



“For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.”- 1 Timothy 4:8

SOCCER REVIEW

This week we experienced a whole bunch of “ups” as well as a few “downs” along the way. Practices remained focused and purposeful. Some games were emphatically won, others were marginally lost. JV boys maintained their 100% record (played 4 – won 4) and Varsity girls beat Concordia for the first time EVER! Travelling was a toil, especially in torrential rain (Tuesday) and game cancellations were a major frustration. Welcome to the world of HCYA Hurricanes! It’s all part of the fun, or at least part of the journey!

LIVING BY THE BOOK: FORGIVENESS. BUT...“WHERE IS HE?”

Our devotional theme hit home in a very real, tangible way. Isn’t it amazing how the Lord grabs your attention when you least expect it? Let me explain...

Tuesday – a wet, miserable evening at St. Thomas High School. Varsity Boys are warming up, prepping to play their first game of the season. The roll is taken and we’re missing just one player. Obviously he’s stuck in traffic, or maybe he’s delayed at the



railroad crossing close to the field. Perhaps he can’t find the location. Whatever. We’ll give him the benefit of the doubt. With just a few minutes to kick-off, the player is still a “no show.” Unbelievable!

Our first game and he’s missing. With formation and game plans quickly changed, we enter the field with a sense of disappointment – a key figure would not be in the trenches with us. Losing the game was bad enough, but why wasn’t I informed? Why wasn’t the team made aware? That’s when the punch came.



Wait a minute...This player **HAD** communicated his absence well in advance of the game. It was right there, staring at me in an email, had I taken time to notice.

He hadn’t let us down, I’d let him down by not doing my homework. And that’s the context for asking for forgiveness for making false assumptions. The team needed to know that I had failed as a coach. Thursday practice couldn’t come soon enough. Recognizing MY mistake, I publically asked for the player’s forgiveness, which he duly gave. It was humbling, but it was the right thing – the only thing to do. I write this simply to illustrate several points which tie in with our session ending messages this week:

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” (Ephesians 4:32)

1. Too often we assume the worst of someone without knowing (or remembering) the facts!
2. When we fall or fail, we must seek forgiveness. Admitting fault is not easy, but it’s very necessary
3. Granting forgiveness shows great humility and strength of character (“thank you” to the player concerned)
4. Reconciliation is the end game. Just as Christ forgave and forgives us, so should we forgive one another
5. Is there someone you need to forgive? Is there someone you need to ask forgiveness from – to say “sorry for...?”
6. May we be seekers and givers of forgiveness. Let us model the awesome example of Christ (Colossians 2:13-14)

Jim Spence
Head Coach - HCYA Hurricanes www.HCYASoccer.com
Founder - Sports Quest www.SportsQuestTraining.com / 832.593.7777

Sports Quest:
“Sharing biblical truth to reach, teach & encourage next generation leaders through soccer”

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” - Philippians 4:13