

# Winners Take Nothing

By [Edward Curtin](#)

Global Research, September 19, 2017

Region: [USA](#)

Theme: [Police State & Civil Rights](#), [Poverty & Social Inequality](#)

*There is no substitute for winning*

*football games and wars.*

*We are strong and brave,*

*having been taught winning*

*is what counts after all.*

After all, after all the weeks of sweat,  
practice after practice, play after play,  
men of strength will win, be honored.

Losers, lacking muscle fight heart  
eyes limbs guts and blood  
will lose.

So will the children.

Oh the children. Be men, be strong.

Let us not now praise  
a man, a man's man,  
a coach of real men,  
whose religion was winning Christianity,  
whose dedication to god country blood  
knew no limits, surely not  
the death of children

and grownup children  
of families  
different, foreign, unreal.  
Families of losers.

Oh, Americans, let us not pay  
homage to the dead man,  
leader of  
strong men, winning men.

Leave it to the president to praise  
his fighting spirit, bishop bless  
his dedication to the cause  
of winning games  
of warball and football.

My fellow Americans, he is  
us and we are he. We stand together  
in solidarity, drones the leader  
of sycophantry.

Coach, you have shown us  
what it means to win on fields  
of war and sport for God, team  
and country,  
in spite of, for spite of  
children shrieking out of burning bodies.  
Losers, losers, yes,

the children are the losers.

Rest, coach, for you have finally

in the end

lost a big one. You are

at peace.

Your ears cannot hear

children's tears

as they lose

their lives.

But didn't you say:

Winning isn't everything;

it's the only thing?

They had their warning,

didn't they?

And so did we.

We didn't listen then

and aren't listening still.

Perhaps we never will.

Who do you think will win

the Doomsday Bowl?

**Edward Curtin** is a writer whose work has appeared widely. He teaches sociology at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. A former college basketball player, he teaches the sociology of sports, and writes on a wide range of topics. **His website** is <http://edwardcurtin.com/>

---

[\*\*Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page\*\*](#)

[\*\*Become a Member of Global Research\*\*](#)

Articles by: [\*\*Edward Curtin\*\*](#)

**Disclaimer:** The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)

[www.globalresearch.ca](http://www.globalresearch.ca) contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)