Ryan Dixon

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3D Final

I interviewed Mike Thomas. Mike is the director of the Tiger Youth Junior football league. Our conversation was a very good and detailed discussion on his program and how they operate. As stated from their mission statement it is clear that they are using the 3 dimensional approach to coaching. “Tiger Junior Football is a developmental league designed to teach our West Des Moines youth the fundamentals and fun of football, while promoting character, fair play and respect for the game. Tiger Junior Football will not tolerate discrimination or prejudice based on race, color, national origin, gender, disability, religion, creed, age, sexual orientation, gender identity or socioeconomic status. We aspire to build teamwork with all who participate for unity toward common goals.” Their mission statement clearly identifies the 3rd dimension by talking about character development, values, and self-worth.

Throughout the conversation it was clear from Mike that there is more that goes into his program than just the X’s and O’s. He truly believes in raising young men and really getting into the 2nd and 3rd dimensions. He has many requirements for continuing education with his coaches and that creates an atmosphere that produces a positive learning environment.

If I were to make one adjustment to the program is that I didn’t hear a lot about parent involvement and making them feel a part of the program. I would love to see a preseason and postseason round up with the parents and keep them involved in the program. Throughout 3D we have seen many strategies to keep parents involved and working with the coaches to continue to move the program forward by increasing the 2nd and 3rd dimensions.

Overall, I truly believe that Mike Thomas is running a program that 3D would approve of. From my talks with Mike I can affirm that he is upholding coaches to the highest standards, and that falls down to the players to be the best athletes and individuals that they can be.