



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

HCYA HURRICANES SOCCER – WEEK 11

What a terrific conclusion to the year as our “in-house Annual Christmas Tournament” saw HCYA Hurricanes kids of all ages come together to simply enjoy playing the game they love! Middle Schoolers played with High Schoolers, boys played on the same teams as girls, and of course, lively competition (as always) took place – all in a spirit of camaraderie. Out of the 12 teams in the tourney, England came out on top with a points total of 17, but they were pushed to the wire by Team Narly-Narly (15 points) and Dunder Mifflin (13 points). Manchester City recorded an all-time low of 2 points, but on **THIS DAY**, just the sheer fun of the morning made it a special occasion. If only our players would demonstrate such abandonment during regular season games. If they would learn that it’s okay to make a mistake, to shoot off target, to concede a goal even (heaven forbid) lose a game! Failure is a necessary part of growth and development. There will never be any judgement or condemnation for working hard, giving 100% and playing with a smile on your face. Of course, winning will always be greeted more heartily than defeat, but as the saying goes: “Sometimes you win – sometimes you learn.”



SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE: LEARNING – FOR THE PURPOSE OF GODLINESS

Learning: The process of acquiring new, or modifying existing, knowledge, behaviors, skills, values, or preferences.

This spiritual discipline reminds us of the need to maintain a humble attitude in all areas of life – both on and off the field. As a soccer player and as a follower of Christ, we are to follow the “H and H” principle: Gaining wisdom and understanding with our Head, but matching that with passion and desire from the Heart. The more we learn/know about a subject, the more we are able to play out or live out that knowledge. Being in the right place at the right time on the soccer field allows us to make qualified, split second decisions about our next action. The same is true in our spiritual life. The more knowledge we gain of the Scriptures; the better we know the Person and sovereignty of God, the more we can discern His will in any given situation. However, we must be careful not to simply acquire head knowledge – accumulating facts at the expense of cultivating an intimate relationship with Christ. Knowing ABOUT Jesus and knowing Him PERSONALLY are two entirely different matters. The latter plays itself out in passionately sharing our faith, based on the firm foundation of His Word. The former often “puffs us up” with pride and self-righteousness. So let us press on with knowledge in our head, fire in our belly and desire in our heart to be Christ’s ambassadors. After all, even the greatest mind can learn new truths, and EVERY believer has an incredible message of hope, peace, love and Good News to proclaim!

“Unfortunately, many Christians do not associate learning with loving God. Our culture glorifies the physical much more than the mental. We celebrate athletes who can do everything with a ball except autograph it and read its label!”



Merry Christmas and see y’all in 2020!

Jim Spence

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



MEMORY VERSE

“The wise store up knowledge” (Proverbs 10:14)