



WHAT IS SUCCESS?

By Chad Eberhardt

As a golf course coach, you need to be committed to developing a successful program.

Before we take a look at the gradual processes by which successful programs are built, we need to take a time-out and try to define success.

Definitions of success vary.

Noah Webster defined success as “the termination or result of any affair, whether happy or unhappy; the issue; more especially, a favorable or prosperous termination of anything attempted.”

The way I've always used it, “success” has to do with accomplishment, not status symbols. My own definition is based upon attempting to be “successful,” not to be “a success.”

Striving to be “successful” brings along with it not only material success, but satisfaction and happiness.

Perhaps the finest definition of success comes from the most successful basketball coach of all time, John R. Wooden.

Success is a peace of mind
which is a direct result of
Self-satisfaction in knowing you
did your best to become the
Best you are capable of becoming.

Not only did Coach Wooden define success, he also developed “The Pyramid of Success.”

After becoming familiar with the pyramid, I'm convinced that it can be a blueprint for anyone to build from.

At the cornerstones of the Wooden Pyramid are **industriousness** and **enthusiasm**. There's no substitute for work. And to work hard at something you must enjoy it.

In the base, between the cornerstones, are **friendship**, **cooperation**, and **loyalty**. These three attributes are all similar and show the importance of united effort to form a strong base on which to build.

The anchor blocks of the second tier of the pyramid are **self-control** and **intentness**. A loss of self control will result in everything falling. You must keep your emotions under control! In order to function properly, you must remain intent about what you are doing.

Alertness and **initiative** are on the second tier. You must constantly be alive and alert and looking for ways to improve. Coupled with this, you must be able to take the initiative to act alone and make a decision.

At the heart of the pyramid is **condition**. You cannot maintain and attain physical condition unless you are morally and mentally conditioned. Coach Wooden believed that team condition depended on hard work on the basketball floor during practice and good behavior off the court. Proper condition can only be attained by working on both.

At the very center is **skill**. Skill is the knowledge and the ability to quickly and properly execute the fundamentals. You need to be able to react instinctively.

Team spirit is another important block at the heart of the structure. This is an eagerness to sacrifice personal glory for the welfare of the group as a whole. It's togetherness and consideration for others. The team comes first.

Poise and **confidence** will come from condition, skill, and team spirit. To have poise and be truly confident you must be in condition, know you're fundamentally sound, and possess the proper team attitude. You must be prepared and know that you are prepared.

Near the pinnacle must be **competitive greatness**. And this can't be attained without poise and confidence.

Every block is built upon the other. One will not succeed without the other, and when all are in place, you are on the road toward success.

The Pyramid of Success is tied together with a number of other qualities. You tie them together with properly focused **ambition**.

You must be **adaptable** to work with others and meet the challenge of different situations. And you must display **resourcefulness** because in almost every situation good judgement is necessary.

Fight gives you the ability to do it and not be afraid of a tough battle. **Faith** must go alongside with fight because it is important that you believe in your objective. And you can't have faith without prayer.

Patience must be strong because you can't expect too much too soon.

Then comes **reliability**, **integrity**, **honesty**, and **sincerity**.

All these tie the blocks together into a solid structure.

Our time-out is over.

It's time to put the blueprint to use in our sport of golf course management. You can build toward a success that is based on your own personal set of goals, not those of someone else.

Go get 'em ... Coach! 🌿

