

Dear Colleagues:

Last Sunday in the New York Times there was a thoughtful article arguing for ramping up the teaching of Plato to athletes. Mark Edmundson. The author called for a more thoughtful and sound philosophy of educating the body and the spirit than we currently possess. While I agree deeper is usually better, I felt that Mr. Edmundson went too far in stating that there “are no college programs (and none in the pros) that explore the relationship between playing a game and developing the spirit.”

Let me cite one of my all-time favorite press interviews. In an session with the San Francisco Chronicle, Coach Jim Harbaugh was asked after practice about the hardest hit he ever took. After a bit the coach rattled off that: “I got some scars. Sometime I'll have you over for a barbecue and I'll strip my sleeves and show my scars. I usually do it about once a year for my neighbors. Feast my neighbors and talk about days gone by. But today's not the day. You will be included for the yearly barbecue.” The reported thought he was rambling. But if your favorite passage of Shakespeare is the Saint Crispin's Day speech from Henry V, then you would see beyond or perhaps deeper into his thoughts.

It is a sign that coaches and advocates for a culture balanced with activity are usually deeper than folks give them credit for. In fact it could be said that success rarely comes without that balance. In college basketball we have John Wooden who always preached to his players about reading good books. In the NBA we have Phil Jackson who would actually buy them the books as he extolled the virtues of understanding philosophy. The all-time winningest college coach was John Gagliardi (489–138–11). He had a daily drill where players laid on the grass, stared at the sky and contemplated how that day was a great day.

A more compelling argument could be made for ramping up physical activity in philosophy classrooms.

THE CONFERENCE...I have finalized the agenda for the October 3rd/4th conference and feel that it will be well worth the investment of your time. This week I lost a presentor and filled that spot with Scott Klungseth of South Dakota. Scott seems to be a force of nature when it comes to impacting his school and community. I was also pleased to add Trey Leech of UNI to our lineup. In a subsequent correspondence Trey wrote of his interest to “be more involved in IAHPERD” and along with Rip getting UNI more involved with IAHPERD! This, as a UNI grad, is music to my ears.

GRANDVIEW...My goal is to recruit 20 students from Grandview to attend the Ames convention.

AHA...Just received a letter reviewing income for JRH income. The total was \$23,053,049. I will allow Margret share the news on Iowa's effort at convention.

DSMove... In all my free time I am planning two major events in Des Moines on September 14th and 28th. If you are within 30 minutes of Des Moines and willing to help; please contact me. As always I need all the help I can get.