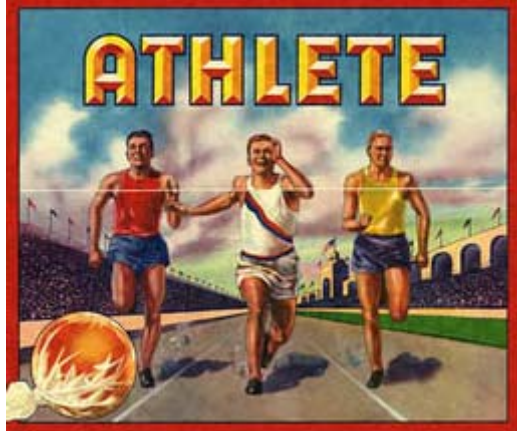


Sports: A Window onto American Values **Conversation & Cuisine organized by Xenos Christian Fellowship**

The Many Faces of Sports



Grantland Rice: “When the Great Scribe comes to write against your name, he marks not that you won or lost, but how you played the game.”

Vince Lombardi, football coach: “Show me a gracious loser, and I’ll show you a loser.”

Baron de Coubertin, ‘Father of the Modern Olympics’: “The important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win but to take part. The important thing in life is not to triumph but to have fought well.”

Parents of a 10-year-old hockey player, whose team practices twice a day and costs them \$4,500 per year: “It’s worth it. It provides exercise and discipline.” The 10-year-old: “I play to win. I don’t play to play.”

Fred Engh, founder of National Alliance for Youth Sports: “I’m a firm believer that sports is the greatest tool we have in today’s society to help children develop positive character traits and life values.”

T-shirt on a 10-year old: “Play Hard. Injuries Heal. Losing Lasts Forever.”

“It’s just a game.”

“Whoever said winning doesn’t matter must have been a spectator.”

Violence in and at Sports

Robert F. Canaby, executive director of the National Federation of State High School Associations in Indianapolis: “Being disrespectful toward your competitor has crept in as an element of the contest. A generation ago it didn’t exist in sport, but it certainly exists now.”

National Association of Sports Officials receives two or three calls each week regarding violence towards officials. “The tenor of the type of abuse we’re receiving nowadays has become much more personal, much more physical, and highly violent.” Fourteen states have increased their penalties for assaults on sports officials since 1987.



Pattie Ash of Greensboro, NC was convicted of assault for punching the 15-year old referee in the mouth at her 11-year-old's soccer game. She threw the punch while the two teams were shaking hands.

Marty McSorley of the Boston Bruins was found guilty of assault with a weapon on October 6, 2000 after hitting Vancouver's Donald Brashear in the head with a two-handed swing of his stick. His defense: he didn't intend to hit Brashear in the head but instead was trying to hit him in the shoulder to provoke him into fighting: "I used fighting to show I could grow as a player, and I think I did."

In June, 1999, Thomas Junta and Michael Costin got into a fight over the way Costin's 10-year-old son was high-sticking Junta's 10-year-old son during a "no contact" hockey game. They were ejected from the game, but continued the fight outside. Junta killed Costin and was convicted of manslaughter.

Victory At What Price?

200 current or aspiring Olympians were asked if they would take a drug to make them world champions for 5 years. Its side-effects would shortly thereafter kill them. How many do you think would take it?

What percent of teenagers do you think take performance-enhancing drugs? What do teenagers think? How many teenagers do you think personally know others who take performance-enhancing drugs?

What Values Get Taught Through Sports?

"I've discovered that greed, fear, and ego are the three primary factors that influence parental attitudes about and behaviors toward children and youth sports" (Fred Engh, *Why Johnny Hates Sports*, pp. 48-9).

Jack Roberts, Michigan High School Athletic Association: "Sportsmanship is the starting point—if not the essence—of good citizenship. It is what we're supposed to teach in educational athletics more than anything else. We are to teach sportsmanship more than fitness, more than skills, more than strategies, more than discipline, more than sacrifice, more than hard work. We are to teach sportsmanship. That is our product" (quoted in Engh, p. 23).