

1/24/13
exciting
another
XLVII
Hey, it's ~~great~~ to look forward to ~~another~~ Super Bowl, especially with the 49ers appearing in their sixth Super Bowl. Some are favoring the Niners, ~~especially~~ since they have been there five times and never lost....Of course I am happy our 'local' team will be in that much coveted contest and I'm rooting for them to win. But, on second thought, I also wonder if our society places a bit too much emphasis on winning. I remember the olden days when a coach ~~might~~ would say, "It's not whether you win or lose, but how you play the game." I doubt that ~~would~~ would roll trippingly off the tongue of most coaches today.

Is it any
It seems today a "win at all costs" motto has come into play. ~~It is therefore no surprise that steroid use has become rampant among major sports figures, like baseball players, giving them a distinct advantage over those who play without them.~~ While the steroids enhance performance and make it more likely you and your team will win: what's the cost? Honesty, integrity, personal health? I once heard a person argue that steroids should be legal and who cares? Well, for one thing, it would no longer be ~~the~~ ^{the} contest ~~would~~ ^{decide} who was the better player or athlete, but who had the better drug dealer.

~~Or, take for another instance~~ ^{the example} the former 7 time Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong.

bike race
Armstrong was an exceptional bicyclist, and he won the world's most difficult and prestigious event... after vanquishing cancer. ~~For~~ ^{For} many years, rumors and suspicions were met with Armstrong's vociferous denials and counter accusations, even counter suits. Now that the truth is out, it seems in his prime Armstrong was swimming in cocktails of illegal and banned substances, and forcing his teammates to imbibe as well. Could he have won without the drugs? We'll never know; but maybe he would have been better off to stay away from the banned substances and finish second or third, or tenth. There's nothing wrong with being second best in the world, or third, or tenth for that matter. Now, instead of 7 yellow jerseys, he has enough lawsuits to make America's lawyers drool ...Even if he had not gotten caught, he would have had to live a lie—psychologists call that sociopathy; theologians call it sin. also a sin

There is something rather odd about the fact that if Armstrong had finished second or third for 7 years in a row, at the Tour de France, he would be seen by sports fans a 'loser.' And losers are not glorified, glamorized and given millions of reward dollars. What is beneath this strange compulsion to win at all costs—with the winner takes all and everyone else... ~~getting~~ ^{getting} little or nothing? Perhaps Lance has no one to blame but himself. Or perhaps Lance is just the hero we get when we live by ~~the motto~~ ^{the motto}: "It's not how you play the game, but whether you win or lose that counts."

My conclusion:

Winning at all costs is a primitive and base principle, ~~by which to live~~ not far from the will to dominate and conquer that leads to wars and violence. So when Super Bowl XLVII rolls onto the screen Sunday after next I'll be rooting for... a good contest, I hope.

This has been Dan Price for community comment