

THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



1670 Does it Really Matter if You Work Today?

Have you ever said to yourself, “I don’t want to go to work today” — and then you didn’t? If so, maybe you followed that statement up with another one along the lines of, “It doesn’t matter if I show up. I won’t be missed.” Or “It’s only one day, no big deal.” Or, you went to work but just cruised through the day and didn’t get anything worthwhile done. “Hey, it’s just a day. I can always catch up tomorrow.” I’ve got a story of a guy who, last week, might have had similar thoughts, and his decision didn’t work out so well for anybody. I’m Jerry Roberts and we’ll talk about the issue of showing up ready to work, next on the Extra Point.

Unless you’re a football fan, the name De’Vondre Campbell won’t mean anything to you. Let me tell you a little about his resume.

He’s been in the National Football League for seven years. He played in a Super Bowl with the Atlanta Falcons, the one where the New England Patriots overcame a 28-3 deficit and won the game in overtime.

A linebacker, Campbell joined the Green Bay Packers and was named to the NFL All-Pro team after the 2021 season. He signed a five-year, \$50 million contract while in Green Bay.

The quality of his play fell off, and he posted on social media that the reason for that was Packers had misused him. The Team released him after the 2023 season.

Campbell joined the San Francisco 49ers this season, as the Niners needed a replacement for Dre Greenlaw, their star linebacker who had been injured during last year’s Super Bowl. Campbell started 13 games for the team and while his play wasn’t at an All-Pro level, he was an adequate fill-in. Until last week.

Greenlaw’s rehab was completed, and he would replace Campbell in the lineup against the Los Angeles Rams, in a must-win game. A loss would just about knock San Francisco out of any playoff contention.

Greenlaw played the whole first half of the game, while Campbell was on the bench. In the second half Greenlaw was injured and Campbell was told to play in his place. The seven-year NFL veteran, the former All-Pro linebacker, told his coaches that he didn’t want to play.

His team still had a chance to win, but needed to stop the Ram’s from running the ball, and Campbell refused to enter the game.

Former players and media analysts have come down hard on Campbell for quitting on his team when they needed him most.

The team has suspended him for the final three games of the season, without pay, and it’s doubtful that he’ll ever suit up for another NFL team. Even if he apologizes it won’t matter, because the Niners players have already said that they don’t want him back.

Campbell has had no public comments, and all one can think is that his ego was bruised with being sent to the bench, in favor of Greenlaw. De’Vondre Campbell is now the poster boy for quitters.

I’m a Rams fan and happy for the win. That being said, I’m a sports fan, and someone who played football and baseball. I saw teammates who played hurt because they didn’t want to let the others down.

Do you think your teammates need you to show up today? Do you think if you decide to stay home, that somebody else will have to pick up the slack and have a tougher day than they were planning on?

Will anything or anyone be negatively impacted by your decision to bail out?

Let me be clear. If you’re sick or hurt, you need to take care of yourself and get better. You do that for yourself and your team. (Con’t.)

You don't like your supervisor? That doesn't change your commitment to your team. If you don't do your job it may inconvenience your boss, if that's what you want. However, what will it mean for your coworkers?

I've worked for several managers I didn't care for. I wasn't hired to like my boss. I was hired to deliver a service for an agreed upon rate of compensation. My boss had nothing to do with it.

This is why it's important to develop strong interpersonal connections in your teams. When workers feel responsible to each other, absenteeism is less of a problem.

Every day at work is important. Every day is one more opportunity to prove to your team members that you are a valuable member of the unit.

Somebody is counting on you. Answer the bell, because your team needs you to do it... and because that's the kind of person you are.

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

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