



The Maturing General

TALKING BASEBALL AND LIFE WITH ASU'S PAT MURPHY

Too often in sports, the more success a player or coach achieves the bigger the ego grows. With Arizona State head coach Pat Murphy, the exact opposite is the case. Despite leading the Sun Devils to a top 12 ranking seven times in the past 12 years, despite being the youngest collegiate coach to reach 500 victories and despite the fact that he is on pace to become the NCAA leader in career wins before he turns 65, Murphy remains a humble, down-to-earth, self-described "street kid from Syracuse." The truly great ones continue to learn from their mistakes and hone their craft until the day they stop coaching. Judged by that criteria, Arizona State Coach Pat Murphy is already a first ballot Hall of Famer.

Murphy

ATEC: When you look back on the 2008 season, were you happy with the way things turned out?

PM: Well, we had 15 players drafted in the MLB First-Year Player Draft and two in the first round. Would we have liked to have won the whole thing? Absolutely. But that's why you play the games. We finished 9th in the country and were disappointed. That's pretty amazing. Especially with the parity in college baseball right now. The days of one program having a huge advantage over another in recruiting because of their facilities or tradition are long gone. It's a great credit to our program that we've been able to play at such a high level for so long.

ATEC: While other coaches spend all their time recruiting can't miss prospects, you like to go after the diamonds in the rough. Why is that?

PM: So many of the top tier prospects come into college with high expectations and a heightened view of who they are as baseball players. They feel entitled. Well, the opposite of entitlement is gratefulness and we like to recruit kids that are grateful. Dustin Pedroia started in the All-Star Game and he went undrafted out of high school. I'm proud that we take kids that are not drafted and get them to start to believe in their abilities. To me, that's what it's all about. Everyone wants the red Life Saver. But you know the orange one is pretty tasty too.

ATEC: How has your coaching style evolved?

PM: Emotions were so big when I first started. Emotions ran the show. And sometimes I let mine get away from me. That just can't happen anymore. But it's not an easy thing to do. You can't just switch your emotions on and off. But as the years have passed, my emotions have played a lesser role in my coaching. After awhile, your planning, preparation and strategy take center stage.

ATEC: What's been your biggest accomplishment in life?

PM: Without a doubt it's being a single parent to my 7-year-old son Kai.

ATEC: Has being a single parent helped your coaching?

PM: Absolutely. It's taught me to be a much better coach. It's taught me that I can do things I didn't think I was capable of doing. And it's made me realize to think about what I say to my players. It made me realize that every kid I coach is somebody's Kai and that perspective changes everything.

ATEC: Does that mean you're getting softer?

PM: I wouldn't say I'm softer. If anything, I'm a better competitor because now I understand how to use my resources and get more out of our student-athletes.

ATEC: When it's all said and done, how do you want to be remembered?

PM: I want people to say that I gave everything I had. Look, I was a street kid who was given the opportunity to work in baseball. With the Foundation we have set up where we help over 100 families every year teaching life skills, and through the work I do with our student-athletes, I hope people will say that I gave everything I had to the game and to help others.



Power Streak

Throws every pitch you can imagine. **And some you can't.**

Coaching Tip #27

Coney Island Slider

You can tell your player is feeling cocky at the plate if he's looking in the stands to see if the scouts are watching.

To dial him in:

1. Start him low and away
2. Get his attention with a high and tight 60mph fastball
3. Buckle his knees with the Coney Island Slider

That's the thing about the Power Streak from Atec—with 270 degrees of head rotation and our innovative Zinc Plated C-Arm, you can easily and accurately throw any 60mph pitch you can imagine. **And some you can't.**

www.atecsports.com



Official Training Equipment of Major League Baseball®