

CHASING INFLUENCE

INTEGRITY: PLAYING FAIR

"Ethical decisions ensure that everyone's best interests are protected. When in doubt, don't." -Harvey Mackay

Roberto De Vincenzo, a golfer from Argentina, is famously known for winning the Masters golf tournament but was later denied the coveted green jacket because of a scoring mistake. De Vincenzo had quickly scanned his scorecard, failing to notice that his playing partner had inadvertently given him a worse score than what he actually had on the 17th hole, giving De Vincenzo a four instead of a three. De Vincenzo signed the card; in golf, the player is disqualified when signing an incorrect card. He had not cheated, but the rules of golf are clear. So, what was his reaction when he learned he was disqualified? Did he blame his playing partner? No, he said he made a dumb mistake and accepted full responsibility. A few weeks later, De Vincenzo won the Houston Open. After receiving his check and spending some time in the dressing room before leaving, a cheery De Vincenzo was met in the parking lot by a woman who told him a heartbreaking story that she didn't have a job, her sick baby was at the point of death, and she didn't have the money to pay for medical care. Feeling terrible for the mother, De Vincenzo gave the young woman a few hundred dollars and went on his way. The following week, De Vincenzo was back at another golf event when a PGA official told him he had been a scam victim - the woman from the parking lot didn't have a baby, and there weren't any hospital bills. To this news, De Vincenzo quickly asked, "You mean there is no sick baby?" The official said, "That's right." De Vincenzo replied, "You have just given me the best news I've heard all year!" De Vincenzo could have been bitter about the woman who had conned him out of money, but he didn't give it another thought. He was delighted that there was not a sick child. "When your values are clear to you, making decisions becomes easier." -Roy E. Disney

Connecting this quote to the story

De Vincenzos values of honesty, responsibility, and kindness were clear to him, and he consistently demonstrated them in his actions, both on and off the golf course. This story illustrates the importance of having clear values and using them as a guide for making decisions and acting in accordance with our principles. What values do you prioritize in your personal and professional life, and how do they influ

Reflection Questions

1. What values do you prioritize in your personal and professional life, and how do they influence your decision-making?

2. What are some examples of situations in sports where athletes are tempted to cheat or cut corners? How can they resist this temptation and maintain their integrity?

3. How can forgiveness and kindness contribute to a positive and healthy team environment?

4. How can we promote a culture of integrity in sports, and what role do coaches, leaders, and teammates play in this?

5. The answer to how De Vincenzo would be remembered was summed up nicely by longtime golf writer David Mackintosh, who said, “De Vincenzo is the most honest soul I’ve ever met. He’s goodness all the way through.” Decades from now, how do you want the quote about you to read?