

# THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



## # 820 Be a Model of Consistency

I often speak about the value of consistency? I'm going to give you two sterling examples of that, both which hammer home the message like almost nothing else. I'm Jerry Roberts, and let's get consistent — really consistent — next, on The Extra Point.

Consistency. What can it do for us? I'm in a group that is studying leadership, through one of John Maxwell's books, and one of the topics we've touched upon is the need for being consistent. Here are the two examples I referred to.

Albert Einstein was part of the team that developed the atomic bomb. He came up with the theory of relativity. However, he said the most amazing mathematical discovery of all time was compound interest.

The concept that wealth grows based on continual reinvestment, over time. The secret to compound interest is...consistency. It never stops growing.

If you know a young person, introduce them to what compound interest can mean for them. How, by gaining the habit of putting aside a small percentage of their income every two weeks, what that might mean in 20, 30, or 40 years. You know what, they can even include cryptocurrencies in that plan, along with stock index funds, and the money can grow tax-deferred. It's never too early to get someone straight on financial planning.

The other example comes from the world of sports. A man named Cal Ripken Jr. played baseball for the Baltimore Orioles in the 1980s and 1990s. Ripken is in the Hall of Fame, but he isn't there because he was the best at hitting, fielding, or any other aspect of the game. He's there because he was consistent.

Ripken played in 2,632 consecutive games, the major league baseball record by a wide

margin. Only one other player passed the 2,000 mark: New York Yankees star Lou Gehrig, with 2,160.

The rarity of that kind of consistency becomes clear when you realize that only five other players in major league history have ever played in more than a thousand consecutive games.

It was September 6, 1995 when Ripken eclipsed Gehrig's record, against the then California Angels. Not only did Ripken break the record for most consecutive games played that night, but his home run in the fourth inning proved to be the winning run.

After the game, Ripken faced the media and was quick to say that his success didn't come from being more talented than everyone else. When asked if he was a superstar, he responded, "Oh, no, I don't think I stack up with the great talents in the league. My advantage is that I know the game well. The reason is that I grew up in it and had a good teacher in my father. I'm sure that whatever I am as a man and as a ballplayer comes from the way I was raised."

Ripken would later say that his streak was born out of simplicity. "Dad always taught me, 'Cal, show up at the ballpark each and every day ready to play, and if the manager believes you are one of the nine guys who can help the team win that day, he will put you in the lineup.'"

Some people say that a successful career can be summed up this way: "Show up everyday, and do your absolute best."

Ripken's consecutive games record was compiled over 16 seasons. That meant he played when his body hurt, when he was mentally down, when he had reasons not to play. He played anyway.

(Con't.)

Of all the records in sports, Cal Ripken Jr. has the one that is least likely to ever be challenged. He will forever be a model for consistency.

Consistency. Make it yours.

That's The Extra Point. Be responsible and make something good happen today. For 93.3 and the Ray Gibson Show, I'm Jerry Roberts.

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