

MAUPIN MESSAGE

The Lasting Influence of a Coach

Confidence! Looking back on the impact coaches made on me during my “formative years” of 8th grade through high school, I have a somewhat uneven yet not contradictory personal experience on the power and influence coaches have on impressionable youth. Providing confidence—either fueling my own or delivering that which I didn’t have much of on my own—my coaches filled me with confidence.

While my personal experience isn’t necessarily “everyman’s story,” it does provide riveting testimony to the truth that coaches hold a strong and shaping grip on the hearts of those they coach. I can quickly recall the encouragement that my baseball coach gave to me—even as I was less of an asset to the execution of winning games than many of the others on our teams. He chose to encourage me to be and to do my best and he instilled confidence in me that was greater than the confidence I had in myself. My high school track coach gave me a boost of confidence that augmented and fueled my own skills-based confidence that I could “run the race as if to win” and he pushed me to be better than I might have settled for without his cheering/pushing/demanding.



My role as a missionary with Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) is to provide similar confidence to coaches to represent God faithfully as they lead their student athletes and trust God with the results. Our mission at FCA is to lead every coach and athlete into a growing relationship with Christ and His Church. Though I’m confident God has fully prepared me for this role, I pray that you see how imperative your partnership is to provide for the work before me. You are valued and valuable. You are a part of every changed life and every encouraged coach, every student who hears the Gospel and everyone who responds by giving their lives to Christ. Thanks for giving me the encouragement and resources to meet my family’s needs while serving God as He leads. I am blessed and humbled by your faithfulness. After what I might title “My Summer with God” ultimately brought me to FCA, it is because of your prayers and giving as God leads you that I now get to serve with my son, Brian, at the high school where he is the defensive coordinator, as well as three other nearby schools. Your words and actions—your faithfulness—have fortified my faith and strengthened my trust to follow God where He leads.

Contact me via email, text or phone and share your specific prayer requests as I pray for you each month and will pray as specifically as you allow. Thank you for standing firm for the Gospel.