

MORE THAN A GAME: LIFE LESSONS FROM PHILADELPHIA'S SPORTS COMMUNITIES

Anyone who has sat at the "Vet," watched a pick-up game, or played catch in the yard, knows that sports is more than a game in Philadelphia – it's a commitment to hard work, a belief in community values, and a tradition of never giving up. Told through the personal experiences of professional athletes, community leaders, and everyday players, More Than A Game captures how sports build character and communities with each hit of the ball, catch of a touchdown pass, or dunk of the basketball. Among those featured are Carlos Ruiz, Chris Pronger, Sonny Hill, Angelo Cataldi, Leonard Weaver, Rita Sloan Green, Rubén Amaro, Jr., Joe Banner, Alyson Goodner, Gary Cobb, Jim Ellis, Michael Nutter, Nicholas Bradley, Edward Rendell, and Rami Ibrahim.

EXCERPTS FROM MORE THAN A GAME:

Playing in the World Series was something very special to me. I will always cherish catching the final ball in the World Series. I waited with a lot of anxiety. I knew that with one more pitch, we were the World Champions and what would happen after would be incredible. . . I can't explain to you how it feels. I know that it is something that will always be in my heart, something that will give me more desire to work.

Carlos Ruiz, Philadelphia Phillies

I think that's common experience of football, the struggle, the fight. You're talking about a 4th and 1 situation. So many people out there deal with a 4th and 1 situation in their life, whether it's paying that last bill on time or whether it's in their marriage fighting each other. It's that struggle I think everybody gravitates to, that they can see.

Leonard Weaver, Philadelphia Eagles

[Jim Ellis] acknowledged the fact that in the future we were all going to have different types of issues and some were going to be harder than others, and that what he could give us more than anything was this attitude of "no excuses," that you can rely on your teammates, and that when adversity comes, the best you can do is look it in the eye and say, "Okay, bring it."

Alyson Goodner, PDR Swimming

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