



## MENTOR MOMENTS

*"Teaching More than Just the Game"*

A Message from Soccer Director Dan Kapsalis

January 3, 2012

### **Building Winners**

*By PSC Soccer Director Dan Kapsalis*

"We Teach More Than Just the Game." What does this mean? On the field and off the field, we have to LIVE the philosophy and demonstrate by example. This article is a part of that effort and a supporting tool in teaching and embracing that mindset.

#### **Winning vs. Being a Winner....**

There is a BIG difference between the two. Anybody can win a game. But can you be a **REAL** winner?

I have personally won many games and championships at every level over the years and both as a player and as a coach.

However, none of those accomplishments necessarily mean I am a winner. I have lost many games and championships as well.

How you learn from the game and how you handle the outcome, is the true determination of whether you are a REAL winner.

Understanding that nobody steps onto the field or enters a competition hoping to lose the contest. But the reality is, somebody will. If you ask yourself, "Did I do everything I could to determine the outcome of the game"? And if the answer is "YES." Then in my book, you win.

#### **Examples of a REAL Winner...**

- A "winner" is a team player.
- A "winner" understands the preparation it takes to achieve a goal.
- A "winner" fights through obstacles and disappointments.
- A "winner" takes responsibility and holds themselves accountable.
- A "winner" is a sportsman who displays the proper and respectful attitude in both defeat or victory.
- A "winner" gives 100% all the time.
- A "winner" understands and plays by the rules.
- A "winner" makes maximum effort, continues to learn and improve, and is not stopped by mistakes or fear of mistakes.
- A "winner" honors the Game by respecting (Rules, Opponents, Coaches, Officials, Teammates, Self).

Soccer is a beautiful game because it is a "player's game." And this game can teach so much more than a result. After the next game, let's not be quick to ask our sons or daughters who won, rather, ask them "How did you do? What did you learn? Did you have fun?"

#### **Question of the Week is...**

*What topics have you talked about with your child that focus on developing a winner rather than worrying about the result of a game?*

#### **Quote of the Week is...**

*"Winning the contest makes you a winner in only one phase of life. It's what you do after you win that really counts."*

#### **Value Word of the Week is...LEADERS**

*"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."*

**PLAY.....LEARN.....DREAM.....ACHIEVE.....**