



*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 daughter 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 daughter and make no mistake about it, coach, during these next few months she is yours!

You know, Sam has been a hero worshipper ever since she was little more than a baby and I'm happy to say that at one small point in her life she even included me, but now, you are number one! In her eyes, you are the (wo)man. She believes in you. She believes in what you do. She believes in what you stand for and what you say. She doesn't miss a thing where you are concerned, and most importantly she 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 girl of ours has dreamed of the day when she would have her chance to "make the team." At the moment, this is her one burning desire. She wants to be an athlete and be part of the team, and at this time and in this place, she is ready to do what you tell her 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 girls 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 girl 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.

She needs to learn that discipline is important to an individual and to a group in order to prevent chaos. She 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 she should learn that loyalty is not a bad word and that being loyal to her team, her coach, her school, her family, her church, and her country is good and necessary. Through athletics she should develop an understanding of the importance of taking care of her body and not abusing it. Her experiences with you in athletics should also teach her to accept her fellow woman for what she is and what she can do rather than the color of her skin or her 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 women and good citizens without sacrificing any mechanical aspects of the game.

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

A Father