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The American Athlete

Episode #2419

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Participants: Andre Agassi – Tennis Legend Cobi Jones – MLS Legend Derek Parra – Olympic Legend

## General Synopsis for Episode #2419

In this 'Legends' episode a pro tennis player, MLS midfielder and an Olympic speed skater describe their varied paths towards success in each of the chosen fields of athletic endeavor. Each guest shares their personal side of their journey from their first thoughts of seeking a professional career to reaching their goals and beyond. Tennis legend Andre Agassi was playing tennis as soon as he could walk. He sets daily goals of having a big picture of something he wants to achieve and daily goals to achieve that. He challenges himself every day to get better, finding reasons to stay motivated, and asking more of himself so he can keep going even when he is frustrated. When asked if he was comfortable being a role model, Andre Agassi invoked, "Yes. It's everybody's responsibility to be a role model." MLS legend Cobi Jones started playing soccer at the age of 5. He had the honor of playing in the 1992 Olympics which lead him to know he could play at the international level. He played in Germany and was called to play on the US National team. He was US Athlete of the Year in 1998. Goal setting gives him something to look forward to and strive towards aiming to put him in the right direction. Olympic legend Derek Parra started out rolling skating and participating in national competitions which helped him win world titles. He wanted to skate in the Olympics, so he changed to ice skating in 1996. He won gold and silver medals in the 2002 Olympic games in Salt Lake City. He tells young people to set goals for yourself, you got to dream, get out of your comfort zone, and see what is out there.

## Observation and Conclusion

In episode #2419 sports trivia questions are asked between segments to challenge viewers to research and learn sports facts. Athletes provide encouragement and advice to their fans to work hard, define goals, and have fun in your chosen field. **Andre Agassi's** advice, "Keep fighting for your dreams, they do come true." This episode inspires, educates, informs and empowers children 13 years of age and up.

Sincerely,

Barbaret Pierce

Barbara J. Pierce, MA Ed. Educational Consultant