

A Christmas wish list for all youth soccer parents & coaches from Ron Quinn

During this time of joy, excitement, giving and reflection of the year past, I would like to share with you my wish list for the coming year.

- ❖ That youth soccer is viewed as the beginning of a life-time pursuit of physical activity.
- ❖ That adults focus on the player rather than what team they play on.
- ❖ That parents and coaches realize that too many games and too much competition can stunt growth, creativity and enjoyment.
- ❖ That yelling from either sideline is a distraction and actually hinders player performance and development.
- ❖ That FUN and enjoyment become the highest priority and not just winning.
- ❖ That success is more than winning and losing is not failure.
- ❖ That we understand that sport development is a gradual process that occurs over several years. Have we forgotten the race between the Tortoise and the Hare?
- ❖ That soccer is a conceptual game and not one of specific positional roles.
- ❖ That to pursue excellence you must risk losing
- ❖ Early maturing children may only be advanced on one domain – the physical.
- ❖ That we remember the joy and excitement of our own childhood free play.
- ❖ That soccer development is not a job.
- ❖ That a better balance be achieved between the profession business model and a developmentally appropriate educational model.
- ❖ That we realize that good dribbling lays the foundation for good passing.
- ❖ That to maintain the perfect soccer triangle the player, coach, and parent must **not** overshadow or assume another's role.
- ❖ Citing Swen Nater on his Coach, John Wooden: *...stressing fundamentals is not enough. Coach teaches that the purpose of being fundamentally sound is to provide a foundation on which individual creativity and imagination can flourish. It is a false dichotomy to claim that one must either focus on fundamental skills or on higher-order learning and understanding. One rests on the other, and both should be properly taught concurrently from the onset.*
- ❖ That as country singer Billy Dean sings, "Let Them Be Little" takes form.