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Coaching A Season Of Success By Greg Winkler, Soccer Coach

Greg Winkler is the Fondy High soccer coach and author of the book "Coaching a Season of Significance". He shared with us his philosophy of coaching from the perspective of a 12 year coach with out a losing season. His teams have had 5 conference championships, 11 regional championships and 2 state tournament appearances. He has been selected as coach of the year at the division, region and state levels a number of times and along with his wife Vikki has been recognized as State Soccer Parents of the season. His teams have had 5 conference championships, 11 regional championships and 2 state tournament appearances. He has been selected as coach of the year at the division, region and state levels a number of times and along with his wife Vikki have been recognized as State Soccer Parents of the Year.

The premise on which his book is written is that parents are having a shrinking effect on their kid's development. Other people in the lives of children like coaches, teachers, and adult friends have more potential effect on their lives. "Positive examples are the most important responsibility that adults have on children", he said. An example he used was working with his dad, fellow Rotarian Dick Winkler. "My dad taught me the value of hard work by demonstrating it in his work place."

What does "significance" mean to a coach and team? "Wins and losses don't determine the success of a team. Regardless of the age group or talent level I realized that my goal as a coach should be

to ensure that each season is a "season of significance" for all of the athletes involved." Winkler says in his book. Key elements include; was the experience meaningful both from a learning standpoint and relationally? Second, was the season important to the individual and the team. Was the goal important to the team? And Third, was the season memorable? It could be a certain win, a skill accomplished or simply building for the future.

Characteristics of a good coach include; being a good motivator, being enthusiastic, being emotional (but under control), being a good communicator, celebrating with the team, and being concerned about the team members off the field as well as on.

Three of my grand daughters play in the summer soccer program. It is my hope that if they choose to continue to play in high school coach Winkler is still at it. He cares about the "W's" but he is more concerned about developing good character for life in his team members. I'm sure that "Coaching, a Season of Significance" will be a good read.

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