A Cultural Binary Observation

Description

Last month, I was engaged in a serial posting â€œThe Ratchet and the Governor â€“ Tools for Todayâ€• and Part III discussed how our model of sports could help us see a manner in which we could fight the war on terror.

I attended another even a few nights back and the next day I realized something I have been around my entire life, yet it didnâ€™t strike me as consciously as it has now, particularly in light of the political divisions, and it is tied in to sports, too.

I have never been one to watch sports much. I have played and competed in several, and even donâ€™t prefer to sit and watch any of those, unless itâ€™s a last resort type situation. You have to watch the Super Bowl, because itâ€™s the Super Bowl, but other than that, I might, while channel surfing (which I donâ€™t watch much TV, either), stop and watch downhill skiing. I think Iâ€™m attracted by the speed and adrenaline factor here.

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This leads into sitting in an indoor setting, with maybe 15,000 fans. While there are great things to emulate from the experience, it also (to me) clearly points out our differences. Many there are very knowledgeable about the rules and the play, but, Iâ€™d venture wouldnâ€™t dare to put on skates and pads to take up a hockey stick and get slammed into the boards.

Soâ€¦.they are relegated to observing the game. Completing this experience, many, sitting at higher angles, with a completely different, and much uncluttered view of the rink, are wont to yell out the â€œright wayâ€• things should be done. Iâ€™d be willing to bet, many of these people have never played hockey, or any sport at a professional level.

In any case, I feel inclined, on this end of the binary scale to place these sorts of people and call them â€œspectators.â€•

These â€œspectatorsâ€• are the media reporters, demonstrators, politicians, and people on the sidewalks, and all seem to â€œknowâ€• the war is not being fought right, and is, at best, a questionable adventure at best.

The other category are those who have managed to understand there is more to life than sitting on the sidelines and offering uneducated advice. These are the competitors. Itâ€™s easy to recognize them. They are wearing a uniforms and are in, near, over, or supporting the War on Terror.

I know, itâ€™s fairly apparent that we are becoming so clearly split into these two categories. I would note, however, the number in each category is markedly out of balance, with the spectators far outnumbering the competitors. This is the point of contention, made more striking by many who have come to believe that â€œself-esteemâ€• is not just about feeling good about your self, but means you can tell everyone around you how to do things to suit you, so you can feel good. Huge difference in the two issues. One side if self satisfaction, the other is blatant selfishness, of which we have way too much

of.

If we can correct the balance, and make it more equitable for getting into the future, it requires more people step up to the plate, and become competitors, which in turn requires a total attitude change and acceptance of a teamwork mentality, and that of the need to sacrifice some personal comfort, so others may also enjoy life. Required, also, is the need to submit to the leadership and wisdom of the coach, knowing they are in that position because of the very reason they have more experience, hand in hand with responsibility as well.

How to do that? Simply put (SU)^{3}.

Teddy Roosevelt had much to say on this topic in at least two speeches, one of which I posted here, the other the one where the oft used quote about itâ€™s the man in the arena trying greatly and failing greatlyâ€¦..

Ok, I feel better now, having brought out a subconscious pattern into my conscious world view.

Category

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1. Geo-Political
2. Leadership
3. Military
4. Political
5. Supporting the Troops

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