

Quality Time

As the pursuit of my advanced degree comes to an end I find myself looking forward to having a little extra time on my hands. I have always considered myself a life-long learner. In that respect what will come next for me from an educational stand point will be more from an informal setting. Essentially I have been in formal graduate school for the past three years and have enjoyed almost every minute of my experience. My difficulties have come from my position as a father to my four children. There have been times when I have had to stay at home pursuing my school work while the rest of my family has went on vacations or attended baseball, softball, soccer, or basketball games and tournaments. From this perspective, my pursuit of a Master's degree has been selfish on my part. It will certainly payoff as a member of my community and for my career. However, my first job has always been as a parent. Finishing my formal education will immediately free up much of my time which will now be spent participating fully in my children's activities. I am very much looking forward to the pursuit and continuation of my informal education as a life-long learner and as a parent.

I have always had very broad interests and have pursued several different hobbies away from my professional corporate career and from coaching. I am looking forward to my pursuits as an avid reader. My exposure to professional teaching and coaching scholarly resources has me looking forward to doing some of my own research in regards to athlete psychological and physiological development. Biomechanics has also been a field where I would like to improve upon my knowledge. I am planning on delving further into the martial arts literature as it contains a great deal of both eastern history and eastern philosophy as well as a great deal of knowledge about the psychology of combat which applies directly to athletic competition. I also like to read simply for fun and am looking forward to picking up some science fiction again. I also enjoy writing and will continue to write articles on coaching for members of my community. I have also compiled several thousand pages of science fiction writings that I would love to continue to develop and put together. I am also an amateur artist who has not had the time to simply draw for quite some time. Surplus time is something I am already very excited about having again.

My professional career has already been jump started by my pursuit of an advanced degree. One of my initial motivations for returning to school was the positive impact that it would have on my career. I have already been put on a formal corporate development path. I am also a part of my General Manager's formal mentoring circle in anticipation and in preparation for advancement up the corporate ladder. I have been afforded the opportunity to work in three separate organizations over the past year and a half. In each instance I have been encouraged to teach and to train my direct reports. In each instance I have been successful. In each instance I have been asked to assume leadership responsibilities that continue to be enhanced by the knowledge that my formal education continues to provide. There is not a day at work where I have not used this knowledge to the benefit of my employees and my organization. From this standpoint, my corporate career goals are currently on the right path. Professionally I would like to work another ten to fifteen years before retiring. Working as a

consultant or independent contractor will always be a possibility at that point but my passion is to return to coaching and instruction full time.

As a life-long member of the youth sports community in central Texas I am looking forward to continuing my coaching, instruction, mentoring, and teaching. The confidence that knowledge has provided me will allow me to become a better resource for members of my community.. The ability to mentor a young athlete or advise a parent on the development of their child is a huge responsibility. The quality of the professional knowledge that I have acquired will allow me to provide a very high level of instruction. My desire is to expand my reach and influence with our youth sports community. This will require substantial investment in networking. My strength has always been in my face to face interactions with both groups of people and with individuals. The real power of technology is in its ability to bring people and knowledge together across space and time. To effect greater change in my community I would like to be able to better utilize technology to network with athletes, coaches, and parents. Developing my own website is a great start but it is only a beginning. My desire is to not only consult directly with individuals but to also put the scholarly resources directly into their own hands so they can make their own judgments. I will continue to grow my library of scholarly resources and will use them, as well as my own growing knowledge, to be of a better service to my family, to my community, and to my professional career.