

Listen to the Coach

We're deep into the basketball season, and it is an exciting time for those who follow the accomplishments of their favorite teams.

When it comes to asking coaches of any sport, however, what they look for in an athlete, he or she will go down a list that will include talent, physical strength, skill and the right mental attitude.

Then they will proceed to elaborate on the last one, because the right mental attitude involves a number of considerations. At the top of that list is the willingness to be coached.

The young athlete who aspires to greatness, generally speaking, learns a number of things from several different coaches. The first one taught him or her the fundamentals; the second one instilled discipline and most of the techniques that must be mastered to excel.

Finally, there is the coach who had the rare ability to spot the athlete's unique talent and then maximize that talent by teaching proper techniques.

The one trait coaches cannot tolerate – and the good ones don't – is the individual who grows arrogant because he or she excelled at a lower level and believes there is nothing else to learn. The good coaches recognize that some things cannot be coached. However, the coach clearly understands that regardless of the extent of the talent, it can be more completely utilized if the proper coaching technique is applied.

That coaching technique will include teaching the athletes to become team players by fitting their individual talents into the team. That's significant, because there is a dramatic difference between an all-star team and a team of all-stars. The coach's job is to take the stars and make them a team.

The athlete who won't be coached simply never moves up to that last level, which is necessary for maximum personal performance and a must if the athlete is going to be a major contributor to the success of the team.

The blending of this talent into the team applies in any family, business, orchestra, stage production or any other organization of more than two people.

And it certainly applies in health care and hospitality.

Think about it. Listen to the coach.

A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher (Luke 6:40 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter

