



A HIGHER GOAL

BY JULIE CALDWELL | CEISPORTS.ORG

Whether it's a new year or a new season, it's not uncommon to consider setting goals. As a hitter, maybe you are shooting for a particular batting average. Maybe you are aiming to keep your ERA below a specific number as a pitcher. Or as a team, maybe you are desiring to win a championship.

While setting goals on WHAT you and your team would like to accomplish can be beneficial, considering WHO you and your team would like to become this year can reap even greater benefits. For example, what if you desired to become more like Jesus as a coach or athlete? After all, it is one of God's desires for you: "*... God knew them in advance, and he decided in advance that they would be **conformed to the image of his Son...***" (Romans 8:29, CEB).

Whether you are setting an athletic goal or wanting to become more like Jesus, don't forget: it is not the nature of what you do, but the origin of what you do. You see, rather than accomplishing these through self-effort, Christ followers rely on the empowering Presence of the Holy Spirit—the One Who lives in us.

Remember, Christ follower, WHO you are becoming is just as important—if not more important—than WHAT you accomplish!

EXTRA INNINGS

Jesus is loving, forgiving, kind, compassionate, humble, gentle, patient, full of joy, good, passionate, controlled by the Spirit, honoring. He serves, sacrifices, gives His all, edifies, speaks truth in love...and so much more!!

- 1) As a coach or athlete, ask God to show you what Jesus-like character trait(s) He would like to develop IN you this season.
- 2) As God speaks to your heart, share what He reveals with someone else who can ask you throughout the season how God has been at work developing His likeness in you.
- 3) Draw upon the Holy Spirit's empowering Presence as you cooperate with Him in being conformed into the image of Jesus.



Catch more sports devotionals at ceisports.org.