

Duey Evans

Coaching Philosophy

My coaching philosophy is a reflection of my core values and strongly-held beliefs. It is also a reflection of my experiences and personal search for self truth and excellence.

Beliefs

- I have spent more time deliberately pursuing relevant education in my field than most
- My highest priority is to grow people and set them on a path to expert performance
- I want optimize my current systems and methodologies. At the same time, I want to be a part of creating the inevitable changes within my fields of endeavor which will make my current ways of doing things obsolete
- High Performance (HP) is initially the accurate placement of priorities and resources
- I have chosen to place my HP Training at the masthead of my resume
- Competition is a key ingredient to developing a champion
- Without the necessary education from experts, parents are forced to make uneducated decisions
- Constant change and struggle are necessary to become a successful HP player
- Tennis is a simple game played by complicated people
- If 'it' is not good enough to win matches at Grand Slams, than 'it' needs work
- No performance on a tennis court is ever entirely good, nor is it ever entirely poor. The coach's message should always include both
- Most who claim to be looking for High Performance are actually seeking Immediate Upgraded Performance
- Good is, more often than not, an obstacle to Great
- Less is often more

Values

- Give naked truth. It always beats quibbling
- Parents are the best arbiter of what is best for their child
- Do not provide daycare masquerading as Junior Development.
- Refuse to be 'everything to all people.' My coaching style provides results and I want to work with people who seek my expertise and guidance

Philosophy

My goal is to provide a structured environment where “we don’t keep a player from making it to the US Open”. I am working to create a system where players and staff alike operate in their learning zone more often than their comfort zone. I also want to work in a cooperative environment where growth is rewarded through expanded opportunities and responsibilities.

I believe we must educate parents about the importance of development over winning. Parents must also be aware of, and understand, developmental stages, biological vs. chronological age, biomechanics, technical and tactical development. Where different types of competition fall into development is individual in nature and should be continuously discussed within the Player/Parent/Coach relationship

I believe in the Games Approach to learning. Providing Competitive Situational Practice has been a key to my success for almost two decades. It is my effort to use this approach as much as possible in group settings as the primary means for providing direct feedback to players which enables them to self actualize their learning.

I believe technique is best taught in individual instruction. I spend a significant amount of my time on the lesson court teaching technical aspects of balls striking, footwork, and decision making. However, I do not believe there is a single correct technique and do not subscribe to a narrowly defined teaching methodology.

It is impossible to become good at coaching without developing emotional attachments to players. The reality is players almost all leave for other pastures at some point, and if a coach makes compromises to keep players that coach loses integrity and honor.