



Angus Stakes

► by *Shauna Rose Hermel*, editor

Persistence and determination

"Nothing in the world can take the place of Persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and Determination alone are omnipotent. The slogan "Press On" has solved and will always solve the problems of the human race."

— *Calvin Coolidge (1872–1933)*

Lifetime culmination

Whether it's a horse and rider giving it their all to the wire, a football player taking an incredible hit to not be denied six points or a skater fighting back from a fall to deliver a perfect performance, seeing that persistence and determination in such a dramatic setting is almost intoxicating. It's a display of action beyond the common, a vision of greatness, an example of what we aspire to give of ourselves. (For me, I think it pulls at the heartstrings because it brings us in our humanness a little closer to the all-sacrificing mind-set of Christ.)

But we can't lose sight of the fact that persistence and determination are not defined in one play. Persistence and determination are lifetime characteristics. Performance in a game is the culmination of years of practice, honing one's skills and personal sacrifice. Even Christ's crucifixion was not a one-day event. His walk among

men was part of the sacrifice, and tests of faith He bore alone.

Calvin Coolidge did not issue the quote above as a rousing speech during his campaign or within the years of his U.S. presidency. Rather, this quote was presented in 1932, during the heart of the Great Depression, to agents of the New York Life Insurance Co., for which Coolidge was a director.

A champion of the middle-class in one of the hardest of economic times, Coolidge reminds us that to succeed, we have to keep at it. We have to "press on."

The defining moment of a sports hero's life may not be the one seen by thousands under the lights. It may be the moment he or she decided to practice another hour. It may be the moment he or she decided to keep playing. It may be the moment he or she enabled someone else to play.

Keep us in line

Thanks to all those who filled out the readership survey inserted behind page 336 in the September *Angus Journal* or the online version at www.apisurvey.uark.edu. Your input will help us shape the future of the publication.

For those who haven't taken the survey, your opinion does matter to us. In less time than it takes to carve a pumpkin for Halloween or wait for the highlight clip you want to see on ESPN, you can provide input to keep your *Angus Journal* staff on track in providing the information you want and need.

By filling out the survey before Nov. 20, you'll be eligible to enter a drawing for \$2,500 in prizes — including two \$500 cash prizes, Angus clothing and other assorted Angus merchandise. See the survey for more details.

Catch it online

Check out the National Angus Conference & Tour (NAC&T) schedule at www.nationalangusconference.com. Made possible through the sponsorship of Purina Mills LLC and Alpharma Animal Health, the event site currently features hotel information, directions, the conference schedule, speaker bios and overviews of the tour stops.

Visit the site after the conference for photo galleries of the tours and summaries of the presentations, along with PowerPoint, audios and proceedings as they are available.

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