

### Ace Hardware Story:

“A few years back, I received a pointed lesson in how to handle success. R.B. and I were having dinner with Mickie DeMoss and our old friend Hank Kress in Seagrove, Florida. It was the spring after I had coached the 1984 Olympic team to a gold medal, and I had gotten some attention and media exposure for the first time. So, when people at the next table started staring at me, I assumed they were gawking at the reigning Olympic coach.

I got up to go to the ladies’ room.

“Hi, ya’ll,” I said, as I passed by the table.

“Excuse me,” one of the ladies at the table said, “but you look so familiar.”

“Oh, really?” I said innocently.

“I know I’ve seen you somewhere before,” she said.

“I don’t think we’ve met,” I said.

“Don’t you work at Ace Hardware?” she asked.

“Not at the moment,” I answered.

Behind me, R.B. and Mickie and Hank collapsed into gales of laughter.

Since then, I’ve had more than my share of success and recognition.

### Pat Summitt refers often to this story:

“Ever since that night in Seagrove Beach, Florida, Mickie and R.B. haven’t missed an opportunity to remind me that I could just as easily be working at Ace Hardware. Whenever Mickie thinks I’m taking our success for granted, or getting too big for my britches around the office, she knows exactly what to say to humble me.

“Hey,” she says, “Aren’t you the lady who carried the two-by-fours to my car?”