



"Discipline yourself for the purpose of Godliness" - 1 Timothy 4:7 (NASB)

PRE-SEASON TRAINING – WEEK 3

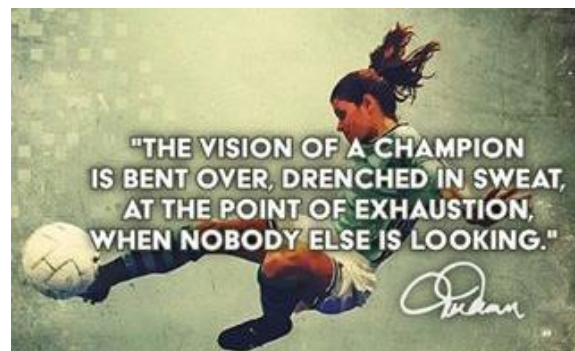
After a terrific training session on Tuesday at North Oaks Baptist Church, HCYA Hurricanes came to a grinding halt on Thursday as the impact of Imelda was felt throughout Texas, making travel to and from practice both dangerous and impractical. Still, we have much to be thankful for as we continue to see technical and physical improvements in the players. Above all, we were able to enjoy the game for what it is (supposed) to be: competitive but above all...FUN! Interestingly and significantly, the purpose and culture of HCYA Hurricanes was clearly reflected in the "Player Profile" responses. Asked to complete the



statement: "My main reason for playing HCYA Hurricanes soccer is..." here are a few examples of the feedback received:

- "I love the positivity it brings to my life"
- "Exercise, make friends, have fun"
- "Have a good time"
- "To play the sport I love and to play in a Christian environment"
- "I wanted something a bit less intense, but still competitive, and a better team environment too"
- "To play my favorite sport alongside other followers of Christ"
- "To have fun and be competitive"
- "To get better at playing soccer and draw closer to God"

Far too often, I hear of kids leaving the sport because of the stress it imposes on themselves and their families: Pressure to perform, pressure to win, pressure to be the best, pressure to take first place, pressure to travel – pressure to participate long after they've been robbed of the joy the game once brought. So it's against this backdrop that HCYA Hurricanes exists. Our goal is to provide an alternative environment – one in which each player is viewed as an individual rather than a commodity (hence the "Player Profile" assessment), and where putting Christ first – not soccer – is our number one priority. And when that happens, our players will enjoy the game; they will strive for excellence; they will be competitive; they will be disciplined, since these are the fruits of abiding in Him.



Our end of session devotional encouraged players to check their commitment levels, both athletically and spiritually. Life as a soccer player and as a Christian can be tough. We don't always get what we want or feel we deserve. As the arrows of doubt, disappointment and disillusionment are thrown our way, we can either press on, or quit. As Christians, we must choose the former, taking a "champion-like" attitude of meeting and defeating the challenges before us (see Mia Hamm quote above). We must constantly train our hearts and minds to choose commitment over convenience. We must be "all-inners" and not "dabblers", and we must heed the words of Paul in Colossians 3:23: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men"

Looking forward to seeing you next week!

Jim Spence

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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