

You Will Be Humbled

Ready:

Before his downfall a man's heart is proud, but before honor comes humility.—Proverbs 18:12

Set

I think there are two kinds of athletes, the humble and those who will be humbled. While an athlete needs to see the correlation between preparation and achievement, one must acknowledge, “every perfect gift is from above” (James 1:17). This is why coaches may be more nervous coming off a big win than a tough loss. Athletes have a tendency to get an inflated view of themselves.

At one time I invited some young men to play pick-up basketball, including a 16 year old named Jose. One afternoon, Jose threw a shot over my head into the basket. He had never before directly challenged me, much less scored on me. It drew celebration from the others and a cocky taunting from Jose. I was not happy to be scored on by a player 10 years younger and 9 inches shorter, but it was his prideful attitude that was most distasteful. Later, the ball was passed to me with Jose at the basket. As I dunked it, my momentum carried me into Jose knocking him to the floor. This time Jose was the receiver of the jeers. I did not celebrate, but rather shared Proverbs 18:12. I think Jose got the point.

How many times have we asked the Lord for His help, only to turn around and take the credit for success?

Go

1. When others tell you how great you played, are you tempted to take all the credit?
2. After a great play, how can you remain humble?
3. Think of a few prayers you can say while competing, such as: “Lord, receive these cheers as an offering.”

Workout

Psalms 18:27; Proverbs 3:34; John 15:5; Philippians 2:1-11

Overtime

God, give me the confidence I need to compete in my sport, but let it be based on You and

not on myself. Allow Your character and humility to be expressed in me. Amen.

Bible Reference:

James 1



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