

Coaches really need to check their priorities

I was truly inspired by the story in Saturday's Daily News about the gutsy quarterback who led his high school team to victory despite twisting his ankle on the game's third play.

Apparently, he was in excruciating pain even as he managed to score a crucial touchdown.

What really caught my eye, however, was how the coaches refused to let something as trivial as a potentially serious injury sideline such an indispensable player.

As the suffering yet dutiful competitor noted: "The first half everyone kept telling me, 'You've got to play, you've got to play,' and I could hardly walk."

Sure, years from now – especially if this young man continues to encounter coaches with the same play-through-anything attitude – he may not be able to walk at all.

But we can all be proud of the valuable life lesson he learned by toughing it out last weekend.

I realize there are probably a few readers who don't see the "character-building" aspect of this kind of devotion to what, in the final analysis, is only a game. They have obviously never seen Friday Night Lights.

Honestly, this story made me question my whole approach to parenting. Perhaps I have been too soft on my boys all these years. In any event, I plan to do things differently in the future.

No longer will I fall for such flimsy excuses as "this double-vision is giving me a headache," or "I think my arm might be broken."

No sir – from now on my response will be, "Do you really want to live in a world where everyone lets a little blood or a concussion get in the way of what's really important?"

Children learn what's important in life primarily from their parents. Let's make sure we set the right example.

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