

SPORTS FOR LIFE

Daily Sports Themes For Life Success

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Introduction

I would like to think that this book; this compilation of narratives and quotes is for all people who love sports. For the athlete and the people that cheer them on to victory, these quotes of motivation, education, reality and perspective should lend an addition to the mindset of the competitor and wonderful group of supporters who, sometimes without knowing, are the purveyor of the pressure.

I can point to three things, other than achieving a personal level of success, which directed me to a love of sports, knowledge of sports and finally, a life in sports.

Family Influence

My father was an All-Everything high school baseball player and though a poor decision on his part derailed a potential pro career, his intensity, work ethic, and knowledge of the game and competition brought my family into the world of sports. His work with my brother and later with me, taught me about the value of not only working hard but also working smart.

“The Play”

November 20, 1982 was the day that really lit my candle about sports and particularly college football. My father, a bus driver for the county transit system, would sometimes score tickets to Oakland A's games, San Francisco Giants games, Golden State

Warrior games and on this occasion tickets to the Cal vs. Stanford game at Memorial Stadium.

I was blessed enough to be in the stands and see the five laterals, ending with Kevin Moen's destruction of Stanford trombone player, Gary Tyrrell, to score the winning touchdown and end the season of John Elway and the Stanford Cardinal.

ESPN

I, not unlike many people in this country, had a life changing experience on September 7, 1979 and didn't even know it at the time. I would view sports differently for the rest of my life as well as be encouraged and inspired. On that late summer day, Lee Leonard uttered these words...

"If you are a fan, what you'll see over the next minutes, hours and days to follow may convince you you've gone to sports heaven."

That was the first programming that Entertainment and Sports Programming Network aired and has now grown to and merged their way into the media monster called ESPN.

Media outlets like ESPN allowed me to saturate myself in sports and competition. Growing up during the cable television boom allowed me to see sports all day and in repetition.

Frustration is the main ingredient that aided in the development of this compilation of quotes. A number of athletes that I worked with for a couple years were graduating from high school and a few of them had been awarded football and/or track scholarships. I wanted to give them something that might encourage them as they started their college careers.

I visited or called nearly every bookstore in the Austin (TX) area trying to find something that might mirror my thoughts on the virtues, flaws and realities of sports and competition. I even took a pass at the Internet stores for something that would educate and inspire while relating enough, from a sports perspective, to hold their attention. A fairly good understanding of sports, athleticism and competition helped myself as well as many other athletes during their high school and college careers. I drew much of that understanding and perspective from my upbringing, my coaches and my teammates. After being reminded that "I always have a quote for everything"; I came up with the crazy idea to form a compilation myself.

And here it is...