

Stealing Dreams

One Little League coach had a picnic for the team at the beginning of the season. After the hot dogs and hamburgers were eaten, he gave the players a pep talk.

“How many of you have a dream to one day play in the major leagues?” he asked.

Almost every hand shot up. Every kid believed he could do it; you could see it in his eyes.

“If that is to happen, that dream begins now,” the coach said.

The players were so inspired that they practiced hard and played hard and went undefeated for the next few years. All-star teams from other leagues played them and lost.



Years later, one of the players, Barry Merritt, became a coach. He brought his team together to give them the same pep talk.

“But when I asked, ‘How many of you have a dream to one day play in the major leagues?’ not one hand went up. Not one kid believed he could do it. I was speechless.

“The rest of my talk was meaningless, so I said, ‘Really? Nobody? Well, get your gloves and let’s throw.’

“I thought about that day for a long time. What had happened in the 25 years since I was a kid? What had come into their lives to steal their dreams? What had convinced them they would never be more than what they were?”

Perhaps society – events and circumstances in an everyday world – could be the answer to Merritt’s question. But the formula for success must begin with a dream and hope. We cannot allow mediocrity or despair to rob us of our God-given potential.

Hope deferred makes the heart sick. But when the desire comes, it is a tree of life (Proverbs 13:12).

– Beecher Hunter