



Try to See the Big Picture, Patience Will Come

By Bill Gosse

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Anticipation of the first pitch, the optimism regarding favorite teams and players, and the smells of tailgating all combine to make baseball's opening day a fantastic experience. Each Major League team starts with a perfect record and fans everywhere are ecstatic.

How long will that last?

The word on sports-talk radio is Ned Yost has a very short leash as the Milwaukee Brewers' manager. Does that dictum come straight from Brewers' General Manager Doug Melvin? No, it comes from impatient Brewers' fans.

Thank goodness former Green Bay Packers President Bob Harlan didn't fire General Manager Ted Thompson after the Packers 4-12 record in Thompson's first year. Thompson never would have gotten the chance to be this year's NFL executive of the year.

Seattle Seahawks coach Mike Holmgren might be a future Hall of Famer. Does everyone recall he led the Packers to three straight 9-7 seasons to start out his coaching pilgrimage? Again, patience was executed.

Its obvious patience can produce some very gratifying results, yet people have no time for it (no joke intended).

This mentality has permeated our youth, even though patience is taught in just about every sport.

Baseball hitters are encouraged to wait for their pitch, while the pitcher simultaneously is trying to strike out the hitter.

Basketball coaches constantly teach their players to let the game come to them, without forcing the action.

Good running backs run fast and hard, but also wait for their blocks to develop.

How is patience initially learned?

Many people believe patience can only come through experience.

My first lesson in patience came from my dad on a day of fishing. Young boys want to catch fish and they want to catch them now. Do you think he simply taught me to sit still?

By explaining to me that holding my line perfectly still made the worm look good to eat, he taught me the value of learning the big picture. Knowing the whole picture makes patience much easier to learn. After that, it was up to me to decide if waiting for a fish to bite was worth it.

I've seen parents of high school freshmen wanting their child to move up right away to the varsity. The coach didn't feel the player was ready, so they transferred to another school. Who was this benefiting – the player's development or the parents' ego?

Tests like this develop patience and the lesson of waiting our turn. Is it a bad thing for an athlete to start out on the freshman team, or junior varsity?

People need to understand we all must be patient and perseverant to make it through times of difficulty. Successful conquest of trials and tribulations in life can make us stronger and more confident, and therefore better off in the long run.

This level of maturity takes time and can't be forced. I'm still learning patience myself.

As parents, we must have some faith in our child's teachers or coaches. Let go of that feeling of entitlement which prevents a clear vision of the big picture.

If we always run from the time of difficulty, aren't we learning to quit and point fingers? Pointing fingers for perceived setbacks will give the feeling of being slighted. How hard will children work then?

If the situation doesn't seem right, try again to see the big picture.

This time of year the big picture requires patience and can determine whether your team is still playing.