we are "loaning" you one of the greatest possessions the Good Lord has seen fit to give us- our son and make no mistake about it, coach, during these next few months he is yours!

You know, Sam has been a hero worshipper ever since he was little more than a baby and I'm happy to say that at one small point in his life he even included me, but now, you are number one! In his eyes, you are the man. He believes in you. He believes in what you do. He believes in what you stand for and what you say. He doesn't miss a thing where you are concerned, and most importantly he believes in what you are! This, my friend, makes you a very special person fulfilling a very special role, with very special responsibilities, which far outweigh the limited message any scoreboard might tell.

Ever since I can remember, this boy of ours has dreamed of the day when he would have his chance to "make the team." At the moment, this is his one burning desire. He wants to be an athlete and be part of the team, and at this time and in this place, he is ready to do what you tell him in order to accomplish this goal.

I believe that I speak for most parents when I say that we are more concerned about what happens to our youngsters through this experience and because you are their teacher. We hope that in spite of your busy schedule you will be able to see these boys as something other than X's and O's on a play sheet, or "tools" to be used in furthering your ambitions for that really "big job". We hope, too, that our boy will not only learn the fundamentals of the game from you but also a respect for authority, the necessity of following rules and the penalty for violating them.

He needs to learn that discipline is important to an individual and to a group in order to prevent chaos. He needs to develop an appreciation for hard work and the fact that this is still a good guideline for success in any endeavor. We think he should learn that loyalty is not a bad word and that being loyal to his team, his coach, his school, his family, his church, and his country is good and necessary. Through athletics he should develop an understanding of the importance of taking care of his body and not abusing it. His experiences with you in athletics should also teach him to accept his fellow man for what he is and what he can do rather than the color of his skin or his nationality.

No one enjoys losing, but youngsters need to get a taste of it in order for them to learn that the important thing is the necessity of "getting off the floor" and trying again. These are the little things that begin to make young men and good citizens without sacrificing any mechanical aspects of the game.

Good luck to you and the team & Thank You,  
Sincerely,

A Father