

## Best Football Trainer

Over the years that we knew him, my friends and I gained exceptionally rare respect for the college football trainer, mainly because of his imposing figure, well-cut physique, and a demonstrable comprehension of the game that is loved by millions of fans, globally. Many students wishing to join the college football squad viewed him as “weird”, but only because he blatantly refused to acknowledge the stereotypical impression of what the term “football instructor” had come to imply. The students thought he was just plain eccentric, but those who took sufficient time to learn about him soon realized he was time-conscious, morally assuring, respectful and experienced tactician in search for a comfortable self-identity.

At first glimpse, he could undeniably be a formidable figure to behold or even to associate with. His hair was often in disarray, while his clothes lacked the spark of someone in receipt of constant pampering from a lovely and caring wife, or from ingenious family members. However, I soon learnt that the unkempt hair and creased attires did not come as a direct consequence of low hygiene standards, but due to his obsession to rush everywhere and get things done in tenth speed. Not only was his physique and muscle tone a marvel, but also his objective for the squad was a wonder. His time-conscious nature always gave team members the impression that he had a mission to fulfill. To me, and to other squad members, he resembled a magician.

Similarly, if he was good in training the football squad to achieve what other teams from neighboring colleges could only dream of ever achieving, he was excellent in instilling valuable moral lessons, particularly on the dangers of using steroids and other performance-enhancing drugs during training, and on the perils of drug use and abuse. For his efforts in instilling discipline and good moral values



into the team, he was on various occasions awarded with priceless gifts, monetary rewards and certificates of excellence by the college administration as well as the District's Sport's Council. Though he often spoke precisely on discipline, teamwork and the upholding of desirable moral traits, it was his stringent yet discernable temperament that made all members of the football team to comply. Everybody played along.

Coach Nathan, as was popularly known, taught us immeasurable lessons in respecting others and in fair play. Ethicists and other moral advocates are of the opinion that respect is a mission as well as a service that an individual should provide to society (Lawrence-Lightfoot 12). The coach took this paradigm to its rationale end, in the process creating generations upon generations of morally upright characters who are ready to face the challenges projected by the world. Indeed, he was like a father-figure to me when issues of respect and morality cropped up. Were it not because of him, I wouldn't have dropped my negative habit of gimmicking teachers as they taught in classrooms. However, he counseled me to the core, and I had to let go.

Experience and good discipline goes hand in hand, and Coach Nathan had both. Though on the outside he seemed a little bit shaky on the tactical decisions he made during inter-college football competitions, on the inside was a man who sparked off confidence, good understanding of the game, and great coaching control. Undoubtedly, no one will ever teach us the immeasurable lessons that we got from the coach; not in this world, not even in heaven.



Work Cited

Lawrence-Lightfoot, Sara. *Respect: An Exploration*. Basic Books, 2000.