

The Lasting Impact of Coaching

By Tom Lance

My name is Tom Lance and I am almost thirty years removed from full-time coaching but I still look back on the six years as baseball coach at Riverside City College (one as an assistant and five as head coach) as some of the greatest and most rewarding years of my life. Today, I am the senior pastor of The Grove Community Church and I must say I use many of the coaching fundamentals I used with the Riverside City College baseball team in coaching to now lead people at The Grove.

In my years of coaching I was blessed with many great players and that is one of the main reasons we were successful. As every coach knows you need talent to win no matter what you do or know. In those years we had many players sign professional contracts and many more go on to four year colleges which is one of the goals for every coach at the junior college level.

However, what has been most rewarding to me as a coach is to have still maintained many of those friendships today that were established over thirty years ago. I can be walking down the hallway at church and hear a player say “hey coach” and immediately know it is one of my former players. Today when I listen to my players talk they rarely mention the wins we had as a team. Seldom do I hear them say anything about a certain game, their home runs, or strikeouts or much about the actual games we played. What most of my players remember are the “moments” we shared. I am amazed when they recall an encouraging word I spoke to them to this very day, or a funny situation we all enjoyed. The real blessing is they still want me to be a part of their lives long after my coaching days have past, as I now find myself attending one of their special life events, or spending time with them on the golf course.

Why would I mention this to you as coaches? Take time and enjoy the “moments” for the moments and the encouraging words are the things that your players will remember.