



The EARN Model

The Strong Center gets inquiries each season regarding our player development philosophy. Therefore, we offer the following commentary to share some basic fundamentals to our program.

In today's society, we do so much for our kids to make every experience the best that we can. However, these honest and thoughtful efforts can make our child's accomplishments very easy to come by. The best example of this phenomenon is the "participation trophy" that is provided for each child for being a part of the team irrespective of effort, attendance, and contribution. We feel life yields greater rewards when effort and persistence is expended through "struggle".

"Football doesn't build character, it reveals character." ~ Marv Levy, Former Coach of the Buffalo Bills

Strength grows out of "struggle" and your individual success is based on how well you overcome these "struggles" in life. We believe sports can provide life skills and certainly the necessary "struggle" to prepare ourselves for both academic and sports careers. Each season we witness our participants undergo a struggle to perform in practice, to compete on the field, to secure a position, and to be a contributing member of the team. In every contest, there are winners and losers, but we must endure to play at our best. When these efforts are rewarded by success, there is a heightened satisfaction and accomplishment that make all of the hard work worth the journey.

We believe players **EARN** positions and time on the field:

Effort | We all cannot be great players, but we can all want to be great players and work for it.

Accountability | Every player has a job to do, every down, and every drill.

Right | Do what is right all the time, not just when you think someone is watching.

Nourish | Nourish the concept of team even when you are not on the field of play.

"Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experiences of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, vision cleared, ambition inspired and success achieved." ~ Hellen Keller

Our program works each day to foster this kind of development in our participants by similarly striving to develop our volunteers, coaches, and to strengthen our organization to be the best for our kids. We, as parents, coaches, and volunteers, all had our moments. We will do our best to prepare our young athletes to be successful in middle school, high school, and in college with the basic premise of hard work will lead to success.

"All life demands struggle. Those who have everything given to them become lazy, selfish, and insensitive to the real values of life. The very striving and hard work that we so constantly try to avoid is the major building block in the person we are today." ~Pope Paul VI