

The Team that Never Lost Focus or Heart...*

Some years ago, it was decided that this CCA should wind down and close.

The reasons seemed sensible – the school couldn't spread itself too thin to form yet another large team for competition. What's more, with our bandwidth and limited resources, we should focus on our traditional key sports and games.

But this game was popular with our boys – and many teachers were ready to support it.

So football as a CCA continued at ACS (Independent).



Each year, it never had any problem attracting members. They trained hard and regularly but things were never easy for them. In one memorable match in the early years, ACS(I) lost with an ego-bruising score of 10-0. The teachers tell me they have had to deal with feedback from friends (and less friendly persons) who joked or scorned - "Why is your game always losing in the first round?" or "Why do you waste time using the field for training when you always lose?"

But neither the teachers nor its members got distracted or discouraged. The teachers in charge maintained their enthusiasm from the start. They obviously relished living out their fantasy of being football club managers and coaches. The young gentlemen in the team were equally positive – they just turned up for training and gave their best all the time. It was clear that whether they won or lost a match, they enjoyed the game and were proud to represent ACSI. This was a team that, despite the odds, never lost heart - they stayed steady and kept their focus over the years.

They have had a champion's mindset before ever receiving a championship medal.

This year, for the first time, the B Division football team entered the South Zone School Zonal League finals**. It's a small step in their quest towards football excellence and is reflective of the football CCA's journey over the last 7 years that has been remarkable for the perseverance and sheer persistence demonstrated by the team.

The ACSI football team's story reminds me of what the Bible says about the value of hard work, humility and focus. Colossians 3:23 exhorts us that "***Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.***"

We have much to learn from the inspiring teachers and team members of our football team. They have worked with all their heart and have steadily, quietly and humbly done so over the years. They have had a champion's mindset before ever receiving a championship medal. With such an attitude, it is a matter of time before the team makes football a niche strength of our school.



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** ACSI lost to Northlight School 4-3 in the SZ finals