

Using Players' Expertise

QUESTION

Hi Lach, How are you going mate?

Hope everything is going well with the extra body around? Trust both Sam and bub are doing well!

Looking forward to getting you down at my club for a few (coaching) sessions and to watch us play once you've settled into Dad life again! Let us know as soon as you feel ready, no pressure!

Anyway, wanted to pick your brain if I could?

A really nice guy at our club about a week ago had to withdraw from pennant for the remainder of the season due to a shoulder injury. He has been a club coach and was heavily involved in the under 18 program in group regional sides when I first started 10 years ago.

He has kept himself exceptionally fit and arguably has one of the best techniques in the club! A very competent bowler as well... skipped Division 1 many years ago and has played in our top side for a number of years. Has a heap of experience.

In my opinion, he is one of the best club coaches going around and has an astute understanding of the game. It would be a real shame to lose him because of this injury and it is my priority to keep him around for the remainder of the season as an assistant to me.

My question to you is. In what capacity can I use him on Saturday? How can I give him a role or responsibility that can somehow quell his thirst to still be playing. I feel as if I can use him as a real asset to my coaching regime, but I'm not quite sure how!

Advice would be appreciated

ANSWER

Hi fellow coach:

As I mentioned on the phone in response, my initial reaction is for you to approach him today, with pennant looming on the weekend again, and if you are happy, he becomes the formally appointed team captain for the club top team.

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In that formal role he gives the team talk pre-game and again at half time.

He mingles with the skips pre and during the game at the break to sound out how they are progressing with their teams.

He sits in or shares the rink debriefs at the end of the game. He meets with you at some stage before the next selection meeting and gives his insights from his observation of the top team and the players in competition each Saturday.

I think you are fortunate to have someone prepared to do this as everyone feels they have to play week in week out.

I hope you find his contribution is an added asset for your club and its top team.

Talk soon, pal

Lachlan Tighe, 2018