

PRACTICE

Building Character Through Soccer



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Accountability:

Willingness to accept responsibility for one's own actions

Synonyms: responsibility, answerability

Accountability Story

Pat Summitt coached the U of Tennessee Vols women's basketball team for 38 years and passed away June 2016 from Alzheimer's disease. She won 8 NCAA championships, 16 SEC Championships, was 7-time NCAA Coach of the Year and finished with an unprecedented 1,098 wins.

In a Mother's Day article written for ESPNW May 2013, her son Tyler Summitt was asked what he learned from his mother. Part of his answer was, "I can sum up my mom's coaching style in one word: accountability. Every single morning, my mom came to work and prepared as if the national championship game was the following day. She held every single person in her program accountable, from top to bottom. It didn't matter if you were an All-American or a walk-on, my mom's standard did not waver. She had a vision of the "right way" to play basketball, with toughness and competitiveness, and she held everyone accountable."

He went on to tell the story of the Tennessee Vols playing a game at DePaul University and a player for the Vols was from the Chicago area. The player had many friends and family from the Chicago area attend the game, but the player missed curfew the night before the game. Coach Summitt made the hard decision to bench the starter the first half of the game as she did what was "right," no matter the consequences.

Pat Summitt was known for her many quotes she used to inspire her players. Some of those quotes that related to accountability were:

"Admit to and make yourself accountable for mistakes. How can you improve if you're never wrong?"

"You can't pick and choose the days that you feel like being responsible. It's not something that disappears when you are tired."

"You have to discipline yourself to do something the right way until it's second nature."

In summary, team sports require accountability to your coach and teammates for the team to be successful on the field. Be the one to lead by being accountable!

