



IDEAS ON WHAT MAKES A GOOD COACH

- You're a TEACHER of the game first. Too many bad coaches think they need to have a "coaching personality," a rousing halftime speech, and a cliched catch phrase on hand at every minute.
- You have to genuinely like kids and have an ability to connect with them. You have to realize that they may not be out here for the same reasons you are (or that you expect THEM to be), but most kids just want to do their best and have fun. A good coach knows how to recognize and leverage those reasons.
- You have to be a student of the game, and hold yourself to the same standards of regularly improving that we hold our kids to. Recognize that "being a student of the game" means understanding the fundamentals of the positions you coach MORE than understanding the ins-and-outs of the next great defense you haven't installed yet.
- You have to recognize that your job is first and foremost to DEVELOP PLAYERS, not to develop schemes.
- If you're bitching and whining about a "lack of players" you need to recognize that a good chunk of that is on YOU.

If you're forced to change your schemes to the next magic bullet every 3 seasons, you have failed to grasp the #1 role of a coach, and you have fallen into the trap of believing that manipulating Xs and Os on a whiteboard is your primary responsibility

- You need to be professional, level-headed, and lead by example.
- You have to have a great "people personality" for dealing not only with the players, but with parents, administration, and press.

To take it from the head coach perspective. I believe a head coach should be outstanding in 5 particular areas of responsibility to be considered a great head coach. They are as follows:

1. Leader

- As a leader, the head coach should have a clear vision for the football program. The head coach should also have a detailed road map or blueprint to provide direction throughout the program's building process. A head coach cannot be an outstanding leader unless the main objective within the vision of the program is having a positive impact on the young men involved with the program.

2. Manager

- As a manager, the head coach should be extremely organized in all facets of the program. The ability of the head coach as a communicator has quite an impact on his effectiveness as the manager of the program. The head coach must have the ability to communicate and connect with not only the young men who will play, but also the coaches, parents, administration, community members, and the media.

3. Motivator

- As a motivator, the head coach should have the unique ability to create an environment where everyone (players, coaches, parents, administration, community members) is motivated toward achieving the mission of the teams each year and the overall vision of the program long-term.

4. Teacher

- As a teacher, the head coach should emphasize the fundamentals of the game with multiple, sound approaches. The head coach should have the ability to teach overall schemes in a way that the players and coaches understand thoroughly and completely. The head coach should be a student of the game, in that, he is always searching for better more effective ways to teach fundamentals and schemes.

5. Strategist

- As a strategist, the head coach should have the ability to develop schemes to fit the specific personnel they have. The head coach should also have the ability to quickly and effectively make adjustments during a game based on the scheme of the opponent. The head coach should be a student of the game, in that, he is always searching for better more effective ways to present challenges to their opponents' offensive, defensive, and special teams units.

The more I am around coaching, no matter what sport, all complaints, from kids and parents can usually be traced back to a lack of playing time.

That being said, we as coaches need to make sure we are communicating with our kids that don't play much what they need to do to improve and find ways to make those kids feel valued. I'm the last guy that wants to be handing out "Participant" ribbons to every kid so they feel special but there is something to touching base with those kids that aren't on the field every Friday night and let them know they aren't just a pawn in the system.

For the most part, I can safely say that my parents and admin think I am a good coach and I think a lot of that goes back to speaking into the lives of those kids and intentionally finding a way to speak value to them.

It's like a bank account, you make little "investments" here and there and you build up margin!