

Culture and Teams

To start my 2017 year off in sport and coaching, I took an opportunity to browse through numerous sports book I have in my library to detect and refresh myself of any valuable messages from the books to refer over to bowls, bowls coaching and elite level bowls.

The generic themes I reacted to were:

Attitude

Choose the players of character

Culture and teams

Coaching

Leadership

Measuring performance, observing and statistics

Mental skill

Selection and teams

Skip skills

Teamwork

Team roles and positions

Winning is a mindset (as is losing)

Xcellence.

Here then are some précised statements, and my take too, on the specific theme below. Each theme will be on a separate article / column.

Culture & Teams

What is the culture you want at the club?

How can you, or do you, influence that culture?

Question on your personal accountability...What could YOU have done to counter our demise, relegation, loss, or to influence the acceptable successful standards?

Steps to create change:

Recognize what it is you want; what it is you are doing; accept your habits require change. (12)

The role of the coach is to be the guardian of the team's best interests.

Matthews learnt that it is much easier to play well in a great team than perform regularly in a struggling team. Thus it is smart to INVEST yourself in making the

team better.

Matthews on the coach & culture

Priorities: Chain of command
Recruit the best assistants
Positive reinforcement to all
Attitude to instill: Pride within
Respect given and earned
Trust with fellow teammates
Actions to live by: Courtesy to all
Common sense be applied
Punctuality, if one person is late the whole team is late (7)

The values the team agrees to AND applies (10)

Team spirit is more to do with risk, appreciation and some delight in the different characteristics of the team members than it has to do with conforming. Team spirit and friendliness are not the same thing. Team spirit is the bond going through an experience together; it is synergy as a whole from the collective contributions of each individual. Team spirit is an energy. (8)

The best teams are those who have members who walk in one another's shoes; trying to feel, see and share their perspective to connect more deeply, trust. Through trust they motivate, inspire and the effort is contagious, synergises. (3)

Culture of the team overrides strategy. Success never depends and never will on position / hierarchy, equipment or numbers; least of all on position. Success is due to the feeling that is in me, and in my teammate. The contest is won by those who firmly resolve to win (Tolstoy,) (4).

Sources

- 1 Bryant: Bryant on Bowls
- 2 Belliss: Play better bowls
- 3 Benincasa: How winning works
- 4 Charlesworth: Shakespeare the coach; The Coach;
- 5 Collins: Good to great
- 6 Dwyer: Full Time
- 7 Matthews: Accept the challenge
- 8 O'Neill: Sport leaders and success
- 9 Orlick: In pursuit of excellence

- 10 Parkin: Perform or else
- 11 Pyke: Toward better coaching
- 12 Syer: Sporting body, sporting mind; Team spirit
- 13 Woodward: Winning

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