

LEADERSHIP

Definition

The process by which a person influences the thoughts, attitudes, and behaviors of others.

Story

Leaders are necessary on any team. They give other athletes the confidence of knowing they can look to someone for guidance, either by words (encouragement) or by example (on-field excellence).

True leadership is about influence and bringing out the best in others.

Mike “Coach K” Krzyzewski is the Head Men’s Basketball Coach at Duke University and the winningest basketball coach in Division 1 history. Although he has been wildly successful on the court, his leadership skills go far beyond the game of basketball. Coach K once said, “I don’t look at myself as a basketball coach. I look at myself as a leader who happens to coach basketball.”

One summer morning in 1999, Coach K called Shane Battier, a rising junior at the time, and asked him if he had looked in the mirror and seen next year’s conference player of the year. When Battier fumbled his words, Coach K hung up.

The next day he called the forward again and asked him if he had pictured himself scoring 30 points in any game the following season. Battier was clearly not ready for that question either, so he encountered another dead phone.

It was Coach K’s plan to make Shane Battier, a star player during the 1998-1999 season. This was made more difficult, because the player had never imagined himself as a star player.

After the second call, Battier called Coach K back, asking him not to hang up on him again. Coach K replied, “I won’t hang up on you if **you** won’t hang up on you.”

How many times have we seen players who are so blessed with talent and ability but just don’t believe in themselves? A true leader will always bring out the best in others!



Quotes

"Everything rises and falls on leadership." **John Maxwell** "Leadership is getting someone to do what they don't want to do, to achieve what they want to achieve." **Tom Landry**

"Life's most urgent and persistent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" **Martin Luther King Jr.**

Interaction

1. Who is the greatest leader you know? What makes them a great leader?
2. How can you demonstrate servant leadership to your teammates and coaches this week?

Main Idea

Leadership is influence...and everyone is capable of influencing others. Therefore, it is safe to say that everyone is a leader because we all influence others in some capacity. What we say, do, and think has an effect on the people around us...whether it is family members, friends, teammates, or fans. The question we must ask ourselves is simple; "Am I setting a good example for others to follow?"

Take Away

Leadership is about making people better as a result of your influence.