



We're on the home stretch of a long season and now more than any other time you get a chance to really impact your players 'cause it's Playoff Time!

This is the culmination of a lot of hard work, effort and sacrifice that you all have put in:

In the beginning of the season you had to establish trust, order, and confidence between the coaches and players.

During the season you had to evolve that into a working 'team' where players need to trust each other and have confidence in their teammates.

At playoff times you have the extraordinary opportunity to teach a life lesson as YOU and the players will face pressure/stress, adversity, winning and losing.

This is probably the hardest time for coaches since it deals with people skills and your ability to control your own emotions and those around you.

Suggestions:

- Instill confidence with your players!

Make them believe they can make the play or get a hit and they will reward you! Remind them of all the hard work and effort they have put in, their achievements and how they got to this point. Strength comes from putting in the sweat to achieve a goal. Action makes it a reality.

Make sure you always provide them emotional tools to match up with their physical skills.

- Inspire your players

'Things' will happen. It's all about how YOU deal with it. You can run out onto the field and argue a call or you can call for time and then engage the umpires in a quiet reserved manner that the blues KNOW is sincere. Then,

- Take a defensive time out and regroup-the-troops.

Call all of them in, take off your sunglasses, take a knee, look at all of them in the eye and speak in a gentle voice. They know the situation so acknowledge it and then accent the POSITIVES and what is needed to move on.

Take ownership of the situation and put the team on your shoulders for it IS your time to show your players how to overcome adversity, how they can draw from their inner strength as they see you draw from YOUR strength.

- A relaxed motivated player will be the best player.

Your leadership is now on display and they will be looking up to you for guidance and strength. Joke, wear your sunglasses upside down, whatever it takes (don't wear a dress!) to take the edge off.

Pitchers will challenge you the most as they are on a mound / display. When you visit the mound your objective must be clear:

Inspire the pitcher! (all players)

Acknowledge what's happened, flush it and then turn that in to why they have to over come their own feelings and make it happen. Remember we all get knocked down but it is our decision on whether to stay down or get back up. Inspire them to stand back up and continue to bring it! Batters, fielders, all players.

Please remember: It's not coach against coach, it's players competing, learning baseball and like it or not, learning life lessons. Playoff time is a chance to shine in front of your players, parents, opposing teams, and all those watching the games. Show your best!

Have a great playoff, good luck, and my hat is off to you being the best coach you can be.

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PS, contact me for dresses, Hulk gloves or other ideas to 'take the edge' off