

CHARACTER



Diligence

November 2006

Diligence: That which we learn to do well makes life worthwhile.

“We can do anything we want to do if we stick to it.”

Football is great! I love everything about it. I love that it happens in the fall as the season changes and the colors turn our hearts to great family traditions that matter. I love the smell of the fresh-cut grass. I love the mud and the rain and even the snow. But I must say that when the sun shines and the sky is blue and the leaves on the mountains are colorful and there’s a nip of coolness in the air – and I’m involved in any type of football game – it’s like the movie “Field of Dreams” – it’s heavenly!

Football is not just a game -- it’s a passion – it’s a quest. What a great challenge it is to rally players and coaches and fans to keep trying – keep fighting – get back up – no matter what happens. **THAT’S LIFE!**

DILIGENCE. Diligence is hard work. It’s focused. It’s intense. It’s genuine dedication to the team – to the cause – to victory! It’s never ever giving up on the goal. It’s belief and faith – knowing that the **MOMENTUM** can change – and will!

Coach Bronco Mendenhall said to the past alumni football players at BYU in a newsletter after their first disappointing loss to Arizona this year, “We were of course disappointed in the loss. In our eyes, we were in control of the game but did not make the plays necessary to win. It is another lesson learned for all of us. But even in the disappointment, I am more optimistic than ever that this is a championship team. We didn’t make the plays to finish with a victory last Saturday – but we will! Our resolve has never been higher. T.S. Eliot said ‘Tradition cannot be inherited, and if you want it, you must obtain it by great labor.’ We’ll do it. I have great faith and confidence in this team and wouldn’t trade them for anyone!”

Faith and confidence in the team – and love for each other -- pulling together for a common cause. It’s not just the winning of football games – it’s the pulling together – it’s the faith – it’s the hard work – it’s getting up when you’re muddy and cold and you’ve just been stomped on by a bigger guy. It’s saying “yes sir” to the coach who is yelling at you – because you know in your heart that he is out there in the cold and in the mud with you and your teammates because he cares about you and wants to make you better – and because he cares about the same cause you do. It’s the **DILIGENCE** that matters.

Diligence is the key. Never giving up – never! If you get tackled – if you’re down – if you get beat – get up! There’s another play – get back in the huddle – in fact **RUN** back to the huddle! – eager for the next play.

There’s always another game to play – there’s always a championship that is worth fighting for – fighting with everything you have!

And when you win – how sweet! – how thankful – sometimes tearful – WHY? Because you have had to work and sacrifice and pay the price just to feel the joy of that victory – so drink it in! But just for a moment – and don’t forget to be there in the morning at 8am to lift **TOMORROW** – with the film review at 9am (where you will get ripped on for every mistake you made in the game) – every single obvious mistake -- right in front of all your friends and teammates with open criticism from your coaches – WHY? –

Because they care about the same cause – **WINNING!** – **IMPROVING!** – always getting better – There’s another game in a few days – and another season next year. Stay focused – stay humble – stay diligent!

What a great game! – What a great life! The great Vince Lombardi said, “I firmly believe that any man’s finest hour, his greatest fulfillment of all he holds dear, is the moment when he has worked his heart out in a good cause and lies exhausted on the field of battle – victorious.”

He also said that football is like life, it requires perseverance, self-denial, hard work, sacrifice, dedication, and respect for authority. Football teaches diligence and that the quality of each man’s life is the full measure of that man’s personal commitment to excellence and to victory.

One of my favorite quotes from scripture is: “Shall we not go on in so great a cause? – Courage brethren and on – on to victory!”

Lavell Edwards said, “Once a player visualizes his potential, then disciplines himself to follow the game plan to realize that potential, the next thing he must do is to make a solid commitment to do everything he can by diligence and hard work in order to reach his potential in anything he does.”

Diligence is the mother of good fortune. Reaching lofty goals or dreams or doing anything that is really worthwhile requires tremendous vision combined with even more disciplined hard work. Nothing can replace the absolute requirement of work in our efforts to become who we want to become.

Miguel de Cervantes wrote in the classic novel, Don Quixote, “Take a deep breath of life and consider how it should be lived -- Love not what thou art -- only what thou may become -- Look always forward - in last year’s nest there are no birds this year -- The mission of each knight - his duty - nay his privilege - is to follow the quest -- to dream the impossible dream -- to be too

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“Success is not measured by the height attained, but by the obstacles overcome.”
--Unknown

“Some people see things as they are and say ‘Why?’ I dream of things that never were and say ‘Why not?’.”

--Robert Kennedy

“The expectations of life depend upon diligence; the mechanic that would perfect his work must first sharpen his tools.”
--Confucius

Book List

Whistle for Willy

by Ezra Jack Keats

Lou Gehrig, The Luckiest Man

by David A. Adler

Horton Hatches the Egg

by Dr. Seuss

Amber on the Mountain

by Tony Johnston

More Than Anything Else

by Marie Bradby

Mush! Across Alaska In the World's Largest Sled-Dog Race

by Patricia Seibert



practical is madness -- to surrender dreams is madness -- but maddest of all is to see life as it is -- and not as it SHOULD BE!

In all diligence -- we should treasure the past and learn -- and dream for tomorrow and plan -- but most importantly we must LIVE for today -- and make the very most of every moment. You never know -- this could be the play of the game -- it could be the turning point that changes the momentum. And if it's not -- then we get up and wipe the mud off our helmet and we RUN back to the huddle and be ready for the next play --

Because we know we can WIN!

Kevin Doman

Lindon Stake Presidency

Family Activities

****Make a family time capsule to be opened in one year.** Have each family member include one or two goals that he or she will be working on during the next year. *When the time capsule is opened, celebrate successes.*

****Take an evening to look at baby pictures.** *Talk about the physical growth that has occurred, and then talk about growth in other areas.*

****In November 1922, after a 10-year search, Howard Carter discovered King Tut's tomb.** *Talk about how some goals may take longer than expected to realize.*

Kid's Corner

"Stick to your task till it sticks to you, beginners are many but enders are few."

Diligence means completing the task, being persistent even when the job is hard or even takes longer than expected!

My grandfather's favorite saying was "Sprint to the Finish." To me that means you not only finish the job, but you put everything you've got into it at the end; when you feel like quitting and have nothing left; you give your last burst of power.

Grandpa did this in his own business, his family, and even his health. He fought liver cancer to the end of his life before passing away last year. The last words he spoke to me were, "Sprint to the finish." I hope we all can stick to our goals in life and give it our all right to the very end.

Becca Tenney

We, at Character Connection would like to focus on helping parents access character materials by using the web site located at www.lindoncharacterconnection.com. If you are interested in receiving a monthly reminder of the character traits and access to resource materials, please e-mail your address to arlainea@isquaredinc.com

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