



PLC Coach Focus of the Week: Rewards and Corrections

How do we as coaches get across to our players that they are part of a whole and that their actions have an effect on the whole?

Psychologists emphasize the importance of collective rewards and corrections. Notre Dame basketball Coach Muffet McGraw and her team, prior to one championship season, stipulated that if the team failed to hold their opponent to 50 points or less, they would all run laps. They did not say that if an individual member of the team failed to shut down the person whom she was guarding, she would have to run laps. The idea of collective discipline reinforces the notion that everyone must be responsible for the team's success.

- Collective discipline should never be punitive. Many coaches have their teams run wind sprints as a punishment for a lack of hustle or for poor play. When building a team moral community, pain-exacting punishments are not only unnecessary, but are counter-productive.
- The purpose of a correction is to address a breakdown in team discipline and solidarity. The correction must serve a restorative or healing purpose. It must acknowledge that a community breakdown occurred in a particular area and then must provide a way for the community to reassert their expectations for behavior in that area.
- Corrections should come from the team as a whole. The real value of correction is the process of giving attention to the problem **and** the solution together as a team community.



"Failure is simply the opportunity to begin again more intelligently."

~Henry Ford

- Do not reinforce immature moral judgment by trying to control athlete's behavior by threatening your players with punishments or enticing them with bribes for good performance. Mature morality means doing the right thing for the right reason (not out of self-interest or fear).

Play and Coach Like A Champion Today(R)