

Challenging a Pitcher

Shortly after arriving in Major League Baseball, pitcher Orel Hershiser was called to the office of Los Angeles Dodgers General Manager Tommy Lasorda. Hershiser feared the meeting would not be pleasant. He had begun his career as a relief pitcher, and his performance had been disappointing.

Lasorda, however, didn't dwell on his pitcher's past. He said instead, "You don't believe in yourself! You're scared to pitch in the big leagues. Who do you think these hitters are? Babe Ruth? Ruth's dead! You've got good stuff. If you didn't, I wouldn't have brought you up.

"You gotta go out there and do it on the mound. Be a bulldog – that's gonna be your new name. Bulldog Hershiser. I want you, starting today, to believe you are the best pitcher in baseball."

Bulldog Hershiser wrote in his autobiography, *Out of the Blue*, "I couldn't get over that Tommy Lasorda felt I was worth this much time and effort. He believed I had big-league stuff."

In Hershiser's next game, he pitched three innings and gave up only one hit. He went on to have one of the longest pitching careers in recent Major League history.

As we talk with our associates and co-workers, we should focus more on their future than their past. All of us have way more potential than we have history.

The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.

--Beecher Hunter