

In Balance Times

Ranch Basketball



Contributing Writer: Mike Dorman

It's not the size of the dog in the fight; it's the size of the fight in the dog. When it's time to pulling at the emotional heart-strings, nothing breaks the ice like an old cliché.

Character is best measured under adversity. When the odds are stacked against you, when nothing is going right, this is the time to accurately gauge the strength of an individual. How many times have we seen a supposed championship team storm through the regular season unchallenged only to stumble early on in the playoffs with an unlikely challenger? They lose because the all-important intangible was never tested: *How will you respond under adversity?*

The In Balance Ranch Academy Basketball squad had a unique set of challenges from the outset. Fielding a team that had been playing together for only a few weeks, we went up against teams that had been playing together their entire lives. With boys coming and going on home visits, it was difficult to establish continuity, let alone a rock-solid starting lineup.

Nevertheless, our boys were up for the challenge, and played competitively every game.

Taking the opportunity to participate in a summer league with local area high schools, In Balance Ranch fielded an 11-man team which competed on Tuesday and Thursday nights. All in all, twelve games were played.

In Balance Ranch employee, Marlon Humes, coaches basketball at a high school that went to Arizona's Final Four last year. The boys received top instruction from an expert. Due to the expert instruction, our boys improved dramatically on a game to game basis. It was truly a sight to behold.



Success is measured in a lot of ways. All too often it is measured in wins and losses. Success this season came in many ways: the team-building and bonding, the skill development and the positive response in the face of adversity. These are the successes that can be carried into all areas of life.

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PPC Weekend



Contributing Writer: Noah L.

The PPC weekend is a trip taken every once in a while to Patrick Barrasso's cabin in the White Mountains. This trip is a learning experience for the students who go, and is intended to teach them about the Positive Peer Culture. I was given a chance to go on this trip a few weeks ago and I enjoyed learning from it immensely.

Once I found out that I was going, I immediately started looking forward to getting a retreat from normal ranch life. I learned much from this weekend about the Positive Peer Culture and how to use it on the ranch. I took part in the groups that went on during the weekend; this interactive way of learning taught me much. The main points that I learned about were the different styles of leadership and how to use them all affectively. I learned also that the PPC exists outside the ranch as well.



The three styles of leadership are authoritative, delegation, and participatory. Authoritative leaders take the authoritarian approach on leadership and excel at letting people know what the right thing to do is. Delegation leaders are very good at delegating tasks to people. They will tell people what they need to do in order to get the task at hand done efficiently and effectively. Participatory leaders will lead mostly by example and encourage others to do the right thing. A major point that I learned on the PPC weekend was how to use all three of these styles effectively. The PPC is basically a group of people influencing each other positively and holding themselves accountable.



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After we went through the groups, we went out bowling. This was a very enjoyable time. Though I learned much from the groups, this was my favorite part. The competitive spirit and fun were unmatched. After bowling, we went out for ice cream and the winners got large Blizzards. Overall, the PPC weekend was both a serious and a fun time. A lot was learned. Hopefully, what was learned there will be brought back and used at the ranch so that our PPC can flourish.

