



*Monday's Scouting Report – "In His Mitt"
October 5, 2015*

Courageous Leadership

"If one scout, coach, or player development person believes in a player, you have to do what you can to provide that player with an opportunity to help him succeed." – Dayton Moore, GM, Kansas City Royals

The quote above comes from Dayton Moore's book, *More Than A Season*, and describes the decision process that went into deciding not to give up on Alex Gordon in 2010. The Royals decided to re-assign Gordon to their minor league club and begin training him to become an outfielder.

As coaches, we have all experienced having a player on the roster possessing all of the 5-tools (*hitting for average, hitting for power, speed, arm strength*), fail to put it all together on game day? We have also all had a player that had one or two of the 5-tools and excelled.

As a coach, the seasons I have come to cherish the most are those when I have worked with an athlete that had limited tools, but possessed the desire necessary to succeed. Sometimes this work paid off on the field, sometimes it didn't. However, I always found it personally rewarding because of the relationship forged with the athlete.

Dayton Moore, goes on further to write that; *"I decided we were going to remain committed to Alex and we were going to win together. We were going to continue to believe in Alex and trust in his talent and his desire to compete."*

Remember Game 4 of the 2014 ALCS? Alex Gordon went back on a full sprint to the warning track on a deep fly ball. He leaped and crashed into the wall and fell to the ground, catching the ball. He made one of the most memorable catches in postseason history. Dayton Moore calls Alex; *"the heartbeat of our team."*

It's worth noting that it's the same with us and our relationship with God. He never did, never has, and never will give up on us. In fact, we are told that He stands at *"the door and knocks."* All He asks is that we answer and seek Him!

Like the coach that decides to be a transformational coach – a coach that is willing to get involved in an athlete's life and find out what makes him tick and sees the big picture – God sees the big picture for us and what we were created to become. He promises to never stop working on his, in us, and through us! All He asks is that we seek Him!

Be Courageous! Don't take the easy way out. Be willing to work and spend time with your players. Be a relational coach, you never know, you just might be that source of encouragement or that spark needed

to propel an average player to a Championship player. Heck, he could be that player that makes the games saving-catch in the Conference Championship game.

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. -- Jeremiah 29:11-13