

Essay Contest



Creative Arts Competition



ESSAY

Third Place (tie)
Jack Regnery

St. Mark's Episcopal School, Grade 8

Robert Frost's poem, "The Road Not Taken." "Two roads diverged in a wood, and I - I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference." This line reminded me of when I was tasked with making an ethical decision in a lacrosse game. The question echoed in my head, "What is more important, winning the game or telling the truth?" This dilemma, in total, impacted my life because it taught me that being honest and doing the right thing is more important than winning a game.

It is the fourth quarter, and my team is trailing by one point with little time remaining. The ball is thrown to me, but I drop it. The ball rolls out of bounds and the referee gusts his whistle and says, "Blue ball!" This means it would be my team's ball, however that was wrong. I had mixed emotions about this decision. My coach called a timeout and we all ran into the huddle to discuss our next move. In this instance, I was faced with two options, keep quiet and let my team keep the ball or speak up and talk to the referee. I was conflicted as to what decision I should make.

I still was unsure what to do. Should I tell the truth or stay quiet? Telling my coach the referee made a wrong call, he told me the choice was mine. I thought about everything I had been taught at St. Mark's, about the honor code. FCA, the morals that I should have and uphold about becoming and being a great man. My family, all the things my parents told me about telling the truth and never lying. Near the end of the timeout, I had a conversation with the referee and confessed that I had touched the ball. The referee patted me on the back and told me I had made the right decision. The other team ran the other way with the ball and began to waste time. I was watching all of this from the other side of the field, helpless.

The game finally ended with us trailing the opponent by one point. We had lost the championship game and came in second place. After the game, my coaches came up and congratulated me on making the right decision. Both my parents also complimented me on my maturity and were satisfied with the choice I made. I, myself, was also very glad that I told the truth because my conscious and state of mind were both clean. The overall outcome was better that I told the truth rather than lying.

Although my team lost the tournament, I learned what mattered and why. Morals were more important than winning a small lacrosse game. The lacrosse game will not be remembered later in life. However, the decision I made will stick with me for a long time and taught me that telling the truth always has a positive outcome.

