

(I started this on November 8th, the Sunday after we lost. I apologize that it is just getting posted on the website. I honestly thought only two people were reading these posts, so I abandoned my efforts in this area. I had a great excuse - things were getting busy and no one really seemed to read them. Now, that's a poor attitude. Sorry! I will try to post a few more items to the website, but no promises. I will have to see what I can do the rest of this school year. Thanks to everyone who has shared that you read and/or miss my posts. Please remember I am not a journalism major, as many of you probably can tell, I am an old science teacher and coach who just has a few thoughts every so often. Enjoy!)

Stranger Things Have Happened...but Not Too Often

Football

Winning yet losing...can this motivate each of us to do better in the future?

Our Stanton football game this fall made many different thoughts come to mind. Sometimes "good is just not good enough." This game was a great example of this phrase. We won the game but we did not achieve the ultimate goal for the season, which was making the state playoffs. To make the playoffs we had to win, but just winning wasn't enough! We actually had to win by 10 points in order to advance into the playoffs. We won by 9! And we kicked a field goal with no time left on the clock to win by more than 10. The feeling was horrible. To win and yet feel empty and unsatisfied with the win did not sit well with anyone.

There was no doubt the kids played hard and the coaches coached hard. Sometimes things just do not work out like we want them to. What lessons can be learned from such an experience? How did this make anyone better as a player, parent, or fan? We all know we do not always get what we want. The real questions to ask when this occurs is "Why?" and "What can we do to make sure this doesn't happen again?"

That's one of the beauties of life. If we can learn from our mistakes, many times we can make sure we do not allow unwanted things to occur in our life. Sometimes the unwanted and evil enter our lives without us ever expecting it or understanding why, those are situations out of our control; however, in this case when it comes to competing and testing ourselves individually and as a group, we can control many of the outcomes that occur just by our preparation, attitude, and effort.

This night was not a fun night for many of us because our emotions and thoughts kept going to those of the athletes on the field. Our emotions wanted to protect the kids from what had occurred. When in reality, facing and accepting what had occurred and using it to improve our kids will benefit them more in their futures than the one point missed to go to the playoffs. So, there is our challenge as parents, fans, and role models for these courageous young men.

I believe the following quotes apply to our current challenge as parents and role models for the young men and women in our school community. Especially those who experience heartbreaking setbacks like our boys did on this night.

"Adversity introduces a man to himself." Anonymous

"When you lose, don't lose the lesson." The Dalai Lama

"The marvelous richness of human experience would lose something of rewarding joy if there were no limitations to overcome. The hilltop hour would not be half so wonderful if there were no dark valleys to traverse." Helen Keller

"A failure is a man who has blundered, but is not able to cash in on the experience." Elbert Hubbard