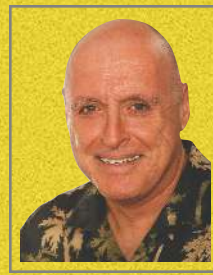


THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



896 The True Nature of Competition and Sportsmanship

Today, a story of competition, and what it can teach us. That's next, on The Extra Point.

In our world today, the prevailing attitude seems to be win at all costs. The ends justify the means. In other words, whatever it takes, fair or not, legal or not, do it. Just don't get caught. As long as nobody ever finds out, it's all good — right?

In 2017, the Houston Astros cheated their way to a World Series championship, using a strategy that electronically stole the signs given from the opposing catcher to the pitcher; then instantly transmitted what kind of pitch was coming by banging on trash cans if it was a curveball or other breaking pitch.

The next year, the Boston Red Sox also cheated on the way to their World Series win. The New England Patriots have broken rules more than once in an effort to gain advantage over their opponents, and have been disciplined for their wrongful activities.

Cheating in politics is rampant, and the majority of Americans are no longer sure of the legitimacy of our elections.

So, it's always good to hear a story of a different mindset. Today's story comes from 1964, and took place during the Winter Olympics, which were held in Austria.

One of the favorite events at the winter games is the two-man bobsled. You may recall that even the island nation of Jamaica had a bobsled team. Why didn't Guam get in on that?

The greatest bobsled driver in the world was Eugenio Monte, from Italy. He had just ended his last run in an incredible time, and there was only one team left to go. It appeared the Italians were going to be the winners.

The final team was from Great Britain, with Tony Nash as the driver. He was highly skilled, but the Italians were preparing to celebrate.

Someone ran up to Monte and congratulated him on his win. Monte said the event wasn't over, as the British still had a chance. Then, he was informed that Nash's sled was broken, and couldn't make the run. Monte could celebrate.

Monte asked the man which part of Nash's sled was broken, and the man told him. Monte was aware that Nash had the exact same sled as his. He went to his sled, quietly detached that part needed, and sent it up to the top of the course, for Nash to use.

Nash attached the part to his sled, took his last run and his time was good enough to win the gold medal. Italy took the silver for their second-place finish.

The English word *compete* comes from the latin word *competo*, which means to strive together. Monte didn't want to win because somebody had an injury, or had a defect in his sled. He wanted it to be his best against Tony Nash's best, and he ended up coming in second best.

Four years later, history records that Monte won the event for Italy. It also records that this story has been told to countless millions in the 57 years since the games in which Eugenio Monte stood up for sportsmanship, and remains an example of excellence today.

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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