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## COACHES NEVER LOSE

A team can lose. Any team can lose. But in a sense a coach never loses. For the job of a coach is over and finished once the starting gun goes off. He knows he's won or lost before the competition begins.

For a coach has two tasks: his minor one is to teach skills – to teach a boy how to run faster, throw farther, or jump higher. The second task – the major task – is to make men out of boys.

It's to teach an attitude of mind. It's to implant character and not simply to impart skills. It's to teach boys to play fair. This goes without saying. It's to teach them to be humble in victory, and proud in defeat. This goes without saying.

BUT more importantly, it's to teach them to live up to their potential, no matter what this potential is. It's to teach them to do their best and never be satisfied with what they are, but to strive to be as good as they can be if they tried harder.

A coach can never make a great player out of a boy who isn't potentially great. But he can make a great competitor out of any boy.

For a coach, the final score doesn't read so many points for my team, so many points for theirs. Instead, it reads: SO MANY MEN OUT OF SO MANY BOYS.

And this is a score that is never published. And this is the score that he reads to himself and in which he finds his real joy – when his last game is over.

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