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WINNING IN SPORT

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"Winning isn't everything. It is the only thing." – Vince LOMBARDI

"You don't win silver, you lose gold." – NIKE

SPORT BY DEFINITION involves a contest that results in a winner and a loser. We all enjoy winning more than losing, but ultimately we enjoy playing; and if we cannot play, then we will never win. Whether you play on a professional team, a Division I college team, in a recreational league, or in your backyard, you will see a wide range of approaches to winning in sport. The following chart maps the distinctives of three common perspectives on winning.

3 VIEWS OF WINNING			
	Winning Doesn't Matter	Balanced View	Winning is Everything
Quote	"Clearly competition and play tug in two different directions. If you are trying to win, you are not engaged in true play." – Alfie Kohn	"Success is peace of mind, which is a direct result of self-satisfaction in knowing you made the effort to do your best to become the best that you are capable of becoming." – John Wooden	"You are nothing until you are number one." – ESPN "I would rather win than have good sportsmanship." – Allen Iverson
Value of Winning	Devalued: overemphasis on fun, inclusion and equality, and instilling personal value	Valued Tension: Winning involves a process (means) and an outcome (end). Both are important.	Overvalued: overemphasis on the outcome, identity determined by winning, and external rewards
Identity & Self-worth	Based on the degree of inclusion in the fun or valued activity	Intrinsic value: Human dignity is not based on results or opinions of others.	Extrinsic value: Results, stats, and opinions determine worth.
Opponent	Co-cooperator	Necessary to achieve our best: you need an opponent in order to compete!	A means to an end; an enemy to be beaten and humiliated
Rules	Serve to achieve equality and protect feelings	Sportsmanship: Do what is right; rules insure fairness and safety for all competitors in their pursuit toward excellence.	Gamesmanship: Do whatever it takes to win; rules are only important when they are to my benefit.
Competition	How much fun can I have?	How should I play to win? It is a serious contest pursued responsibly and enjoyably.	What must I do to win? It is a bitter duel that obligates me to do whatever it takes to win.
	Deficit	Excellence	Excess

QUESTIONS FOR YOU

1. Which view of winning do you most identify with?
2. How do you respond after a win or a loss?
3. How important is winning to you?
4. What are you willing to sacrifice to win? (Health, Friendships, Family, Reputation, Character, Conscience, School Reputation)

LOMBARDI reneges on his earlier quote (see **QUOTABLE QUOTES**).

"I wish to h*** I'd never said the d***** thing. I meant the effort...I meant having a goal...I sure as h*** didn't mean for people to crush human values and morality."

RESOURCES >> *Coaching for Character*. Craig Clifford and Randolph M. Feezel. *Character is Everything: Promoting Ethical Excellence in Sport*. Russell W. Gough. *Raising a Good Sport in an In-Your-Face World*. George Selleck. *Beyond Winning: The Timeless Wisdom of Great Philosopher Coaches*. Gary M. Walton. *Character Counts*: www.charactercounts.org © 2006 by John White