



THE BLUE FAMILY TREE

Newsletter article March, 2019

You've got a big game today. The kickoff of spring season has arrived. Ya, the first few weeks may still be a little chilly, but the competition is ready and expecting you. They hope you are less prepared than they are.

Get up. Shake off the cob webs and sharpen those skills. In the game every second counts, and each and every decision could make the difference at the final buzzer. Get yourself a good hot breakfast, and stretch out those muscles. You're an athlete dammit. Visualize your role and how your opponent might move today. Get your mind psyched. As the game moves closer, do some light exercises to raise that heart rate. Now learn to control it. Bring it up, and quickly back down. Bring it up again, expand your field of vision so you can see the entire playing field and all your options. Where can you go if you need to? Where can your opponent go, and how can you cut off his route? Where's your help? Visualizing before the game adds to success on the field. Find any coach anywhere who will tell you different.

We need to see our jobs as a competitive sport, only with slightly different consequences....
Rules of the game:

- 1) Team Blue must always adhere to all rules set forth in the numerous game rule books titled "The US Constitution", "State Statute", "Case Law", and "Agency Policy".
- 2) Team Bad Guys (BG) are not required to adhere to any rules of engagement and may utilize any method of deceit and attack they choose at any time, to include when Team Blue has called a time out.
- 3) If Team Blue scores a point, there will be an automatic video review and all officials on the field will be closely scrutinized. If Team BG scores a point, a member of Team Blue will be removed from the game, either through termination of employment, or death, dependent upon the circumstances.
- 4) Team BG and its supporters may participate in sideline heckling and badgering with no penalty even if it incites a response from Team Blue. Team Blue can never respond and must maintain an image of complete neutrality to their opponents, and the game score, or receive a penalty.
- 5) Team BG will forever be on offense and Team Blue on defense.

Even with these one-sided rules, we go out and win everyday because we are better prepared, better trained, and far more committed to winning than Team BG. When we do lose though, we lose hard, as cited in the rules above. And typically it is the resolve, or commitment, of our opponent that leads to our demise. They still aren't better prepared, or better trained, but they are absolutely committed to winning. They WILL NOT go back to jail. So far in 2019, this has been how three points have been scored on us. Our men were better than theirs, but theirs were willing to die to avoid earthly consequence. That's a matchup that is tough to beat.

Go into those matchups where you know you're securing someones liberty with your S&W bracelets, and you know they know you intend to do that as well, with a great deal of tactical awareness, preparation, and mental imaging to shorten those critical decision moments. Never hesitate to act in matters of importance to yourself.

We will win. Never doubt that. But the stakes are too high to allow ourselves to get scored on even once. Spring is here, and it's game time.