



Angus Stakes

► by *Shauna Rose Hermel*, editor

Persistence pays

One of the core elements of success needs a public relations campaign. While the mantras “rise to meet the challenge,” “be your best,” “go for the gold” and “you have the power” are more glamorous calls to glory, the simple call to “persist” is often overlooked and undervalued.

A fundamental for success

Persistence. It’s sweaty. It’s dirty. It’s tired. It’s raw. It’s also rare.

The pressure to be the best is sometimes so high that it prevents us from succeeding. In today’s world, there’s no room for failure. You can’t flunk a test or you’ll ruin your grade point average (GPA), which will mean you can’t go to the school you want. You can’t just be in an organization, you have to be the leader. You can’t just be on the basketball team, you have to be team captain.

There’s nothing wrong with being a 4.0 student or the National Honor Society president. They are great achievements. But, we make a tremendous error in teaching our young men and women that if they don’t make the starting lineup, being on the team is a waste of time.

One of my favorite motivational stories is about Abraham Lincoln. His business failed in 1831. He ran a failed campaign for the state senate in 1832. Another business failed in 1833. He had a nervous breakdown in 1836. He was defeated in 1843 and 1846 when he ran for Congress, in 1855 and 1859

when he ran for the Senate, and in 1856 when he ran for vice president. Then, in 1860, he was elected the 16th president of the United States, and the rest is history. Few men have made such a mark on the history of a nation.

As Successories® encapsulates it: “The difference between history’s boldest accomplishments and its most staggering failures is often, simply, the diligent will to persevere.”

Set for the future

Often those who had it the easiest in high school have the hardest time adjusting to college. The core reason: They haven’t learned to persist — to work through something that doesn’t come naturally in order to achieve the desired outcome.

But working through failure sets us up for greater success. I think God uses our failures to instill in us the tools, the skills and the mind-set to succeed at future tasks for which success is more important. For me, faith is the motivation for persistence. Looking back in life, I know what seemed at the time to be

my biggest failures turned out to be the exercises that helped me deal with something bigger later.

Summer will soon be upon us, and with it comes a flurry of junior Angus activities. Don’t let the fear of standing last in class prevent you from taking part in the showing. Don’t let the fear of stuttering and stammering prevent you from giving a speech. Don’t let the fear of not knowing what to say stop you from introducing yourself to the people in your junior organization. We’ve all been there sometime.

Remember, you can stand dead last in class or in a competition and still have the most successful day if you use your experience to learn. Learn to improve your skills. Learn to improve yourself as a person. Learn empathy for others who experience the same type of “defeat.” And, have faith that your day is coming.

With patience, practice, perseverance and a lot of faith, you will find success.

www.bifconference.com

If you didn’t get a chance to go to the Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) annual meeting, visit www.bifconference.com for online coverage of the event.

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