

I truly enjoy this time of year when you can detach yourself from the year's challenges and successes, for now is the time to look toward the new year and new beginnings. This is the time of year when you not only reflect upon who you are and what you have achieved but also plan for who you will be and what you will accomplish.

Who do you want to be and where do you want to go in 2019?

I firmly believe mindset is the most important determinant of one's life. No one in your life critiques you more than you. What is your mindset and how will you train your mind in 2019? The way you think greatly influences how you view yourself and the way you perform on the job.

In order to maintain a positive mindset, set goals for yourself. Set short-term goals that build up to long-term goals. Once you create these goals, fight like hell everyday to make them reality. No one ever wandered to the peak of Mt. Everest. Doing something of such magnitude requires a dream that becomes a multitude of completed goals. A thorough plan considers even the smallest detail, and executing the plan with a high level of fidelity ensures the dream becomes a reality. What is your Mt. Everest?

All umpires dream of calling the biggest plays of the most important games, a universal dream that drives each umpire's career. You work in baseball because you love the game! In your mind, you say, "I get to do this!" rather than "I have to do this." As I consider my career as an umpire, I am filled with great honor and joy. Regardless of the level I work, my life in baseball has been a great ride. However, the past is the past and I have another season and the rest of my career ahead of me.

There are very few umpires that get to pick their schedules. Those umpires have earned the right to be at the top of the food chain. For others to get such an honor takes time. There are a set number of games played each year for a set number of umpires. In order for you to move up the food chain, you have to take someone's spot, but remember there is no shame in moving slow as there are many tremendously gifted umpires in college baseball. However, there is shame if you are not ready when your number is called.

When your schedule came out this year did you focus on what you could control? Did you focus on getting ready for the challenges ahead of you and setting goals that ensure you become the best you can be? Make sure you invest your energy on becoming the best rules umpire and physically fit. Focus your time and energy on taking care of your family and self, so when the season begins you are positioned to be the BEST POSSIBLE VERSION OF YOU?

You can't determine when you get a shot!

Instead of being critical of your schedule and the system, focus on what you can control and get ready. In this business there is constant change, which no umpire can truly control. You can't let the end product distract you from enjoying the process. You can't let the final level (your Mt. Everest) consume you to the point you ignore the lessons you need to learn as your progress. If you are an umpire who gets caught up in what others get or your schedule not being optimal, you are focused on the wrong things! Your mindset is not where it needs it to be, so rather than focus on things beyond your control focus on achieving the best version of you. If you are not your best version of you when you get your shot, you more than likely will lack what you need to stay at the final level. I often hear umpires talk

about the "it" factor. The "it" factor occurs when 100% preparation meets opportunity. When you are prepared, you know you are the best umpire because you have worked too hard to fail.

Good luck this season and take time to enjoy 2019, the process and the product, and the impact you have on others.

You will never get this opportunity back! Will you be the best version of you this season?

Thank you to the mentors I have had in this business. You guys will never understand how much I look up to you and the impact you had on my life! I take the field every day to make you proud of me!

I love you guys.

Tim Cordill
Umpire