

Tom Burgdorf's

Gymnet Sports Learning Library

Team Coaches/Parents

Parents & Coaches/Teachers - The Need To Teach Ambition

I certainly believe in the "take time to smell the roses" which I don't do enough. However, right there with that "be happy with who you are and what you have" has to be "ambition is good." Do our 10 - 18 year olds have the drive to be "ambitious?" Is there something wrong with wanting more?

Throughout my career in gymnastics I saw lots of young people waiting for life to come to them. They are like a homeless person you see on the highway exit who has a sign and is waiting for a car to stop and give them a handout so they can go on for another day. Some would say they are at least ambitious enough to have written a sign and found a place to be seen.

Is it me or are we seeing more and more young people stretching their "dependent" life further than previous generations? 5 - 6 years to get through college. Not deciding on a career until they are in their mid 20's if not later. Waiting for a "sign" from somewhere to get on with their adult life. This is concerning to me.

Ambition gets you up earlier in the morning. Ambition can create exciting times. Ambition can be energizing. The period of your life when you are the most ambitious could be the most fun part of your life.

Are we teaching ambition? Coaches, teachers and parents striving to send the message to the kids "want more and you will get more." A gymnast with a certain amount of potential can achieve 8th place with a little work, 5th place if she is determined and 3rd place if she is ambitious.

One definition of ambition that I found - strong desire for success, achievement, or distinction.

Parents - How ambitious is your child right now? When was the last time you said "Suzie, what are your ambitions?" If you do say that to a child this week and you get back "what is ambition" shame on all of us. Ambition is one of those words that children, young adults and even us need to think about and use more often.

Teachers/Coaches - what are your current ambitions? Not for the kids but for yourself? We don't stop having ambitions, do we? Or maybe we get so busy we forget that we get to have ambitions even when we are 30, 40 50 or 60. Take a moment to rethink your ambitions for the next 10 years. Have a great day.

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