

The Sporting Life

Leadership - Management – Experimentation

For Volunteer Leaders and Staff

Ideas to consider

On the field of play or in the stands

Each has value and each have different perspectives of what's occurring; actions available to take; opportunities to impact and influence; and rules and regulations governing individual and group (team) behavior.

If members are in the stands, volunteer leaders on the field of play and staff are player's coaches, then how are spectators (members) able to show their appreciation and encourage their *team* and be coaches? What equipment, practice and special training are available for your team (individually and together) so they all know the play expected play or action to follow?

Why do we value great players and coaches? How can we bring the best traits, habits and practices that make a championship team to our volunteer leaders, our staffs and ourselves? Practice is fundamental in sports, music, and dance, yet the fundamentals of organizational achievement are often neglected and rarely practiced. What should we practice and master to succeed?

New Language for Volunteer Leaders and Staff Teams:

In the Zone

—being at one with what is happening, has happened and will happen

—an experience of oneness and a 360° awareness of circumstances, not distracted by any of it, able to use it all

On the Bench

—trained and ready to participate, available to be called upon to produce immediate results and add to the efforts of those already on the field without diminishing the teams overall productive or ability.

Pinch Hitter

—going into a game in progress, ready to deliver an immediate spike in the action

Play Calling

the play is calling the play

—someone other than the person responsible for executing

In the Paint

—urgent demand for immediate results



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Nothing but Net

—the appearance of effortless delivery, consistently possible after lots of practice

Batting Average

—statistical record of hits at bat, measures productivity and success in action

Minor League/ Farm Club

—opportunity for training and development, fine tuning expertise and appreciation of major league opportunities ahead

Home Field Advantage

—positioning team to leverage all resources and opportunities to make big plays

Resources

Movies

Hoosiers

Basketball

Miracle

Hockey

The Replacements

Football

Bull Durham

Baseball

Any Given Sunday

Football

Quotes

“Achievement is difficult. It requires enormous effort. Those who can work through the struggle are the ones who are going to be successful.”

-Jackie Joyner-Kersey, Tack & Field

“Winning is not a sometime thing; its an all time thing. You don’t win once in a while, you don’t do things right once in a while, you do them right all the time. Winning is a habit.”

-Vince Lombardi, Football

“A bad attitude is worse than a bad swing.”

-Payne Stewart, Golf

“Attention to detail instills pride and discipline.”

-D. Wayne Lukas, Horse Trainer

“Sometimes it just takes patience one play at a time, moving towards the goal.”

-Janet Guthrie, 1st Woman to race at Indianapolis



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“Anytime you want to, you can go out and pad your numbers, but to win, you have to have everybody around you playing great.”

-Bill Walton, Basketball

“In order to win in a team sport you have to pick the right people.”

-Joe Gibbs, Football

“It ain’t over til its over.”

-Yogi Berra, Baseball

“Most people think I’m practicing before I play, but I’m not. I’m just warming up. I practice after the round. The first thing I practice is every shot that I hit poorly that day. The I practice all the shots I didn’t have to hit that day. If on a Sunday you have to hit a three-iron for example, and you haven’t hit a three-iron during the previous three rounds of the tournament, you’re not to sure of yourself. But if you’ve hit your three-iron in practice everyday, you’re confident of hitting it well.”

-Jack Nicklaus, Golf

“If you don’t have great personal pride you don’t have a chance, because you’re willing to accept less than your best effort all the time. And, if you’re willing to accept less than your best effort, you’ll never maximize your potential.”

-Rick Berry, Basketball

“It isn’t hard to be good from time to time is sports. What’s tough is being good everyday.”

-Wille Mays, Baseball

“The secret of winning football games is working as a team, less as individuals. I play not my eleven best, but my best eleven.”

-Knut Rockne, Football

Books

Coach to Coach-Business Lessons from the Locker Room, John Robinson, Pfeiffer & Co.

Football Coaching Strategies, American Football Coaches Association, Jossey-Bass

How the Way We Talk Can Change the Way We Work, Robert Kogan & Lisa Laskowlakey, Hyperion

The Winner Within, A Life Plan for Team Players, Pat Riley, Putnam Books

They Call Me Coach, John Wooden with Jack Tobin, Contemporary Books

The Meaning of Sports: Why Americans Watch Baseball, Football and Basketball and What They See When they Do, Michael Mandelbaum, PublicAffairs



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Contact Rhea for more information about learning through group experience.

Currently available from RTI:

Cooking Up Leadership—revealing management styles for success through cooking

The Sporting Life—mastering team sports in an office environment

Plant A Garden of Ideas—causing creativity

The Sacred Cow Bar-B-Q—creating new possibilities

The Leadership Lessons of Lewis and Clark

