

Stacie Mahoe

LESSONS LEARNED FROM DECADES ON THE DIAMOND

Just for you, here is an excerpt from my e-book, [Lessons Learned from Decades on the Diamond](#). Enjoy :)

Have you ever wondered...

How some of the most rude, obnoxious coaches still find success? If you're anything like me, and I'm guessing you are because you're reading this, you believe in more positive styles of coaching.

You probably aren't one to embarrass players in front of others when they make a mistake. You probably aren't one to cuss out your team or anyone else for that matter. You probably aren't one to throw larger than life "temper tantrums" at any point, no matter how frustrated or upset you are. I'm guessing you're much more classy and carry yourself with much more dignity than that.

Yet there are coaches who, seemingly, "misbehave" and still manage to win a lot as well as attract and keep great talent.

How does this happen?

Does positive coaching really work? Or do nice guys finish last?

Do you have to be meaner to get results? Maybe you've even considered being more "harsh," laying the hammer down, or bringing the wrath to your team more often.

I've often wondered, if positive coaching is the way to go. If that's the way to get the most out of your team, why is it that coaches who break all those rules can still win consistently?

The truth is, some of the best teams I ever played on were coached by guys like this. These coaches were "mean," they swore at us. They dished out insults regularly. They yelled at us in front of others all the time. They yanked people from the line up the moment a mistake was made even if it's smack dab in the middle of an inning or at bat! The list goes on and on.

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One of my “mean” coaches did do some teaching amidst all that yelling and swearing. The others, not so much. And yet, we won. We made it to championship games and even won some of those too.

Did I have fun playing for those coaches? Not always. Did I “like” those coaches? Actually, I kind of did even though I disagreed with their methods and actions.

How does that work? **Why did it work?**

For a long time I couldn’t figure it out.

Then I realized, they were 100%, unapologetically, unmistakably REAL. With those coaches, what you see is what you get. There are no hidden agendas. There’s no guessing about how they feel or about what consequences will be. They are very clear, very direct, and very consistent from Day 1. They say what they feel and feel what they say. They say what they mean and mean what they say too!

People may not agree. Players may not agree, but you always know exactly where you stand with that kind of coach. You always know there will be a consequence, often a severe one, for mistakes. You always know which mistakes coach absolutely can’t stand and which ones don’t bother them as much.

While it’s not always pleasant, **everyone knows from the get go, what the deal is.**

This is very different from coaches who try to be “nice” and, in the process, tell white lies or overly sugar coat what they say, so as not to hurt anyone’s feelings. Believe me, players that smell that stuff a mile away. Most people, even kids and teens, sometimes *especially* kids and teens, have BS meters installed. Alarms bells go off any time a coach is not genuine even something nice is being said. **This does not serve you well as a coach!**

Other coaches are just plain wishy-washy. They don’t want to “punish” players for every little thing, but will randomly dish out consequences when

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they're upset or frustrated. The problem is, they aren't consistent or clear with the cause and effect. They'll let "big" things go, yet fly off the handle for something that doesn't seem like a big deal, but becomes one simply because of the situation in which it happens. Players never know how their coach is going to react because it often depends on their mood.

This is a recipe for disaster.

Players don't know what to expect. They don't know if coach is in a forgiving mood or not. They often feel like they're walking on eggshells. There's no consistency in the team environment. How can there be consistency in performance when coaching changes as moods change?

You can't expect your team to put forth their best effort no matter how they "feel" that day if you coach inconsistently based upon how you feel at any given moment.

Bottom line is, the **common threads** I see in mean coaches who still manage to win are these 3 things...

- 1) they are **real**, genuine, honest, and consistent day in and day out, win or lose
- 2) they clearly and directly **communicate** what they want and what they expect from the get go
- 3) somewhere deep under the crass exterior they **give a damn**. They care very deeply about what they do and take coaching seriously. They never just go through the motions. It's all or all (*never "nothing"*). They care deeply about their team and somehow, some way, they let their players know they really truly *DO* care about each and every player no matter what they may say or what they may do on the field.

These 3 things, in combination with each other, are powerful! Even when you're "wrong" in *how* you do things, even when you make mistakes, even when people don't always agree with you, these 3 attributes, together, get results.

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Now imagine, if *YOU*, a more positive, more uplifting coach who builds players up instead of threatening and tearing them down, can apply these!

Even if the win column doesn't always end the way you want (*after all only ONE team can win the championship game*), your experience and the positive impact you have on your players will be unforgettable, even after they've moved on to new chapters in their lives.

So get to it! **Do you**...every day, 100%, unapologetically, take a stand and be who you were designed to be.

How to use this to help you...

Can you think of *ONE* thing you've been doing because you think you're "supposed to" but don't really know why or don't feel like it lines up completely with you and your style?

How can you change that *ONE* thing?

How can you modify or tweak it so you speak and act from the heart, from your true self, when you do it vs just going through motions you think you "should" go through as a coach?

Once you answer the questions above, give it a try. Let me know how it works and how you feel with the change. Pay attention to see if it changes the way your team reacts to you, or interacts with you, then keep adjusting from there, but remember to stay true to you.

[Get the full e-book PLUS 10 Bonus Drills](#) you can begin using in practice today :)