



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

### PRE-SEASON TRAINING – WEEK 4

It was so good to be back at North Oaks Baptist Church after missing last Thursday due to the weather. Special thanks to Coach Robo for mowing the field on Monday to give us an excellent playing surface. As usual, it was impressive to see young people working hard to step up their game and improve their fitness levels. It’s been encouraging too to observe leadership taking place amongst the various age groups, with the game being “given back” to the players during the final 30 minutes of our “station training” on Thursdays. In this context, the players themselves have to become decision-makers; they have to organize, arrange and set in motion the small-sided games. The importance of this cannot be over-stated, since that’s exactly what is required once they cross the white line on match day. The coaches can provide instruction, but it’s the players who must decide between the MANY options available in open play. Leadership, vision, awareness and teamwork are therefore key components of the Hurricanes training and playing environment.

*“You can never expect to succeed if you only put in work on the days you feel like it”*

As we continued the theme of discipline during our end-of-session devotionals, two major points were emphasized:

1. **A lack of discipline often results in unfulfilled potential.** The example was given of former England International Paul (“Gazza”) Gascoigne, described by one commentator as “a majestically talented and deeply flawed icon.” While Gazza represented his country 57 times and played for a number of top teams in the UK and overseas, his destructive, ill-disciplined lifestyle away from the field left everyone wanting more. Many in the soccer world felt “cheated” by an incredibly gifted player who should have become an all-time great. Instead, so alarming was his demise, that one tabloid newspaper ran a headline “Disgraceful” after Gazza had once again chosen the wrong path and behavior – an apt description perhaps for anyone who lives a life without discipline

2. **Discipline and obedience come at a price.** There may be times where we have to choose between our convictions and our dreams; our convictions and the culture; even our convictions and our friends. That’s what US National team player Jaelene Hinkle had to wrestle with when she was called up to play in a couple of international friendlies in 2017. After learning that the players would wear rainbow-themed jerseys in honor of Gay Pride Month, Hinkle pulled out, saying that the uniform conflicted with her Christian faith. “I knew in my spirit I was doing the right thing. I knew I was being obedient, but being obedient doesn’t make it easy.”



One commentator praised Hinkle saying, “It’s good for parents to teach their children how to compete. It’s even better for parents to teach their children how to stand on principle, even when it costs them their dream. Thank you, Jaelene, for graciously showing us what that looks like.”

So HCYA Hurricanes...How are you doing in this area of discipline? Will you reach your potential or waste it? Will you compromise your beliefs or will you stand up for the truth of God’s Word? Ultimately, will you follow or ignore Paul’s instructions in Romans 12:2: “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” The choice is yours...the consequences are not!

Looking forward to seeing you next week!

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