

FITCH FILES: NOW WHAT?

November 24, 2008

Last week, during Youth Footballs' super bowl game, I overheard a young kid, who couldn't have been more than 9; asks his coach, so "*what do we do now?*"

That's a heck of a question.... after 4 months of training, sweating, learning, exercise, it all came down to this.... The last weekend of football! Wow!!!

Football in the Chicagoland area plays in just about every single element of weather... players, parents, fans, referees, etc... have went from hot, humid weather to hard, pouring rain, that even cancelled a few weekend of games, to cold and damp weather, and capped the season off with a few snow flurries...

The first thing that comes to mind is, in some cases, these coaches are the only men in these kids' lives. Let's face it, there are many kids involved in sports that are from single-parent homes and they do not have a male perspective in their lives except on the football field, not even in school. But I digress...

What a profound question? Now, if this team won their respectful Super bowl game, I think it would be a lot easier, but what does a coach say to these kids under these conditions?

The one thing he does is grabs all of the kids in a BIG huddle and begin their team chant and jumping up and down as if they are preparing for the start of a new game... While they are excited and energetic, he reminds them that they had a great regular season and their future looks so bright, and he can't wait to get back on the field next year. Coach then explains that football is like life and that what you want to happen, or what you think you deserve, does not always happen. But don't stop trying and working hard for a goal. Never quit!!!

As much as he tried to hold it back from the kids, a single tear began to stroll down his cheek as he explains that they just played their final football game and that he is so proud of them.

He continued by saying there is a reason that this is ending like this, and we won't get to understand that right now, but there is a reason for everything.

His words of encouragement and pride in what they have accomplished go on for another 3 or 4 minutes. It was a very difficult time for everyone within an ear shot of this post game statement. Parents that were near by came over and began crying because they too recognize that a part of their son's football career is over even if it's only temporary, it's tough.

But you know, from a journalistic standpoint, it was a really good moment. Mainly, because these kids are learning a very hard lesson of life, but more importantly, they are witnessing a man showing pure, unscripted emotion. For the last 4 months, they witnessed commitment... they took part in the true meaning of teamwork... they lived four months of pure dedication... and they are

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now part of a brotherhood that many will never understand... “the brotherhood of football!”

See in years to come, they will see fellow players so they can reminisce on the season that was and only those guys will truly understand what that time meant.

Another important point is men like these who are committed for a common goal, working tirelessly for a non-paying job that holds hours and hours of dedication and time.

Well, from Amateur Sports News Network and all of our affiliates, correspondences, and sponsors, we would like to say to ALL youth football organizations, congratulations on a safe and successful season. You have not only demonstrated fabulous sportsmanship but you have also made your community proud.

Sit back, relax, and enjoy all of the post-season activities such as your banquet and ALL of the rewards and achievements

