

## **Do the Deal, No Matter How You Feel**

### **Ready:**

“Now faith is the reality of what is hoped for, the proof of what is not seen.” -- Hebrews 11:1

### **Set**

After losing every soccer game and almost every basketball game in a season, I learned a lot about perseverance. It's not easy for coaches, whose teams are on a losing streak, to encourage players to compete when they really don't have a chance to win.

Because I live in a “softball” town, most of our best athletes play in leagues rather than for their schools. There were no developmental soccer programs, so it was difficult to be competitive with other schools. Recreational soccer leagues can help develop players, but many never expected that it would work in our town.

Then God began to change things. Our city recreational director announced that the town would start “rec soccer.” Later, one of the athletes was offered a scholarship from a nearby college, despite the losing season. And just when it looked like nothing good would come out of the year, God reminded us that He is always at work for the sake of His people, even when we're not sure what's happening.

By having faith in God and persevering in what we believe He is asking of us, we can watch Him make good of any situation. As one of my friends says, “Don't give up five minutes before the miracle!”

### **Go**

- Do you find that you walk by faith or by sight when facing a difficult season?
- As an athlete or a coach, how have you seen God work out situations for good when it looked as though all was lost?

### **Workout**

[Philippians 3:13-14](#)

[1 Timothy 6:11-12](#)

### **Overtime**

“Thank You, Lord, for teaching me to press on toward the goal of knowing You no matter how I feel. Help me to look for Your miracles! Amen.”



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