

Dear Mr. Marshall and Mr. Rector,

Theodore Roosevelt said, “It is not the critic who counts...not the man who points out how the strong man stumbled, or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions and spends himself in a worthy course; who, at the best, knows in the end the triumph of great achievement, and who, at worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly; so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory or defeat.”

That quote struck us as we considered what was written upon the hearts of our two children during their sports seasons this fall. One played football and played volleyball this year and it was costly to them. It cost them valuable time that could have been spent studying and their grades reflected that time lost. It sometimes cost them their pride, as they were unsuccessful in a particular play or were taken out of the game because someone else could do a better job.

However, today we celebrate as their parents to the obvious gains due to this season’s wins and losses, glories and defeats. Both have grown immeasurably in physical, emotional, and spiritual ways that could not have been achieved in the classroom. What they now know, they can write with their own blood...the blood of experience. They are more humble people, more compassionate. They are more focused, more spirited. They better understand that their own giftedness can only be enhanced by the sweat of the bow and by dogged determination when others do not see their potential.

We are deeply indebted to the selfless work of the coaches at Coram Deo and just as grateful for the vision of the administrators who see the whole child as valuable when including sports in the curricula. In contrast to the voices of detraction, we want to be counted as two who wholeheartedly support the future of sports at Coram Deo and their importance in achieving the goals of this unique partnership between parents and educators.

We commend the dedication and excellence of those who wrote with their own blood, sweat, and tears upon the hearts of our children. Kim Grizzle, Lynn Hicks, Donnie Brake, Rudy Flores, David Goodwin, and Jimmy Jones as well as Frank McKinnon and Tim Minich left an indelible mark upon our children and dozens of other children and they will be long remembered by us for a season of character and skill building. In hind-sight, the volleyball and football programs as well as soccer were well worth the fees paid. We are thankful beyond words for the way these men and women gave their best efforts for the sake of our children.

It was our immense pleasure to participate as boosters and spectators. May the Lord bless each of you for your supreme effort and may He grow these programs qualitatively for His glory.

Sincerely,
CDA Parents