

Human emotions stir deeply in the fierce maelstrom of sports. For it is here that our peoples play at war. Out of athletic competition come the conjoined stimuli of exaltation and depression and fierce rivalries, but in all, much more of the pleasure than of the pain. Someone has said that a thing to possess heart interest must possess "the qualities of both a tear and a smile".

Varsity and high school athletes look to their own coach as their academic field general to lead them to victory. No man who is unable successfully to interpret the art of living should ever aspire to a position as coach. For the term coaching implies people to master difficulties, emotional as well as practical ones. It is one thing to become proficient in the art of playing the technical game and another, but of far greater importance, to master the art of getting along with fellow players and coaches and opponents both at home and on foreign courts and fields.

Before tense games a coach must come before earnest men. They will watch his face for assurances of victory. Many times he must stand alone and face to face with certain and imminent defeat staring at him, long before he can meet with them and instill hope. In infinitely lesser degree, like General Grant at the siege of Vicksburg, a coach will sometimes feel that all hope is gone as he keeps close counsel with himself and dares not reflect either to his players or to his fellow coaches the despair that encompasses him.

General Grant in his "Memoirs" has graphically described his fears and dejections arising from the uncertainty of the capture of Vicksburg. "It cannot be taken," he thought, and pondered through the days and months of the siege. Finally, it came to him thus, "If we are discouraged in our position, what is the Confederate state of mind, bottled up there with no chance of egress?" Reasoning thus, after long vigils of despair, Grant took courage and reflected it anew to his men. They knew then that he could win.

So must successful coaches drive fear out of their players' hearts. They must make the boys forget their opponent's power. They must develop an expectant and fighting spirit which means building esprit de corps or team morale. This dominant challenge to win swells the surge of a conquest, and a team thus imbued is well-nigh unstoppable. Inspiration multiplies power, and power coupled with courage and fundamentals relentlessly smashes through. The coach must have faith in his men and in reciprocity the men have faith in their coach.

Throughout the grand theme of life there runs a faith in the ability of human beings to achieve happiness if rightly directed. In relations of the part to the whole, this same faith obtains in all human leadership realms. The achievement of this myth called happiness lies in the process of adjustments that we are able to make.

Lafcadio Hearn, in his Japanese Letters, has said, "My cook wears a smiling, healthy, rather pleasing face. He is a good-looking young man. . . . One day I looked through a little hole in the shoji and saw him alone. The face was not the same face. It was thin and drawn and showed queer lines worn by old hardships. . . I went in and the man was all changed. . . . young and happy again. He wears the mask of happiness as an etiquette. "