

# PRACTICE

Building Character Through Soccer



**Respect:**

*To treat others with a positive feeling of esteem or deference*

*Synonyms: courtesy, esteem, appreciation*

## Respect Story

In September 2012, an Italian league match was played between Lazio and Napoli. Just 4 minutes into the match, a corner kick was scored by Miroslav Klose to apparently put Lazio up by an early goal. Although the goal was awarded, Klose had scored the goal with his hand illegally and spoke with the referee to have the goal disallowed. As the Lazio celebrations were starting, Klose admitted to the referee that he had scored illegally. Klose's admission led to the goal being negated. Napoli players openly congratulated Klose for his honesty. After the goal was disallowed, Napoli, on the strength of a hat-trick by Edinson Cavani eventually went on to win the match 3-0. Seldom is it in soccer that a hat-trick is completely overshadowed by another event on the field but Miroslav Klose was the big story despite Cavani's heroics. Miroslav Klose's respect for the laws of the game, may have cost his team a result but his actions on that day gained him far more than the three points that were at stake.

Interestingly, this was not the first time that Klose had exhibited Fair Play as several years earlier, while playing for Werder Bremen in Germany, he had refused to accept a penalty vs. Armenia Bielefeld when it was awarded. With another remarkable gesture in an increasingly pressure-filled sport, Klose immediately let the referee know that the opposing goalkeeper had won the ball fairly before contacting Klose and being penalized.

Klose is the all-time leading goal scorer in FIFA World Cup competition with 16 goals from 2002-2014 and is the all-time leading goal scorer for Germany which have never lost a game in which he has scored. Despite his fantastic international career and World Cup record, it is Miroslav Klose's respect for the game throughout his career that will be his most enduring legacy; A legacy of fair play, great character, and respect for the game.



