

# PRACTICE

Building Character Through Soccer



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**Patience:**

*State of endurance and perseverance under difficult circumstances*

*Synonyms: even tempered, long-suffering, diligence, composure*

## Patience Story

Patience can help athletes overcome adversity, and it can help athletes more appreciate success when it finally arrives. This especially rings true in detailing the life story of NFL Hall of Fame Quarterback, Kurt Warner, and when success finally arrived for him, it came in flying colors. Kurt Warner's rise was not immediate, and many obstacles stood in his way but he kept pushing forward and refused to quit on his dream of playing in the NFL.

For Kurt Warner, even with his talent, nothing came easy and he always had to wait his turn. In college, he wouldn't become the starting quarterback at Northern Iowa until his final season. He played well his senior season in college but after not being drafted in the 1994 NFL draft, he tried out for the Green Bay Packers, only to be cut. He returned home that fall taking on odd jobs and even stocking grocery store shelves on the graveyard shift to make ends meet. He never let go of his dream however and his perseverance and hard work led him to take his talents to the Arena Football league's Iowa Barnstormers, leading them in consecutive seasons to Championship games in 1996 and 1997.

Still wanting a crack at the NFL, Warner lined up a tryout with the Chicago Bears but incredibly a spider bite on his throwing elbow prevented him from attending. With his Arena league success, the St. Louis Rams took a chance on him and allocated him to an NFL Europe roster, the Amsterdam Admirals, where he would lead the league in 1998 in passing yards and touchdowns. The following year, back with the Rams, after starting quarterback, Trent Green, went down in preseason to a torn ACL, Kurt Warner finally got his chance to start. He threw 14 touchdown passes in his first four games that season, and ended the year as the NFL MVP, a Super Bowl Champion, and the Super Bowl MVP with 414 yards passing in the Rams victory over the Tennessee Titans in Super Bowl XXXIV. He would reach the Super Bowl twice more in 2001 and 2008 and was inducted into the NFL Pro Hall of Fame in 2017. Not bad for a backup college quarterback, undrafted prospect, career underdog, and former grocery store stocker who wouldn't take no for an answer.

Patience with purpose can help an athlete work tirelessly for long periods without gaining success or notoriety. It is the fuel in the drive that separates quitting and perseverance. To arrive at a dream, one must work as long and as hard as necessary and Kurt Warner's example reminds us that patience is a necessary component along that journey.

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Follow Up Questions:

How did Kurt Warner demonstrate patience during his career?

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Why is patience important in handling and working through adversity?

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Describe a time when you have had to demonstrate patience in dealing with a setback or challenge?

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Explain how patience can help in achieving long term goals.

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