



Monday's Scouting Report – "In His Mitt"

November 9, 2015

Heart of a Coach

*"If you have raced with men on foot, and they have wearied you, how will you compete with horses?"
– Jeremiah 12:5*

The following is from an article in STV on May/June 2012.

Q&A with Andy Lopez
Head Baseball Coach
University of Arizona

As one of just three coaches in Division I history to guide three different schools to the College World Series—including one national championship—University of Arizona baseball coach Andy Lopez is considered among the game's all-time elite. But past accomplishments aren't what drive this veteran coach. Rather, it's the God-given responsibility he feels to teach values and life lessons to his players.

STV: What's been the most memorable moment of your coaching career?

AL: It's hard to top the 1992 College World Series Championship at Pepperdine. The more time that passes, the more I realize how special that was. But there have been many great things I've been able to experience as a coach, and I feel tremendously blessed. I never dreamed I would be doing what I'm doing. It was never my plan to be a baseball coach. I've just done the most I can with what the Lord has given me.

STV: Given your coaching experience, what's one piece of advice you'd give young coaches?

AL: The late Cal Poly Pomona baseball coach John Scolinos, who was a dear friend of mine, once told me, "It's all trivial." I'm glad I wrote it down because my young coaching mind didn't comprehend at the time that he was imparting wisdom to me. He was basically saying to do your job, do the best you can, and play to win. But it really is all trivial when you consider everything that's going on in the lives of our athletes. The responsibility coaches have to develop young lives is so important.

STV: What do you hope to instill in your players?

AL: We try to base our foundation on three things: discipline, mental toughness and accountability. We want to teach our players to have the discipline to do what they're supposed to do when they're supposed to do it—to have the mental toughness to get through the ups and downs of the long college baseball season. We want them to understand that every decision they make—everything they do from the time they open their eyes in the morning to the time they close them that night—makes a statement about their values.

STV: What do you feel is your God-given purpose in your position?

AL: Every day I'm seeking God's wisdom, courage, insight and knowledge, and I pray that He would use me as His instrument—that people would encounter the living God through me. Many coaches base their future on how well their young men hit, pitch and play defense, but I know that ultimately my future is in the hands of my Father. The hope that I have is not in young men or baseball knowledge, but in my Lord and Savior and His promise to never leave me or forsake me