



What Adults Can Learn

by Joe Gandolfo, M.A., LPC

..... from an 11 year old All-Star baseball team.

Being a Dad of 7 and 11 year old boys, and not unlike many Dads, I have been actively involved in coaching youth sports over the last 8 years. When you are a coach, during the game, one is caught up “in the game”.

My 11 year old son, Cole, is playing All-Star baseball this summer and I have been in a different role – not a coach, but just a fan and a supportive parent. Being in this new role, I have been able to observe the game and all of these young men from a different perspective.

What I have witnessed in each of these 11 young men is not only their excellent play, but some other wonderful qualities that all of us – especially adults – can learn from:

Acceptance – Some of these boys knew each other; some of them knew of each other, some did not know each other at all. It has been wonderful to watch them all accept each other, their commonalities and their differences. Without one bit of judgment!

Determination – These 11 young men have played their hearts out, and given everything of themselves on the field. No matter what challenge they have encountered, they have given everything they have inside of them each moment of play!

Putting Team First – Each of these boys has put aside their ego (not that they even understand what ego is) and have given their energy and effort for the betterment of the team!

Listening – We all have two ears and one mouth for a reason. The boys have been attentive not only to each other, but have listened to their coaches and it is clear to me that their high level of achievement has been related to their willingness to listen!

Support – No matter whether their teammate had a success or a mishap, they have been by each others side to verbally support and high-5 each other – with NO Judgment!

Perspective – No matter if they won a game, or lose a game, they are just happy they are playing the game. Within 5 minutes of the game being over, they are smiling, not looking back. The game for them is ... just a game!

Take notice everyone – whether in business, in family relationships, in friendships, amongst neighbors or countries – of what these young men exemplify. The longer I work with, or observe our youth of today; I am more and more convinced of what they can teach us adults!

Listen to Joe's free daily podcast – **Teen Success Radio** – available on iTunes. His new book **The Greatest Teenage Myth in the World** is now available @ www.JosephGandolfo.com or www.TheGreatestTeenageMythInTheWorld.com

Joe Gandolfo is on a mission to **champion the greatest commodity in today's world – our youth, teenagers, young adults and college students**, and to rally, strengthen and energize the adults – parents, educators, mental health professionals and organizations - who work with and care about our greatest commodity in the world.

Joe works as a **professional speaker, success coach, seminar leader motivational counselor and author**. He brings 20 years experience working with youth, teen-agers, student-athletes, professional athletes, adults, parents, educators, public and private schools, organizations and associations.

His clients have included: *Georgia Tech Athletic Association, Rockdale County Schools, Cobb County Schools, Cobb Teen Leadership, YMCA, Childcare Resource Network, University of Clemson, University of West Georgia, PGA of America, Milwaukee Brewers, Coca-Cola, SouthCoast Hospitals, Owens-Corning and MPI Georgia Chapter.*

He has been an adjunct professor at Georgia Tech (1996-2000) and Georgia State (2005-06). He was on staff at the Homer Rice Center for Sports Performance (2000-07). He has had a private consulting practice since 1991.

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