



# SCRIMMAGE!

*Student-Athlete  
Edition*

THE CHOOSING SUCCESS EVERY DAY ISSUE

## Choosing Success Every Day

### Ask *Why* Before You Ask *How*

One simple way to gain more control over your life is to ask the correct questions at the correct times. Everything that you do in your life has at least two basic parts to it. One part is the reason for you to do it and the other part is how you can do it. You must first discover whether or not you should do something and then ask yourself why you want to do it. If you determine that it is important, then you should learn the best way to complete it. Simply put, you should ask “why” questions before you ask “how” questions.

Asking “why” questions is central to determining whether what you are about to do is worth doing. In short, you are addressing the key human motivational question “Is it worth it?”. Your success in leading yourself and others depends on your ability to understand and work with the “why” questions. To increase your effectiveness you should make sure your priorities and actions revolve around improvement. Examine your choices, priorities, and dreams to help make decisions that will impact your teammates and help you achieve your goals and dreams.

This may sound like common sense. But many student-athletes aren’t yet very skilled at making optimal decisions on some of life’s key questions—whether the issue is simple or complex. However, as you mature you’ll find yourself not only desiring to make more choices but presented daily with opportunities to make decisions that affect you and your teammates.

Asking “why” questions can save you a lot of time, energy, headaches and heartaches. We generally respond either impulsively or with great thought before we exert physical, intellectual, emotional or social energy. Perhaps the first rule about success every day is that you always determine whether what you are about to do is worth doing.

The “why” questions are so important because they are the first questions successful people ask to focus their actions. If you want to experience more success on a daily basis take time to thoughtfully respond to the concerns and consequences posed by the “why” questions.

Answering the question “Why?” helps you by planting seeds that:

- Guide you in clarifying your objectives.**
- Push you to think of alternatives.**
- Challenge you to see a different perspective.**
- Increase your productivity.**
- Force you to think about the consequences of your actions.**

Studies have shown that by taking as little as ten minutes each day to carefully craft your priorities you’ll improve the likelihood of your success. Here is a process for you to use as a tool for maximizing your success every day.

#### Daily Leadership Action Steps

**Focus on priorities.** As you encounter your daily calendar your challenge is to clarify your objectives and do those things that are going to help you as a student, as an athlete, and as a team leader.

**Implement something every day.** Each day provides you an opportunity to produce results. What are you going to do and why? Results matter.

**Reflect on what happens/results.** To learn from experience you must reflect on what happens. When you detach yourself—as best possible—from an experience you are able to make better sense of daily actions, events, and incidents.

**Seek feedback and support.** Learning from experience requires feedback from coaches, teammates and your self.

**Transfer learning.** A skilled learner will find ways to transfer learning from one context to another. Start by looking for opportunities to use your new skills and knowledge.