

Thought & Vision

Seeing the BIG PICTURE

Thought and *vision* are two critical elements in growth, whether it's athletic growth, academic growth, or personal growth. The ability to control your thoughts and vision give you the ability to control your future success.

How do you think about things?

- Do you wake up in the morning and think about what the weather is, or do you think about your frame of mind and how to ensure a positive day?
- Do you turn on the TV without thinking, or do you read a few pages of a book to generate thought?
- Do you think about traffic on the way to school, or your first at bat of the game and how successful you will be?
- Do you think about practicing fielding, hitting, running, or lifting weights to become a better player?

If you “see” your career with the right vision, and you “think about” your actions with the right vision, then your direction will be towards success rather than just “playing ball.” And your direction will be towards “becoming great” not just “being good.”

The following list is an eye opener and a brain opener. I am asking you to read, understand, apply, and become proficient in each of these elements and characteristics of BIG PICTURE.

The big picture is delivering value.

The big picture is having a great attitude every day.

The big picture is believing in what you do.

The big picture is being of service without measuring.

The big picture is building a relationship.

The big picture is thinking long term.

The big picture is making all decisions based on the person you seek to become.

The big picture is having a great reputation.

The big picture is community volunteering and helping.

The big picture is creating family and community value.

How much time do you devote to thinking about the big picture? Can you visualize the big picture? Can you see the big picture? Is it a clear picture? Are you taking action towards the big picture? Are you becoming proficient in the elements of the big picture? Or are you "too busy" to see BIG, because you're all wrapped up in SMALL?

SMALL is striving for a new car, or some other material goal. SMALL is spending your time planning a weekend with friends or worrying about just making good enough grades to play.

I saw a quote the other day that gave me an insightful AHA! Perhaps it will do the same for you. "People think I'm disciplined. It is not discipline. It is devotion. There is a great difference." Luciano Pavarotti, opera singer 1935-2007. It's interesting to me that people in the arts have a huge dedication and devotion to their craft. They love what they do, and they're emotionally driven to perform their personal best every day. And the ones who rise to the top earn a fortune. They have vision of performance way before they perform, they think about their performance way before they execute, and they practice to perfect their skills with a devotion to excel.

Here are a few thoughts that will help your vision and your thinking:

- * If you dedicate more time for perfect practice and your studies, the performance will follow.
- * If you love what you do, the performance will follow.
- * If you help enough people, the performance will follow.
- * If you are the best at what you do, everyone else will follow.

Dedicate time to your self-improvement. Devote yourself to providing value and being your best for your team.