

# Coaching is a Privilege

Coaching is a privilege and should never be taken for granted. I have 51 years of coaching mostly in colleges and I cannot tell you how much I wish I could do those years over again. I loved coaching and teaching those young players. I was 22 when I started teaching and coaching at St Louis/Meramec. I really believe that when you are really teaching and communicating with each player under your guidance, you are molding them into the next generation of coaches and citizens in this World of ours. Yes, you are teaching them to be good citizens and a good person.

Just look at the World today. Do you want to teach them how to talk and act like those who are doing good things for their community, families, State and Country? Or do you want to let them be molded by those who want to tear down or destroy things, steal, kill. Some kids could go either way if not taught by those who want the best for all of the people around them.

Love every moment of your job as a coach. Cherish every season, every practice, every game, every drive to the games, trips, hotel stays, dinners and meetings with your players.

**This will all be gone so quickly! Even if you stay in the game until retirement days, your coaching days will be gone in a blink of an eye.**

Teach them constantly, they all have so much to learn. Continue to teach yourself by continuing to learn every little aspect of the game on and off the field. Then teach it to them.

**Please do not think that you know everything already because all of us continued to learn things even after many years in the game and will keep learning after we have “retired” from being on the field because of our love for the game.**

Each experience for you and your team is a learning situation for both of you. Realize each player is an individual and may learn things differently and at a

different rate of speed. There is more than one way to do a skill as long as the outcome is what is wanted.

Savor every moment in your coaching attire. Be proud and dedicated to the name of the front of the jersey. **Wear your team's name proudly and your players will follow your lead.** Never allow a visor, hat, jersey or jacket to ever be in the dirt or on the floor. Pride!

Teach your players that their time will go quickly also. If their approach is mediocre in the practices and games, the results will be mediocre also. Teaching them the wrong ways of the game or the unfair ways of the game will teach them that type of mentality. Again, they are young and they will follow the coaches lead and think that it is ok to cheat or not play the game fairly. This type of softball is not strategy. These are attitudes that they may also carry into their future lives.

Discipline, compassion, mental toughness, team unity, acceptance, determination to never give up are all words not to be taken lightly. They all will pay off in the end. Tough lessons learned about the game, teamwork and more that may happen on and off the field will pay off in a positive way their entire life. Some of your players will follow your lead, good or bad into their future. Make sure they are positive lessons for the good of the game.

**Respect the game, the role of being a teacher and a coach is a privilege!**