



Monday's Scouting Report – "In His Mitt"

February 22, 2016

Coach with Excellence!

'For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."' (Jeremiah 29:11)

High School baseball tryouts in Northern Virginia begins this week. This is a week that is full of both excitement and anxiety for both players and coaches.

Players are worried whether or not they will make the team. Their identity has been defined by how they perform on the field and for some this will be the first-time they are told they are not skilled enough to make the team!

Coaches will have tough decisions to make at the end of this week. It is never fun to let a player know that his dream of making his high school team will not be realized – at least this year. At the same time it is great to see a player smile and his joy, when told he is on the team! As coaches, it is important to take part this week with honor, grace and excellence.

Jesus in Matthew 6:25-34 tells us; *"do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?"*

Easier said than done! I know I have tried on numerous occasions to not allow worry to get in the way. However, once I remember these words of Jesus and offer up my particular worries, I am comforted by the knowledge that He is in control. ...and knowing God is in control allows me to focus on doing what I do best and in honoring Him.

As coaches, we are called to be mentors, teachers, and leaders. Here are a few things we can keep in mind to help accomplish this goal throughout the week of tryouts and throughout the season:

1. **Passion!** Coach with passion. Allow both your assistants and players to see the joy you have for life and for the game of baseball. If you love the game and you love God, you can show those around you with your passion.
2. **Excellence!** You cannot and never will be perfect. But you can be excellent. And more importantly, you can remind your players of this. You can be a leader and you're your team persevere during a rough patch. You can remind your assistants and players to be

committed to the play, at-bat, or pitch at that moment. You can have personal integrity and coach the best you are capable of coaching each and every day. That's coaching with excellence!

3. Finally, and most importantly, know this: God has a plan for you and each one of your players! (Jeremiah 29:11). It may be winning the State Championship this year or it may not. But either way He is molding you and your players into the individuals he wants you all to be. Trust Him!

I will be praying for you, your players and your program throughout this week of tryouts. Coach with Passion, coach with Excellence, and Trust God!