

Resolve

Introduction

Wrong is wrong, right? In this scene, a lowly freshman, B-team player, seems to think so.

1 BILLY: Coach, you got a minute?
 2 COACH: Quick. I got things to do. Whatdaya need, Jones?
 3 BILLY: I needed to talk to you about practice yesterday. You
 4 embarrassed me. In front of everybody! You said I was
 5 slower than Christmas, that I had no talent, and that I
 6 was the worst player on the team.
 7 COACH: Oh, that! I know you try. But you must know
 8 yourself you're not a very good player. It wasn't anything
 9 personal.
 10 BILLY: But it was personal. You singled me out! I was
 11 embarrassed. I was humiliated!
 12 COACH: Look, I was ... uh ... only trying to motivate people.
 13 Now, if I offended you, I'm sorry. OK? There, I
 14 apologized. All right?
 15 BILLY: No, it's not all right! If you're going to insult me in
 16 front of the whole team, you ought to apologize to me in
 17 front of the whole team.
 18 COACH: Whoa! Stop. Nope. Not going to happen. You're
 19 making way too much out of this.
 20 BILLY: Not to me I'm not. *(A beat)* And just so you know, I
 21 haven't told my parents or the principal or anybody
 22 about what you said, but you don't say something
 23 tomorrow, I'm —
 24 COACH: Whoa! Stop! Timeout. Who in the world do you
 25 think you are, kid? I'm the football coach. The head

1 football coach! I don't have to apologize to anybody.
 2 *Ever.* Not to you, not to your parents, not to anybody. My
 3 job is to win football games. And I do whatever I see fit.
 4 Understand? Now, I humored you and apologized
 5 because you caught me in a good mood. But you're a
 6 little grunt freshman, and if you don't like it, you can
 7 quit and go do something else. Besides — pfffft — I
 8 doubt anybody else remembers what I said, but you.
 9 BILLY: *(Picking his words carefully)* If you didn't expect them
 10 to remember it, then why'd you say it? *(COACH considers*
 11 *the determined-looking BILLY for a long moment.)*
 12 COACH: *(Grunts.)* Obviously ... you've got more talent than I
 13 thought. Look. Let's do this. *(A beat)* I'll agree to say
 14 something at practice tomorrow and you — you agree to
 15 forget this people-telling business. OK? Deal? *(BILLY*
 16 *looks at him for a long moment, then slowly nods his*
 17 *agreement and turns and exits. COACH watches him go,*
 18 *shakes his head in exasperation, and resumes reading his*
 19 *newspaper.)*