

‘... Agassi: success story, 2017’

There on my TV screen in the MCG crowd at the 2016 AFL football finals I did see that icon of sport, tennis legend Andre Agassi as the guest of the AFL hierarchy.

Readers please allow me to part recycle an article I wrote in 2004 citing the great man in the context of first dreaming about where you want to end up in sport, then, the pursuit of that success. I am sure Western Bulldogs captain, writing about the dream before the grand final, could relate to what Agassi said given the Doggies went on a week later to win the AFL premiership grand final.

I like what I read about Agassi this week (2004) where he was quoted as saying ‘...I came here, to the Grand Slam Open, with the belief I can win – my motivation is the fact that if I can play my best tennis, can I still win it and I need to be able to answer with a yes.’

How good is that bloke! Bowlers, take note.

And again I read on about Agassi on the subject of dreams and the pursuit of such. And here is where we the coaches must be the true believers for the players (bowlers) as our doubt will deprive the player of the prospect of fulfillment of those dreams.

So the MAN said ‘...any dream by definition is a long way off. You need to rewind back from the dream, to now, to be able to understand what it is you want to accomplish, look at yourself and honestly see where you currently are; then you have to set up a plan that keeps you focused on a million small steps that need happen that continually build that momentum for your (sporting) life – so you set your plan and work your plan. And your plan should include a lot of little daily victories...long live dreams.’

How good is THIS bloke! Now that’s Agassi, greatness, the stuff of legend.

So if you have any sniff of sincerity about what you want to achieve, forego the barflys and ‘wouldhavebeens’ and ‘wannabees’ and seek out the role models in sport to set your sights against.

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And as we know and accept, very very few of us have the raw talent of an Agassi, but we ALL have the capacity to do the best with what is given to us.

So if I were to hear you talk about goals, dreams, aspirations, would I be able to hear that you, like Agassi, has this wonderful list of a squillion daily victories to reach your goal, or, are you another one of those ‘...want to win type still not committed to planning and preparing to achieve your dream type’.

Oh, for the dreamers, you need believers, supporters, committed experts as part of your dream team. And the coach has a pivotal role in the dreamer’s goal and ultimate fulfillment. Ask Agassi how much he values Darren Cahill, his coach.

And you know why the dreamer should have the coach along for the journey? Because the coach should also be a dreamer for his / her own goals.

Lachlan Tighe, 2017