



JIM HARSHAW, JR.

Clarity of Action. Peace of Mind.

Success Through Failure Podcast

Action Plan Episode #409

Mike Candrea

Attention all coaches, sports enthusiasts, leaders, and dreamers of greatness! In this episode of the [Success Through Failure podcast](#), we unlock the winning secrets of the legendary softball coach, Mike Candrea.

Step into the dugout of inspiration as we dissect the genius behind the University of Arizona softball team and discover what it takes to conquer the game and life itself.

Coach Candrea's career is a grand slam of accomplishments, boasting 23 trips to the Women's College World Series in his tenure, eight national championships and an astonishing 1,633 wins— making him the winningest coach in NCAA softball history.

But behind these impressive statistics are stories of determination, relentless pursuit of excellence, and success through failure.

Join me and Coach Candrea as we explore the mindset and strategies that propelled him to unparalleled success. From his innovative coaching techniques to his unwavering commitment to his athletes, he shares the invaluable lessons learned from both triumphs and setbacks.

Get ready for an unforgettable conversation with a true coaching icon. Hit play now!

Top Quotes From This Episode

"Being able to motivate yourself and maintain your focus and your presence each and every day is really what makes the average kid become a great player."

"You've got to have a way to handle failure, so you have to have a plan because it's going to happen."

"You have to coach the person first before you can coach the athlete."

"What you do is more powerful than what you say."

"You need to realize that there's going to be bigger games that you're going to have to play when you get into life."

Show Notes

This episode touches on the following key topics and ideas:

- **Share this episode! (3:30):** Share the podcast on social media by tagging me and using the hashtag #STFpod:
 - a. **Facebook:** [@jimharshawjr](#)
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 - d. **LinkedIn:** [Jim Harshaw, Jr.](#)

- **From baseball to softball (3:51):** How Olympian George Young inspired Mike to pursue a career in softball coaching.

- **What it takes to be an elite performer (5:50):**
 - The ability to handle failure
 - Be a good teammate

- **The necessary behaviors successful athletes have (7:16):**
 - Having a positive frame of mind
 - Keeping their minds in the present moment
 - Putting themselves in the Olympic arena before they got there
 - Practicing positive self-talk
 - Practicing failure recovery

- **What makes an elite team according to an elite coach (15:25):**
 - Surrounding yourself with people who have the same goals and aspirations as you
 - Recruiting athletes with high character, who are willing to make others better and can handle controversies
 - Teammates who hold each other accountable
 - Teammates who understand the importance of being a family, a strong team, and fostering a positive culture.

- **How to handle failure for coaches (18:45):**
 - Coaches need to be a "person of character"
 - Coaches should be consistent
 - Coaches need to bring emotional stability to their players

- Coaches' primary responsibility is to build relationships that are going to last a lifetime
- **The foundation (22:28):** Mike excels as a coach by being "a good people person."
- **Redefining success (23:23):** As a coach, Mike teaches his players to "*never make the moment bigger than life.*"
- **Life's teaching moments (28:35):** How life taught Mike to enjoy every moment.

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Other Episodes Referenced

[#390 Turning Setbacks into Comebacks: An Interview with Olympic Gold Medalist Leah Amico](#)

[#176 Finding Your Place in the World: From Rock Bottom to World Champion with J'den Cox](#)

[#399 Inside the Mind of a Champion: Hall of Fame Coach Sherri Coale's Winning Strategies On and Off the Court](#)

Guest Website and Social

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