



JIM HARSHAW JR

Revealing Failure as the Path to Success

Success Through Failure Podcast

Action Plan Episode #111

John McKissick

In 1952, Harry S. Truman was president, a new show premiered on NBC called The Today Show and Coach John McKissick was named head football coach of Summerville High School in Summerville, SC. He was 25 years old and just finished a stint with the 82nd Airborne. Sixty-three years later, he retired from the same school. He carried just a few accolades including the winningest football coach of ALL TIME at ANY LEVEL. He won 621 games in 63 seasons, won 10 state championships and had just TWO losing seasons.

What was the secret to Coach McKissick's long and successful tenure? Find out in this week's episode of Success Through Failure.

Quotes

"I think discipline promotes winning."

"They would tell me all the time 'You were fair and your discipline was strict but it made a better man out of me.'"

"Jealousy is the worst thing that can happen to anybody in school work."

"Do it right, do it light, do it wrong, do it long."

About Deciding on Rules with the Athletes

"I always had the rules but I would let them decide. At the first day, I'd get on the blackboard and say, 'All right now, we're going to put some rules we're going by.' So I would put no smoking. 'Do you all agree with that? If you don't, I'll erase it out.' Of

course, they would all agree. No drinking, no smoking, no staying out late, no getting into trouble, stay polite to the teachers and it all worked out for me."

About How to be the Best Coach

"Well, I would say be yourself. Don't try to copy Vincent Lombardi or Bill O'Brien. Just be who you're and be consistent, and you can tell you right quick if the administration's going to back you. And most administration will have your back if you work hard and you do what's right. Sometimes, you'll find an administrator that's jealous of the programs. A lot of the teachers at the school where you work don't really understand, they think football practice is playtime and that we aren't working."

About Knowledge Being Infinite

"You'll never learn everything you need to know. I've done 63 years and I still think there's a lot of things out there I needed to know. But you never will learn it all."

Action Plan

"Be yourself, don't try to be somebody else. If you're yourself and do what you believe, then the kids will catch on, they'll know and that's about all I can say about that."

Recommended Books

John McKissick: Called to Coach

<https://www.amazon.com/John-McKissick-Called-Coach/dp/0915611880>