PRACTICE
Building Character Through Soccer

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Respect:

To treat others with a positive feeling of esteem or deference
Synonyms: courtesy, esteem, appreciation

Respect Story

We participate in sports for a variety of reasons. In many instances we set milestones or have goals we would like to achieve. However, how we achieve those goals is often more important than the goal itself – having a healthy respect for the sport, the rules, officials, opponents, traditions and final outcomes helps to fulfil our intrinsic goals.

At the 2016 Summer Olympic Games in Rio, Team USA's Sam Kendricks placed 3rd and won a Bronze Medal in the men's pole vault. Kendrick became the first American to win a medal in the event in over 12 years. What made Kendrick's story more interesting was not winning a medal but instead what he did during one of his vaulting attempts that gained respect from many around the world.

During the qualifying rounds of the event, Kendricks had begun his run up attempt and heard the "Star Spangled Banner" national anthem being played inside the competition arena. He promptly stopped in full sprint, placed his pole on the ground and stood to attention while the anthem played out. In a show of respect for his country, Kendricks risked amassing a foul red flag and having his attempt cancelled due to the 90 second time limit on each vault attempt.

Coming from a military family and having served in the U.S Army reserves, Kendricks had a firm understanding and appreciation for how he could show respect for the traditions of the Olympic Games, representing his country and national anthem. Kendricks told the official Team USA website. "I'm proud to represent the Americans on two fronts, as a military man and as a U.S. athlete."

A video of the story can be viewed here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JHWBxazG6pA

Follow Up Questions:

How is respect demonstrated in this story?

In what ways can we demonstrate respect to our opposition?

Have you seen or witnessed acts of respect shown on athletic fields? Give an example.

Write a brief description of how being respectful can help grow your team?