

# THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



## # 1701 The Wonderful World of Teamwork — Part 1

Monday morning, the final two teams yet to lose in the NFL playoffs will square off in the Super Bowl. The Philadelphia Eagles will try to deny the Kansas City Chiefs a third straight championship. Two powerful organizations, and 60 minutes to prove they are the best. This is the first installment of a short series on the subject of teamwork. I'm Jerry Roberts, and we'll kick it off, next on the Extra Point.

Every year, the Super Bowl showcases the pinnacle of teamwork in professional football, where two teams battle for the Lombardi Trophy. While star players often steal the spotlight, it's the collaborative effort of the entire team that ultimately leads to victory.

This dynamic highlights the ups and downs of teamwork in sports, illustrating the importance of every player's contribution.

Star players, such as quarterbacks and wide receivers, are typically celebrated for their game-changing abilities. These athletes are often the faces of their franchises, drawing attention for their spectacular plays and leadership on the field.

For Philadelphia, Jalen Hurts, quarterback; and the electrifying Saquan Barkley, at this point the top running back in the league.

For Kansas City, it's quarterback Patrick Mahomes — already with three Super Bowl wins to his credit, and all three times was voted the game's most valuable player.

The talents of these three can turn the tide of a game at any moment, making them crucial to their team's success.

However, this focus on individual stardom can overshadow the equally vital roles played by less heralded teammates.

Lesser-known players, such as offensive linemen, defensive backs, and special teams members, play critical roles that enable star players to shine.

Mahomes wouldn't be so effective if not for a very good offensive line that protects him. Barkley wouldn't be able to rip off huge yardage if not for what is arguably the best line in the NFL. Without these unsung heroes, many star players would struggle to perform. Their contributions may not be celebrated with touchdowns or highlight reels, but they are essential for the team's overall success.

Then you have the reserves, the guys who get on the field for fewer plays. Something they do, good or bad, can have a profound impact on the outcome of a game.

The contrast between star players and their lesser-known counterparts underscores the complexity of teamwork. While the stars often receive accolades and are certainly paid more, it's essential to recognize that their success is made possible by their teammates.

And, of course, you need a coaching staff that knows how to knit the various personalities together, blending egos and getting it all to work.

Then, you need all of these elements to come together and result in everybody wanting to win; not for just themselves, but for each other.

I've seen what happens when people begin to understand what teamwork is, how sacrifice fits into the equation, and why — when it's good — it's one of the best feelings you'll ever have.

In my youth I was a reserve on a championship baseball team, becoming a starter on the same team the next year when we won again. My third baseball championship was here in the Guam Major League, where once again I was an occasional player.

I was a "starter" with three market-leading media companies, and now I'm privileged to have a small role on two more, The Guam Daily Post and here on The Point. I've seen teamwork that makes a difference. (Con't.)

It's the same in organizations throughout our island. We may have a star player, perhaps a few, then good players, then others who put in the work everyday to support them, and finally the ones who don't get much attention.

Sometimes, someone in that group steps up and surprises us.

Think about your team at work. Do you have stars who are widely recognized for their ability to make "big plays?"

Do you recognize the unsung heroes who put in the effort to give the stars the opportunity to win?

Do you talk about teamwork in personal terms, and take time to understand the people on your roster?

Whatever winning means in your line of work, do you want to win as much for them, as you want it for yourself?

We'll talk more about teamwork tomorrow.

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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