



CLUB DEVELOPMENT

usaswimming.org

Dear Coach,

1. Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act. Webinar information.
2. Do you have a story?
3. Richard Quick information and update.
4. A Story from John Leonard to share.
5. How big will you dare to be? A story sent in from Jeff Rout

=====

On Jan 13th 2009 from 1:00 to 2:00 PM EST Athletic Business will sponsor a FREE webinar concerning the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and spa Safety Act. The subject of the webinar will be main drain facility compliance, inspections and legal issues. The presenters will be:

- Scott Wolfson Deputy Director of Public Affairs – CPSC (Consumer Product Safety Commission)
- Shawn DeRosa – Attorney – DeRosa Aquatic Consulting

Register at <http://www.athleticbusiness.com/webinars>

=====

Do you have a story to share?

Every month, USA Swimming features a grassroots story in its newsletter. The USA Swimming newsletter is a monthly digital update that goes out to parents, swimmers, and officials. The articles highlight a team, coach, or swimmer who is doing something exceptional in the swimming community.

Recently, we featured stories on youth who collect swimming equipment for disadvantaged youth, a teenage immigrant who started a learn-to-swim program for Sudanese refugees, and a team that holds an annual fundraiser for the Ronald McDonald House.

If your team or one of your swimmers has done something exceptional within your community, we want to recognize your team within the swimming community! Email Erin Greene at egreene@usaswimming.org to have your team featured in the USA Swimming Newsletter. If you do not receive this newsletter, click [here](#) to sign up.

=====

Auburn swim coach Richard Quick is diagnosed with brain tumor

Posted by [Charles Goldberg, Birmingham News](#) December 30, 2008 2:34 PM

[Birmingham News](#) December 30, 2008 2:34 PM

Categories: [Swimming](#)



Richard Quick

Auburn swim coach Richard Quick has been diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor. Quick, who has won 12 NCAA titles and served as Olympic coach six times and is a legendary name in his sport, recently learned of the diagnosis.

Quick's 12 NCAA titles match former Auburn swim coach David Marsh's total. Quick, 65, replaced Marsh at Auburn before last year's swim season.

Quick was also Auburn's swim coach from 1978-82.

Quick won seven NCAA titles at Stanford and five at Texas.

The site below is a site established by Richard and his family, where they will post updates regarding Richard's progress. There are over 3700 post's at this time.

<http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/richardquick>

=====

Something to share with your kids and parents.....

Donald Jenson was struck in the head by a thrown bat while umpiring a Little League game in Terre Haute, Indiana. He continued to work the game, but later that evening was placed in a hospital for observation by a doctor. While there, Jenson wrote the following letter.

Dear Little League Parent:

I am an umpire. I don't do it for a living, but on Saturdays and Sundays for fun. I played the game, coached it and watched it. But somehow, nothing takes the place of umpiring. Maybe it's because I feel

that deep down, I'm providing a fair chance for all the kids to play the game without disagreements and arguments.

With all the fun I've had, there is still something that bothers me about my job ... Some of you folks don't understand why I'm there. Some of you think I'm there to exert authority over your son or daughter. For that reason, you often yell at me when I make a mistake, or encourage your son or daughter to say things that hurt my feelings. How many of you really understand that I try to be perfect? I try not to make a mistake. I don't want your child to feel that he got a bad deal from an umpire.

Yet no matter how hard I try, I can't be perfect. I counted the number of calls I made in a six inning game today. The total number of decisions, whether on balls or strikes or safes or outs was 146. I tried my best to get them all right, but I'm sure I missed some. When I figured out my percentage on paper, I could have missed eight calls today and still got about 95 percent of the calls right! In most occupations that percentage would be considered excellent. In school that grade would receive an "A" for sure.

But your demands are higher than that. Let me tell you more about my game today. There was one real close call that ended the game. A runner for the home team was trying to steal home on a passed ball. The catcher chased the ball down and threw it to the pitcher covering the plate. The pitcher made the tag and I called the runner out. As I was getting my equipment to leave, I overheard one of the parents comments: "It's too bad the kids have to lose because of rotten umpires. That was one of the lousiest calls I've ever seen." Later at the concession stand a couple of kids were telling their friends, "Boy, the umpires were lousy today; they lost the game for us."

The purpose of Little League is to teach baseball skills to young people. Obviously, a team that does not play well in a given game, yet is given the opportunity to blame that loss on an umpire for one call or two, is being given the chance to take all responsibility for the loss from its shoulders.

A parent or Adult leader who permits the young player to blame his or her failures on an umpire, regardless of the quality of that umpire, is doing the worst kind of injustice to that youngster. Rather than learning responsibility, such an attitude fosters an improper outlook towards the ideals of the game itself. The irresponsibility is bound to carry over to future years.

As I sit here writing this letter, I am no longer as upset as I was this afternoon. I wanted to quit umpiring. but fortunately, my wife reminded me of another situation that occurred last week. I was behind the plate umpiring for a pitcher who pantomimed his displeasure at any call or borderline pitch that wasn't in his team's favor. One could sense that he wanted the crowd to realize that he was a fine, talented player who was doing his best to get along and that I was the villain working against him.

The kid proceeded in this vein for two innings, while at the same time also yelling at his own players who dared to make a mistake. For two innings the Manager watched this and when the boy returned to the dugout to bat in the top of the third, the manager called him aside.

In a loud enough voice that I was able to overhear, the lecture went like this, "Listen, son, it's time you made a decision. You can be an umpire, or an actor, or a pitcher. But you can be only one at a time when you are playing for me. Right now it's your job to pitch and you are basically doing a lousy job. Leave the acting to the actors and the umpiring to the umpires. Now what's it going to be?"

The kid chose the pitching route and went on to win the game. When the game was over, the kid followed me to my car. Fighting his hardest to keep back the tears, he apologized for his actions and thanked me for umpiring his game. He said he had learned a lesson that he would never forget.

I cannot help but wonder; how many fine young men are missing their chance to develop into outstanding ballplayers because their parents encourage them to spend time umpiring, rather than working harder to play the game as it should be played.

The following morning, Donald Jenson died of a brain concussion....

=====

How Big Will You Dare to Be?

By Carol Ross

See <http://www.carolrossandassociates.com> for more information.

Most people are bigger than they know. Our society celebrates superstars and searches for the next American Idol. Yet in our everyday lives, the ones that involve going to the grocery store on a Wednesday night after work, lest there be a mutiny at home at the dinner table, there is little of that “bigness business.” Others know when “your stuff”, the stuff that only you can do or make or be, is good, really good. But tooting your own horn, saying how good or big you can be and stepping into it is not dinner table conversation.

There is a voice in my mind that screams out firmly, “Don’t be arrogant! Don’t get too big for your britches!” It is the voice of my family of origin, my immigrant parents, Asian through and through, wanting to fit into a white society. My father died when I was 13 years old. Many years later, when I was in my thirties, I was cleaning out a desk at my family’s home. There, I found a stack of letters that my older sister had received from my father, after she had gotten married and moved away. He wrote, “Carol is sticking out like a sore thumb. She got the highest grade point average in her 8th grade class.” It was the first time I had ever heard that my father was proud of me. I could see that he was uncomfortable with me not “fitting in”, yet he also wanted to tell someone how proud he was of me. He chose to tell my sister and not me. I suspect that he also had a Gremlin about recognizing his children’s achievements in front of them, that that would only lead to “big heads” and arrogance.

The irony is that recognizing one’s achievements, one’s greatness in whatever one’s area of excellence, doesn’t lead to arrogance. It leads to more greatness and more gratitude. Arrogance doesn’t come from thinking of yourself as Big. It comes from thinking of others as Small. Once you get over that, there’s plenty of room for everyone to be Big.

Humility means a lot to me. So how can you be Big and humble at the same time? When I’m being Big, it’s not actually about me. It’s about using my gifts in service to others. It’s about being “in the flow,” where everything is effortless. Somewhere in me, there is something pushing me forward to share more of myself with the world. This is Bigness at its best. I know what needs to be shared. Not my list of errands or gripes about medical insurance. What needs to be shared is what only I am uniquely wired to give. A friend told me that I have the rare combination of being brazen and compassionate at the same time. I am analytical and intuitive in the same breath. I bridge the male and female worlds with my engineering mind and my eyes that see what people yearn for.

I realize that when I let myself be Big, I let my clients be Big as well. When I keep myself Small, others are held back as well. This is leadership by example.

A friend warned me that when I move into the land of Bigness, I must be willing to stand alone at times. Bigness does not mean that everyone will like you. Bigness means that you like yourself. Fully. By the same token, Bigness draws people to you that are collaborators, creators in a like-minded way,

and supporters. You become surrounded by people who love you, even as those who don't care for your message fall away. When I stepped into a more truthful and vulnerable place in my monthly newsletter, I got the highest number of "unsubscribe" messages ever. And I received countless messages from supporters, loving what I had to say and the way I said it.

Someone asked me what happened in the journey from being out of alignment in my values with the company that I worked for two years ago to having my own company today. I grinned and said, "I'm much Bigger now than I ever thought I could be." He was puzzled by my words. So I stood up and spread my arms wide and shouted, "I get to be THIS BIG." I then went on to talk about how a company's expectations of me, unspoken or written down in a policy manual of what was appropriate and not appropriate, no longer applied. I'm not linked to anyone else's performance review of me. What matters is my own conscience and the results that I produce for my clients. I create what I want in the world, with who I want.

Holy cow. Can you imagine what the world would be like if everyone realized they could be Bigger, if they realized that doing more of what they do best would be a gift not only to themselves but to everyone else around them? Some people might have visions of egos run amuck. In reality, it would be greatness shining brightly, showing the way for even more people to take a step into the unknown space of who they really are.

How big will you dare to be?

=====

The material in this e-mail is provided for educational and informational purposes only and does not constitute a recommendation or endorsement with respect to any company or product. One of the objectives of the USA Swimming Coach's Blast e-mails is to make coaches aware of potential resources available.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: USA Swimming reminds all member organizations and coaches that you are responsible for complying with applicable copyright laws regarding publication and distribution of printed materials, including internet content.

If you have any concerns about whether material you seek to reprint is covered by copyright law, we encourage you to contact the author and obtain permission or otherwise seek appropriate counsel regarding the use of the materials.

Peter C. Clark
Sport Development Consultant
USA Swimming
719-866-3561 (direct line)
719-330-0743 (cell)

Check out USA Swimming's new Club Recognition program. Follow the blueprint to develop a strong, stable, financially sound and athletically productive organization. See www.usaswimming.org/ClubRecognition