



President's Waypoint: Being a Coach

November 13, 2017

I had the privilege to spend a big part of the weekend as the head cheerleader for our women's golf team at the CCCAA women's state golf championship. Wow, we have some amazing student-athletes. I was so impressed with the skill and discipline of our young women and the respect they have for the game and each other. They are making us proud at the state tournament, which finishes today!

I also spent time with our Athletic Director, Rocco Constantino, and Head Coach, Chuck Melendez. It was easy to see how much these two role models care about the success and growth of our student-athletes. It was also easy to see how these two teachers influence the trajectory of our students as "life coaches." Being a coach is important for all of us.

Coaches help people improve performance. They are trained to observe, listen, and give constructive feedback customized to individuals. Ultimately, coaches have the ability to transform lives. As former basketball player, I had coaches who saw potential in me and helped set me up for success. This was true for classroom "coaches" I had, too. One I particularly thankful to was Mr. Michael Rose, an English teacher at Lane Community College.

Mr. Rose was a dedicated teacher. He was an expert in his subject area; but beyond that, he knew how to relate his expertise to his students, so it had meaning to them. Reflecting back, Mr. Rose had the patience of a saint, as I was by no means the most focused or talented student in his class. He didn't give up on me, however. Like any good coach, Mr. Rose was inspirational and motivational. I wanted to succeed and do my best -- for him. Little did I know that in doing so, I would be doing it for myself. He knew that.

Most successful people I have met have had influential "coaches" in their lives. They may have forgotten about them or maybe never took the time to think back, putting their lives into perspective, to recognize who these people were, but they had coaches. As someone who has achieved success, you very likely have had someone who has coached you in your life. I hope you contact that person and let him or her know about the influence he or she had on you.

Those of us who have had coaches in our lives have a duty to carry the mantel as coaches for others. I know so many of you, whether you are in the classroom or otherwise, are or have been coaches for others. In transforming lives and encouraging

those who may have few options or bright spots, you are doing exactly what coaches do. There is no greater calling than this.

PS: For those of you interested in such things, here is a link to Dick Vitale's acceptance speech into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 2008. Dick Vitale was a high school, college, and professional basketball coach and a legendary broadcaster and analyst. His remarks, from a coach's coach, delivered with great humility, honor the great "coaches" of his life: [Coach Vitale's speech](#). It's worth taking the time to watch!

Together forward,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anthony". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial letter 'A'.