The Impact of a Coach

Aaron Taylor was a first-team All-American selection as a football player at Notre Dame. He was drafted in the 1st round of the NFL draft and played on the offensive line for the 1997 Super Bowl Champion Green Bay Packers. He is a husband, father and currently works as a college football analyst for CBS Sports.

The Weekly Game Plan

As a coach, take inventory of the relationships you have with your student-athletes.

- What impact are you having on your athletes through your words and actions?
- Does your positive approach give them confidence and instill belief? Or might harsh criticism be tearing them down?
- Make it a point this week to make sure your athletes know that you care about them and want what’s best for them.
- Commit to focus on positive coaching techniques that will help athletes improve while instilling confidence.
- Re-read this page from the Play Like a Champion Coach manual outlining the difference between Ego-Centered Coaching and Champion Centered Coaching.

Champion-Centered: Coaches who are champion-centered value their players’ learning and skill development, they emphasize effort over raw ability, and they view success as more than just winning.

Ego-Centered: Coaches who are ego-centered value the outcome (winning or losing) much more
than how the team plays and the individual players develop. Their self-worth is highly dependent on whether their teams win or lose. In this sense, ego-centered coaches place themselves above their athletes and are not true competitors.

What kind of Coach are you?

Take this [Coach Questionnaire](#) to determine how “champion-centered” you are as a coach.

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A Prayer for Coaches

Lord, thank you for the student-athletes you have entrusted to my care. Help me to be a better coach for them. Help me to demonstrate that I care for each and every one of them. May my words build confidence while teaching skill. May my actions support these athletes as I help them to seek Your Will for them. May I have the grace to teach them skills and develop them as athletes as well as in virtue. May I model Christ in my role as a coach, that I may be a servant leader who's constant example builds their faith and leads them ever closer to You. I ask this through Christ, Our Lord, Amen.