



JIM HARSHAW JR.

Revealing Failure as the Path to Success

Success Through Failure Podcast

Action Plan Episode #136

Mike Lightfoot

How to have it all with someone who's been there.

Today I bring you, Coach Mike Lightfoot. Mike is a retired college basketball coach known for his career at Bethel College, an NAIA school in Indiana. He was the fastest winning coach in college basketball history. He reached the 300, 400, and 500 win plateau faster than any other coach. He was inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame while he was still coaching in 2009. Today, he helps an organization called Nations of Coaches whose mission is to "build complete champions that achieve a higher level of play."

Quotes

"I think that when you look at life, you want to try to do something that you don't have any regrets."

"My setbacks that i had as a young coach with no success at a high school level, finally allowed me to grow into success at a college level."

"The secret to success is not being able to be just successful by yourself. The success should be based on how much we can impact other people's lives see those live successful."

About the Purpose of Coaching Coaches

"One of the things that had to happen is you have to have people believe in you as an athlete. So Nation of Coaches really comes along and tries to help believe in themselves. And also help the coach to the point where he can incorporate confidence in what he's doing in a broken and altered culture where there's a lot of darkness and dirt. If we can get the coach right, we know that the players are going to be right."

About Balancing Priorities for Success

"One of the things I failed at was balance. Success creates a monster and for those that had been successful in athletics - I'm talking to young people out there right now that had been successful in athletics - their identity and their priorities kind of focus in on themselves because they've had success and accolades. So it's like, 'Look what I've done, what I've accomplished.' Probably the biggest thing for me was getting wrapped up in success to the point where the success creates a fakeness or a phoniness you don't realize. Some of the things that are happening around you, you're just creating a monster of success. With that, I became driven to want more success. I think that there's been so many time in life where you look back and think, 'Boy, my priorities weren't always on the right plane. I was probably thinking more about my next step or my next win or my next game rather than thinking about how i needed to do a great job at being a dad.'"

About Delegation

"I think the tendency of all successful leaders is to monopolize everything that's going on. I had to learn to be more patient, I had to do a better job at teaching my staff and going over those things. My expectations had to be very, very clear. And I also had learned a very, very valuable lesson, that my way doesn't have to be the only way. They're other ways to skin a cat, there's other ways to be able to communicate, there's other ways to be able to be successful."

About Doing More for Other People

We're at a crisis point in this country. I think we have a leader shortage. We have a lot of people out there that don't understand what leadership really is. They don't have a mentor or anybody that's going to give them advice and direction. And so we need leaders to step up. To your listeners that have had success, my challenge to them is if you are a successful basketball player in junior and high school and you're listening right now, what are you doing for the elementary kids that idolize you? If you're a business man in the community and you see people that are struggling, how are you going to lift them up and make their life better? As a coach, how can impact lives that's going to do something that's going to be something for the entire lifetime?"

Action Item

"Put priority on your time. We only get so much of time each and every day. What are you doing with that? I think you have to be able to spend time in areas like your physical, spiritual and your mental. So i think you've got to spend time doing those things every day. You've got to train your mind, your faith and your body. I don't care

if you're 18 or 75. You've got to work out. You've got to get better at being physical. You need to continue to build endurance there. If i would go back and talk to people that have been very successful, I find a recurring thing and that is they read a lot. The third one is finding people to talk to that's going to insight and direct vision. Know your why. Why do you do what you do? The action point we should do every morning is if we have a why and a purpose, then we just focus our day on achieving those things and not think about anything else."

Recommended Book

Lead...For God's Sake! by Todd Gongwer

<https://www.amazon.com/Lead-Gods-Sake-Parable-Leadership/dp/1414370563>

Lincoln on Leadership by Donald T. Phillips

<https://www.amazon.com/Lincoln-Leadership-Executive-Strategies-Tough/dp/0446394599>

Episodes Referred

Dan Tudor: <http://jimharshawjr.com/83/>

Website and Social

Email: milightfoot@nationsofcoaches.com

Twitter: https://twitter.com/Coach_Lightfoot