



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

HCYA HURRICANES SOCCER – WEEK 9

How are WE doing (the “we” being everyone involved in HCYA Hurricanes Soccer)? By now, I think everyone will agree that this is not a perfect program. Never was and never will be. But the goal must always be to grow and make advancements as much as it depends on us. So let’s just take a couple of minutes to address some of the elephants in the room and ask what might be uncomfortable questions OF ALL OF US by way of accountability:

Coaches: Are we improving the skill level of individual players and developing an understanding of the game from a team perspective? Do our players feel motivated to attend practices and games? If not, why not? Are we effectively communicating the gospel by our devotional messages, and are players consistently being challenged and encouraged in their personal faith journey?

Players: Are you giving everything you have at practices and games? Do you put the team’s interests above your own? Do you regard the end of session devotionals as an unnecessary “add on” to practice, or do you listen intently in order to pursue spiritual maturity? Are you respectful of your coaches, and thankful to your parents for driving hundreds of miles to support you? Do you recognize the efforts of those behind the scenes who work tirelessly to schedule games, secure facilities, arrange activities and so much more?

Parents: Do you understand the culture of the program? Are you aware of the expectations of players at all levels (Middle School through High School)? Are you enjoying time spent at the field and in the car with your son/daughter, regardless of the outcome of their game?

All: Do we realize that life, as a “Hurricane” is short? Do we truly grasp the big picture that the program is so much more than soccer, and certainly bigger than any one individual? Can we be confident that we’ll look back at these as “the good old days” because our perspective is eternal, and the competitive nature of soccer has not stolen our joy? We’re all in this together, so let’s press on with a steely determination to make the most of the few weeks which lie ahead this season.



SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE: SILENCE AND SOLITUDE – FOR THE PURPOSE OF GODLINESS

This week, our focus on silence and solitude reminded us that one of the benefits of getting alone with the Lord is that it requires us to listen rather than speak. We give our tongues a rest, and instead, turn our ear to God. And let’s be honest, controlling the tongue is not an easy discipline! In fact, Scripture has lots to say about the words that come out of our mouth! James likens the tongue to a bit which is put into the mouth of a horse to turn the animal; to a rudder to steer a ship; and to a small spark capable of setting on fire a great forest (James 3:3-5). Each is an example of something small being able to exert a huge influence over something much larger. Equally the tongue “is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts,” (James 3:5), and with it, “We praise our Lord and Father, and curse men who have been made in God’s likeness.” (James 3:9). The book of Proverbs is saturated with instructions on how to speak and how not to speak, urging us to hold our tongue as evidence of wisdom (Proverbs 10:19). In order to “clean up” our speech, we need to have a heart which is yielded to the Lord Jesus Christ. Our words should make him proud, not wince, and this can only be achieved when we are walking in close fellowship with Him and other believers. Swearing, cussing, foul language, slander, gossip and words of discouragement will always be an unacceptable response to moments of stress or high emotion on or away from the soccer field, and for sure, they have no place in the life of a Christian athlete. Remember: Just because you think it doesn’t mean you have to say it! After all, “Even a fool is thought wise if he keeps silent, and discerning if he holds his tongue” (Proverbs 17:28).



See you next week!

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

MEMORY VERSE

“Out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks” (Matthew 12:34)