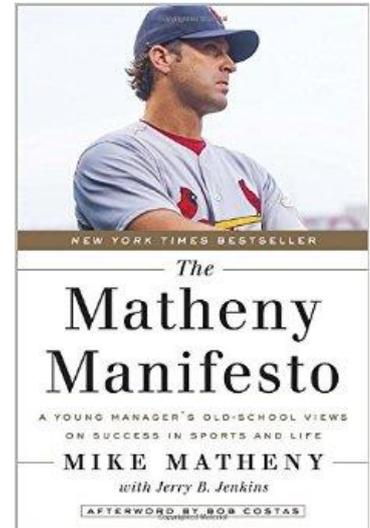


The Matheny Manifesto

A Young Manager's Old-School Views on Success in Sports and Life

by Mike Matheny

<http://mikematheny.com/#manifesto>



NOTABLE QUOTES

- The biggest problem in youth sports is **parents**.
- We will be the **classiest** coaches, players, and parents at every game we play.
- The biggest role a parent can play is to be **silent** source of encouragement.
- Ask most boys what they want their parents to do during a game, they'll say "**Nothing.**"
- We will not have good umpiring. The sooner we **accept** that, the better off we will be.
- Our boys will not be allowed to show any emotion whatsoever toward the **umpire**; no shaking their heads, no pouting, no saying anything. It's not easy, but that's what a classy team does.
- We win together, we lose together, and we refuse to point fingers at one another or the umps.
- What makes a big difference for young athletes is **repetition** – pitching, hitting, fielding.
- **Family** events are much more important than sports events.
- My father taught me that the **coach** is always right – even when he is wrong.
- A shocking shift in the **values** and emotions of parents and coaches that make it nearly impossible for the youth of today to love the game.
- Kids do something voluntarily because they thought they'd enjoy it; they show up, they start to learn, and they get **grief** from the people (parents) they care the most about.
- Parents should **just clap**; it adds more pressure when kids hear their parents yell even encouragement like "You can do this!" It's *not* encouraging; it adds more stress.
- Ask yourself, "Why am I coaching?" More **long-term damage** can be done to kids than to you if you're coaching for the wrong reasons.
- A **transformational coach** is more interested in growing players *beyond* their performance.
- Positive impact on an athlete's development not only can win a game, it can **change a life**.
- Our role as coaches is to build up our players so that they become character-filled leaders who will have an impact on those around them. We should set this as our **primary goal**. When we do, the way we communicate to our players and kids will look very different. Screaming and yelling no longer have a place in our tool kits.
- We're asking our kids to become **dichotomies**: we ask them to be reckless warriors on the field and, at the same time, insist they do it with class. Tough assignment.
- Some call it gamesmanship. I call it **cheating**. Some say, "But if we don't do it, the other team will." So let them cheat. Wouldn't you rather raise an honest child than one who cheats?
- Stooping to the other team's level is not going to happen; we are not going to retaliate. We will maintain our **dignity**.
- **Legacy**: Young people show signs of maturity when they begin to consider what they would like to be remembered for. (*Coaches, too.*)
- **Service leadership**: The leader puts himself at the bottom, in a supporting role, and empowers his subordinates to excel. He loses no power or authority or respect. In fact, his stature is enhanced because he has honored the people entrusted to him.