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# PERSPECTIVES

## ON THE INFLUENCE OF SPORTS IN LAW & LIFE

A new client walked into my office the other day and the first thing he said was, "what's with all the footballs and sports memorabilia in your offices? I thought you guys were lawyers who helped folks with serious injuries?" I immediately gave him the obvious answer, "well we are, but we also represent athletes like Tedy Bruschi and Sean Elliott, my partner Burt lettered in baseball at the U of A, my partner Bob was a Pac 10 referee for 28 years, I head up the Southern Arizona National Football Foundation and we are all very involved in supporting athletics in Tucson."

After my client left the office, I began to ponder why it is that all the lawyers in my office are such sport fanatics; was it coincidence or was there a connection between our love for sports and our passion to excel in the practice of law?

Then it came to me. I remembered a conversation I had with my son Tyler when he came to me at the start of his sophomore year in high school and sheepishly said, "Dad, I don't think I am going to go out for JV football." "Why not?" I asked somewhat in dismay. He had had a stellar year as a Frosh and his older brother Matt made Varsity as a sophomore. "It's too hard" he complained. "Ok, I said, but you are going to do something. If not football, you can run cross country or join the chess team but you aren't just coming home everyday after school and playing Nintendo." He sulked back to his room. A week later, without explanation, he was traipsing off to "two a days" with his older brother.

At the team banquet his senior year Ty received the Glenn Parker Lineman of the Year award from his coaches. That evening, Ty who is a man of few words, privately told me, "Dad, thanks for encouraging me to stick with football. It was one of the best things I ever did."

Now as Ty completes his senior year at the University of Colorado with a job in hand at Raytheon, I see clearly why sports have been such an integral part of my life as well as my family and partners' lives. To play sports well is hard. It takes discipline, sweat and perseverance. It develops skills for leadership, teamwork and problem-solving. It teaches us how to deal with winning and especially losing, setting goals and overcoming obstacles. And through all this we learn the importance of nurturing a positive attitude throughout the competition and whatever the outcome. All of these are attributes critical to success in sports, in the practice of law, and most importantly in the practice of life.

In the coming months, the sports nuts at Kinerk, Beal, Schmidt, Dyer & Sethi look forward to discussing with you a variety of legal and moral issues that face athletes, their parents and coaches. We are thrilled to have this opportunity to be a part of Tucson Sports Magazine, because we believe in the positive influence of sports in our lives and the first class way in which Tucson Sports celebrates this influence in our community.



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