

The Start of Rugby

Author John Maxwell relates the story about a monument in England to the sport of rugby, the forerunner of American football. The monument depicts an eager boy leaning down to pick up a ball. At the base is this inscription: "With a fine disregard for the rules, he picked up the ball and ran."

The statue and inscription tell a true story. An important game of soccer was taking place between two English schools. During the closing minutes of the contest, a boy -- more gifted with enthusiasm and school spirit than with experience -- was sent into the game for the first time. Forgetting all the rules, particularly the one that says a player does not touch the ball with his hands, and conscious only of the fact that the ball had to be in the goal within seconds if his school was to be victorious, the boy picked up the ball and, to the amazement of everyone, started the sprint of his life toward the goal. The confused officials and players remained frozen where they stood, but the spectators were so moved by the boy's spirit and entertained by his performance that they stood and applauded long and loudly.

This incident totally eclipsed the rest of the game's action. As a result, a new sport was born: rugby. It wasn't because of carefully worded arguments and rule changes; it was because of one boy's enthusiastic mistake.

Sometimes, spontaneity produces incredible results, and enthusiasm is always an asset in life. In the centers of Life Care and American Lifestyles, and in the work of Life Care at Home, as we interact with our customers today, practice both, and watch amazing results.

--Beecher Hunter