

# Heart of a Coach – June 2013



**Name:** Bruce Held

**Hometown:** Hinton, Iowa

**Alma Mater:** Northwestern College – Orange City

**Degree(s):** BA in Education

**List your chosen attribute:**

Perseverance

**What is your personal definition of this word?**

Having the fortitude to continue on no matter what the circumstances. Never giving up. Never losing sight of your goal. Enduring what life throws at you and knowing that through the love of Jesus Christ, all things are possible.

**What are some of your favorite quotes from other people about this word?**

“Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up.” — Thomas A. Edison

“Once you learn to quit, it becomes a habit” — Vince Lombardi Jr.

“Perseverance is not a long race: It is many short races, one after another – Walter Elliot

**What is your favorite Biblical passage that deals with this characteristic?**

Hebrews 12:1-3 New International Version (NIV)

**12** Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, <sup>2</sup> fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup> Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

**Why did you choose that particular passage?**

Life has many ups and downs, successes and failures. You can't get too high when things are good, and you can't get too low when things don't go your way. Being able to persevere is essential if you want to achieve your lifetime goals. It's not the destination that makes your life sweet, it's the journey.

**Please give an application/example of this word in your life.**

I have been a high school football coach for 34 years. My goal since year one has been to win a state championship at my home high school. I have coached many very good teams, and some that weren't so good. To have that goal of a state championship every year for 34 years takes some perseverance. We have never achieved that goal yet, but we are continually motivated to keep trying, and we are enjoying the journey!

**How do you apply this word in your sport?**

I have coached many players over the years who have faced some big-time struggles in their lives. Many of them had to persevere through many days when they could have just given up – poor grades, injuries, family tragedies, etc. My role as coach was to be there to support them in any way I could and to encourage them to fight the good fight, not to give in, and to complete the journey.

**How did you become involved in FCA?**

I was asked to speak at one of our local meetings by our Huddle leader, Doug Lacey, one morning, and I started attending on a regular basis after that. I also joined a coaches Bible study in Sioux City that met once a week, after being invited to attend by Ken Casey.

**How active within FCA were/are you?**

I had never attended an FCA event until just a few years ago. I am very active now, and help lead our local Huddle with 3 other gentlemen. We have pre-game FCA Huddles before all home football games, and I lead those or line up speakers to lead our devotional time before games.

**What is your athletic experience? (Where?)**

I played 4 sports in high school, at Hinton. I went to Northwestern College on a football and basketball scholarship. I was blessed to be able to play for some great hall of fame football coaches in Larry Korver and Mel Tjeerdsma. Many seeds of faith were planted by these men, and I am very thankful that they were men of great faith, and lived that way.

**What is your coaching experience? (Where?)**

My only teaching and coaching job has been at my home high school, Hinton. I have been a football coach for 34 years, 30 of those years as a co-head coach with my best friend, Steve Diediker, also a man of great faith and character. I have also been the head boys golf coach for 20 seasons, and spent 29 years in the boys basketball program, 18 as a head coach. I was also the high school athletic director for 21 years. It's been true privilege to be a coach and work with so many great kids and parents for all these years.