

The Quarterback Changed the Play

It is football season and appropriate to share the story of a football coach who had two quarterbacks (most teams would need two or more).

The first-team quarterback was gifted, aggressive and a born leader. The second-string quarterback was – let us say – limited. Oh, he was athletic enough, but unfortunately, he lacked a mind for strategy.

The championship game was in progress. The score was tied, the home team had the ball, and the clock was ticking down. An opposing player broke through the line of scrimmage and slammed the star quarterback to the ground with such force that the signal-caller had to leave the game.

Time was running out. The coach had no choice but to put in the backup quarterback. The substitute trotted onto the field, huddled the team and strode to the line of scrimmage.

Surveying the opposing team, and much to everyone's surprise, he changed the play the coach had called. The ball was snapped, and the quarterback handed it off to the halfback, who busted up the middle and sped all the way to the end zone with the winning touchdown. An amazing play!

Moments later, in the ecstatic dressing room, the coach grabbed his second-team quarterback by the shoulder pads and said, "Son, that was great! How did you know to call that play?"

The boy replied, "Uh, well, Coach, it weren't easy. I got up to the line and looked across at two of the biggest players I've ever seen, and I seen their numbers. One of 'em was wearing a 6 and the other one was wearing a 7, so I just added them numbers together and got 14 and called the number 14 play."



The coach hesitated a moment and said, "But, Son, six and seven make 13."

The boy, quite unmoved by the correction, said, "You know what, Coach? If I was as smart as you, we would have lost the game."

The lesson for us? Things don't always add up the way they are supposed to, do they?

(more)

Sometimes, the logical, reasoned decisions we make don't always turn out to be the best ones. That doesn't mean that we shouldn't always seek to know as much as we can to make what we believe to be the right judgment. But other factors can affect the outcome. Even those occasions become learning experiences.

And no doubt you know by now – especially in health care and hospitality – flexibility, being able to change and adapt with emerging circumstances, is a valued characteristic.

I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me (Philippians 4:12-13 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter