

Don't Ignore or Underestimate Passion

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Never underestimate the power of PASSION.

If you have a young child, encourage them to participate in anything that they may be interested in:

- music
- sports
- organized club activity
- volunteer efforts

Give them the opportunity to taste many different things. They will let you know what really captures their attention. In time, as they mature their interest will develop into a passion.

My greatest fear with my 13, 11 and 8 year old children is that I may be living with the next Jordan Burroughs, Phil Mickelson, Danica Patrick, Roger Federer, Ronda Rousey, etc... but I may not ever know this because I limit their exposure in some way.

Of course financial limitations will dictate some of this or maybe your climate will not allow some opportunity. But for the parents that push "their" sport onto their children, I have one simple question—why?

Most of us that participated in college sports understand what a demand it is on your time, effort and sacrifices you must make to just compete at that level. What separates the good from the great is PASSION. Those that want to be the best must have so much passion for what they do that nothing is more important than their preparation to be the best.

This goes for not only wrestling but anything you do. So I encourage all of the parents out there to allow your children the freedom to try everything. They will let you know what their passion is in either verbally or in most instances you'll just see it in their actions.

When they start pushing Mom or Dad to get them to practices or they are quietly doing extra at night, on the weekends or they are looking up extra training opportunities—this is

them revealing their passion to their choice.

Just please try to be patient. Kids mature at different rates. Just because a team mate starts showing these signs before your child, you don't have to hit the panic button. Pushing them too hard too early will only contribute to damaging your relationship.

Enjoy the process and ignore the "crazy" parents around you that hit their panic button too soon.

If our main goal is we want our kids to be successful then does it really matter in what? The answer is no for me.