



As I write this (on Sunday night as usual) it is absolutely pouring rain. The Christmas decorations are down out of our storage area and over the next few days the elves (my wife and daughter mostly) will decorate the place and turn it into a Christmas haven.

Meanwhile, high school soccer season is in full force. Alexa traveled to Bakersfield on Saturday for a 3-game tournament and Austin played four games over two days (Friday and Saturday) in a more local tournament. They are both sore and tired but no worse for wear.

MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR

I absolutely love this time of year. It reminds me of those days when they were younger and I was their rec-league coach - going to tournaments, etc. In many ways I miss being a part of the growth and evolution of a team of young players and wish I had more time to be a part of that today. Alas, duty calls and my coaching today is limited to helping adults make better financial decisions (rather than better ball-distribution and personal effort choices on the field).

By far the best part of the weekend was the game my son played (he goes to Mission College Prep - a private school in San Luis Obispo) against our home town (Atascadero - 15 miles north of SLO) high school. What made it so good was to see all the kids that I had coached over many previous years.

Now I'm a staunch supporter of MCP sports so my allegiance never was in question, but I couldn't help but have a great feeling when an Atascadero player made a great play or showed some extra hustle on the field. It made me proud.

WHY COACHES COACH

Once you have coached a person (big or small), you are invested in their success whether it is now or in the future. It is one of the most rewarding aspects of coaching in general - and a big reason why I have chosen to approach my financial planning practice as a form of coaching rather than being an advisor. Telling people what to do and/or dictating their financial choices is no where near as rewarding as helping them realize successes that they may have never thought possible.

Anybody who has ever been a successful teacher or coach understands exactly where I am coming from on this.

YOU MIGHT WANT TO DITCH THE BIAS

When folks come in to do a Wealth Health Check-Up or any other initial meeting with me, I know that their preconceived bias is that I am going to be like every other financial person they have ever met. They think that all I care about is doing things my way or buying the products that I want to sell them.

That couldn't be further from the truth.

What I care most about is helping folks make better choices so they have a better chance of getting whatever they want in life. That might be to retire and travel ... or it might be to spend more time on missions to South America or Africa ... or it might just be to get out of the Rat Race Trap and make some fine wine that others can enjoy (I've helped them all realize their dreams).

Coaching is Forever

Written by John D. Buerger, CFP® - Last Updated Saturday, 30 April 2011 22:13

Then again, it might just be to coach kids in soccer (or any other sport) and teach the next generation that you can do just about anything you want if you put your mind to it and believe it is possible.

John

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