

The True Meaning of Competition

By Joe Benedetti

There is nothing as unsure as a sure thing.

As they say on the Pro-Line commercials, "Because anything can happen, anyone can win".

Anything can happen in a competition, and it usually does.

Your team might be highly favoured to win; you might be bigger, stronger, faster, older, more experienced or whatever, BUT there is no such thing as a sure win. The result is always in doubt; upsets can happen - often. That's why the game is played! Underdogs can become Top Dogs. The vanquished can become the victorious. David did defeat Goliath - you can look that one up. The race is not always to the swift, nor the battle to the strong.

Teams often surprise their favoured opponents with increased focus and motivation.

- Guard against complacency.
- Respect all opponents.
- Play hard, Get ahead early, and don't let the opposition "hang around"
- Don't give them hope.
- Finish them off, Break their spirit.
- Play with passion. Play with purpose. Play to dominate.
- Play fair and practice good sportsmanship always, but when you think about it, the most sincere way to respect your opponents is to show them your best effort at all times.

In his book All I Really Need to Know I learned in Kindergarten, Robert Fulghum says:

About winning: It isn't important. What really counts is how you play the game.

About losing: It isn't important. What really counts is how you play the game.

About playing the game: Play it to win !

Teams will learn lessons. There are no mistakes; only lessons. Lessons will be repeated until they are learned.

Be the type of player and team than learns their lessons quickly.

Regardless, upsets will happen - you can only do your best to reduce their frequency!

So when they happen, make no excuses, and congratulate your opponent on their hard won victory. They deserve no less.