How to Succeed in Science: Lessons from the Soccer Field

Juan C. Meza

Dean, School of Natural Sciences

Professor, Applied Mathematics

UC LEADS Keynote, UC Santa Cruz, March 2, 2013

SCIENCE AND SOCCER ARE VERY

MUCH ALIKE







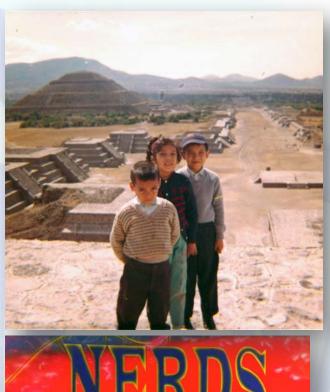


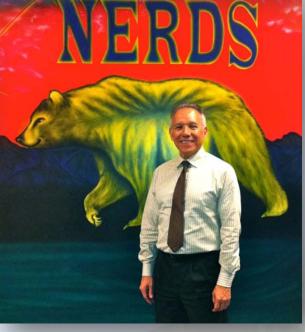
Dedicated to Rachel and Jeremy

A LITTLE ABOUT ME











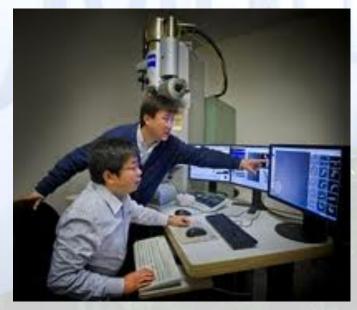


SCIENCE AND SOCCER CAN'T BE LEARNED FROM WATCHING TV









SCIENCE IN



SCIENCE IS A TEAM ACTIVITY

- You need defense, midfielder, forwards, and a keeper to win a game
- Modern science teams have many players



HARD WORK

- You only play as well as you practice
- Science requires hard work
- Start early and work your way up



FAILURE IS A GOOD THING

- Scores in soccer are low you take a lot of shots on goal before you succeed
- Failure is a part of doing science
- If you never fail, you're not challenging yourself enough





HAVE TO EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED





PATIENCE AND STAMINA

Takes stamina, perseverance, and persistence

 No time outs, can be a long time between

halves

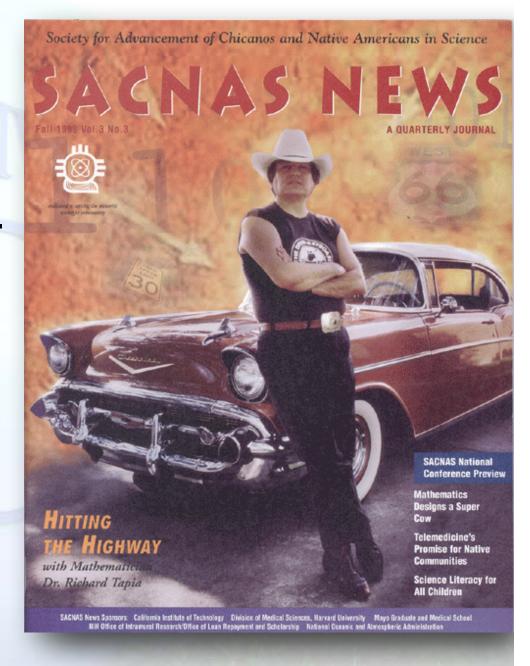






ASK FOR ADVICE

- Listen to those who know the game, mentors, advisors, etc.
- Learn how to be mentored
- Then follow up by mentoring those younger than you



HAVE FUN

- Can't do it (just)
 because your
 parents want you to
- You have to have a love for it
- Need balance





SUMMARY

- Ultimately the reward is in playing the game: science and soccer
- Benefits are plentiful
- Science thrives with diversity at all levels



Your Name HERE!



FINAL THOUGHT

"... We will build the roads and bridges, the electric grids and digital lines that feed our commerce and bind us together. We'll restore science to its rightful place, and wield technology's wonders to raise health care's quality and lower its cost. We will harness the sun and the winds and the soil to fuel our cars and run our factories. And we will transform our schools and colleges and universities to meet the demands of a new age."

President Barack

Obama



vs. Ph.D.

Organized every four years.

Consists of long boring periods punctuated by moments of sheer glory.

Gooooaaaaalll!!

Amazing displays of athletic performance.

In the U.S., they call it "Soccer."

Often comes down to a single penalty shot.

Watched by billions of fans from every nation.

Takes four years just to get organized.

Consists of long boring periods.

Duuuuuuulllll!

A maze of dismaying academic conformance.

In the U.S., they call you a sucker.

Often comes down to a single faculty vote.

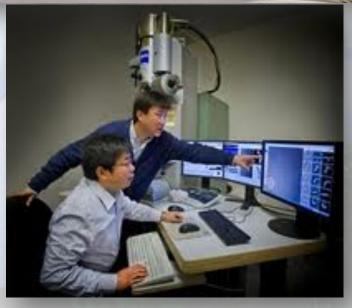
Used by millions of grads for procrastination.

SCIENCE AND SOCCER CAN'T BE LEARNED FROM WATCHING TV









THE TOUGHEST LOSSES MAKE THE STRONGEST TEAMS



