



Who Are You Listening To?

*"Trust in the Lord..."
Proverbs 3:5*

*Gary Hess, Sports Director
Entercom Richmond*

Some people are meant to score touchdowns, make three-point winning baskets, or hit walk-off home runs. Some are meant to share the excitement of those events with others who cannot be at the game. To be able to describe what is happening on the court or on the field in real time is a gift. No one delivers the message of Friday night high school football better than Gary Hess. He enables parents, grandparents, fans and friends to share in the memories being made as they follow their favorites on radio. There are many aspects of sport that bring enjoyment, but none is more evident than the voice of the professional sportscaster. It is where sport meets art, and all win.

There are few better places to gain perspective on the impact coaches have on players than sitting in the press box looking down on the entire field, including the bench. The ebb and flow of every athletic event results in coaches making adjustments, motivating players, and leading by example. Through watching hundreds of games, countless practices, and spending time in coaches' offices, Gary has seen it all...the good, the bad and the ugly. "The good coaches teach life lessons, are role models, and in some cases become the surrogate parent when needed," Gary shared. "They work with players to improve their skills, but more importantly, work with the kids to help them develop personally."

Gary's interest in media began early. His role model was his broadcasting professor at Olivet Nazarene University, Don Toland. When asked who his favorite biblical role model might be, he picked David. "He was a very flawed individual and God used him for great things. So, there is hope for me," Gary shared. "My personal role models were my grandparents, Larkin and Gladys Burch. They worked hard, were loving and nurturing, and displayed spiritual consistency," Gary continued. Role models who exhibited professionalism, consistency, and a biblical giant who while not perfect, was used by God to do great things, created the perspective that molded Gary into an exceptional media specialist. Not a bad list of attributes for coaches on the sidelines.

Gary has watched how coaches, in the heat of battle, make decisions that impact a player's career, and even their life. He has

seen FCA do the same, in the most positive of ways. "At a time when God is being pushed out of the schools and off the campuses, FCA provides a steady presence," Gary said. "FCA encourages coaches to see the player behind the number on the jersey, not just a position on a chart. That approach not only wins games, it changes lives of young people."

Gary's favorite Bible verse is Proverbs 3:5-6. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight." When coaches do this, sometimes they influence a player who develops into a young man that, even as a freshman, can lead their college team to a national championship. It happened this year, as freshman quarterback Trevor Lawrence led Clemson to an NCAA championship over Alabama. "No matter how big the situation is, it won't define me," Trevor said in an interview. "My faith is (the biggest thing in my life)." Hence, the confidence needed for peak performance.

So, even though we're not all designed to be a star on the court or field, we are designed to do something special with our God given talents. Every good endeavor needs a voice to get the word out, to share life happening on a stage right before our eyes. For those who cannot see a sporting event in person, talented individuals like Gary Hess become our eyes. Our lives are better for it, especially when the voice is coming from the right perspective.

"I was blessed to meet Gary 20 years ago," shared FCARVA Director Michael Stock. "He's a humble man with a heart to serve. He has volunteered his time and shared his talents as the emcee at our annual Victory Dinner, and in that role has encouraged the guests with his professionalism, and more importantly, by boldly proclaiming his faith."

Gary is currently the Sports Director at Entercom Richmond and has been the voice of high school football on Sports Radio 910 The Fan for twenty-six years. He provides sports updates on the morning shows on 910 and Newsradio WRVA. Plus, he handles morning news updates on Q-94 and Big 98.5. When he's not playing golf, Gary enjoys watching his son's musical talent develop.

"The Fellowship of Christian Athletes is a force for good in a world of so many negative influences," Gary said. "As Christians, we are called to spread the word and to be a positive influence. FCA is a great platform for that. They provide a steady presence, and deserve our support."

Written by Fred Larmore, FCA Board Member and FCA Alum

Dear Friend of FCA:

Thanks for reading about one of our great community partners. Visit FCARVA.org for more information about the May 2 FCARVA Victory Dinner featuring Brandon Streeter, Clemson University National Champion Quarterback Coach.

Michael

Michael P. Stock, FCARVA Director

FCARVA.ORG



**FELLOWSHIP OF
CHRISTIAN
ATHLETES**