

Why should I even read books, dad?

By reading extracurricular books my child you will not learn to play football, but you will learn to come back to a state of mental and emotional balance when you are not playing and you are hurt, embarrassed or frustrated. You will not learn how to dribble on the field, but you will learn to maneuver your way of thinking so that you are not one-sided or predictable. You will not learn to control the ball. But you will learn to control yourself; to gain self-control, discipline, a winning mentality.

You will not learn to strike the ball, but you will learn to strike the bad thoughts, the negative people out of your life. You will not learn to spin the ball or do tricks with it, but you will learn about people's spins and tricks; their passions, their obsessions, their whims, their phobias, their jealousies, their hidden strategies and tactics. You will not train in the physical condition by reading. But you will train in the non-physical: to face the chaos, to face the unpredictable, to stand up when everything around you is falling apart. You will not learn how to score goals by reading, but you will learn how to set goals and also how to deal with the goals you score so as not to become arrogant, imaginative, egocentric.

You will not learn to defeat your opponents; you will learn not to lose to them. You will learn to beat yourself, you will learn that victory and defeat is just one page of your book which every day invites you to read new pages and taste other victories and other defeats each time with greater readiness. It will not make you a hero in the match, but it will ex-



pand the range of heroes you choose. It will teach you about heroes you do not see, about heroes you consciously ignore, about antiheroes you would like to look like.

How will reading teach you all this? It will make you live in different conditions with different personalities. It will teach you to recognize emotions, impulses, deadlocks, dilemmas, successes and failures in the pages of books. Like yours. It will teach you to collect and adopt alternative ways of deciding, acting, or reacting. It will teach you to express these ways in their subtle shades that make all the difference, because what is not expressed in the right way, remains incomplete for you and imperfect for everyone else.

And remember something my son: the weapons and supplies that reading gives you in your spare time are unique and cannot be given to you by any gaming console, which usually enchants and absorbs you. No game on any console tells you how the hero you use feels or how his feelings change, or how the heroes you do not choose as protagonists feel. No virtual athlete is disappointed when you do not choose him to play with, no virtual athlete is mentally injured, nor does he rebel, nor does he swear.

No virtual athlete's psychology sinks when he is substituted, when new transfers come into the team to threaten his place and role there. No fan can break the virtual athlete's psychology when insulting, cursing, or threatening him. This game my child, this virtual console game, will not teach you how real people think, feel and behave. If you want to learn this, you have to play on another field.

Reading, son, is like a shadow: some find it scary, others relax thanks to it, and yet others feel taller because of it. In any case however, there's no shadow without light!

The goalposts of the stadiums of our life

There are different types of goalposts:

Goalposts whose torn nets hold precious memories of triumphs or nightmarish moments of humiliation for teams and players.

Goalposts that are used as a hidden message against violence, injustice, and oppression - like those of the stadiums in the 1978 World Cup in Argentina, painted in black as a hidden mourning against Videla's junta.

Goalposts that launched or stopped careers, that doubled down professionals, that comforted amateurs.

There are goalposts that admired and applauded goals they received - goals destined to go down in history, goals that dominate football debates over time: like Fan Basten's goal against Dasaev at the 1988 Euro, like Maradona's second goal against England at the 1986 World Cup.

But there are also goalposts ashamed of goals they conceded - fake, colorless, funny, unfair goals. Goals destined to be forgotten, despite having determined an outcome.



There are also goalposts without nets; deserted, decommissioned, incomplete. Goalposts that define the limit but cannot produce this wonderful, rich and deep sound of the ball when it stretches the nets after the goal.

There are abandoned, rusty, ramshackle goalposts, remnants of another era or indisputable witnesses of human indifference and sloppiness.

There are makeshift goalposts made of metal, aluminum, stone, jackets, shoes, school bags. Goalposts that nurtured childhood dreams, that built children's hopes, that accompanied children's pastimes.

There are goalposts that have injured, hurt or even killed due to human criminal negligence, goalposts that have supported the despair of the player after the fatal goal that condemned the team to defeat.

There are also some goalposts that engage in aggressive marketing to be adored by the heart of a child, being transformed from an actual goalpost, to a bar for exercise, or even to a makeshift swing to express carefreeness.

But all these goalposts have a common denominator: they remind you that you need to FOCUS to achieve your goal; FOCUS on good practices, on the right training method, on the right way of thinking, on specific stimuli each time.

Whoever FOCUSES, gathers his attention, his strength, his energy and succeeds because he knows what he is looking for and where to look to find it.

If you do NOT FOCUS, there is no goal, unless it comes from pure luck, from a tragic mistake of the opponent; but then it does not really belong to you and what does not really belong somewhere, tends to leave at the first opportunity and rarely comes back!

When you want to find out how devoted one is to his goal,
see what he does in his free time
