

The Last Dance

Phil Jackson, Bulls Basketball Coach

Phil Jackson lived in the shadow of his most famous player, the man... Michael Jordan.

But for the numerous viewers of the brilliant sport documentary aired early 2020 it becomes obvious that Phil Jackson was also the great one, as coach.

Take account of his record by all means, but note his approach, his character and you learn what it is that makes him great. And relatively humble.

He referred to his leadership game plan and its 11 principles. I expand a little on those principles I can relate to and include the others for you readers to decide what you get from his 11 principles.

My ones I really react to are these 8:

1. Lead from the inside out: players hear your passion so be passionate about what we are doing.
2. Bench the ego: for me that is sharing and seeking player input.
3. Let players discover their destiny: he wanted players to think for themselves so as to be able to do so in the game; gee I am 100% onto that and always have been.
4. Give a road to freedom: he allowed a system where players knew their role; we know that via the Luke Hodge idiom: know your role, accept your role, play your role.
5. Compassion leads to success: kind, thoughtful words to players is investment.
6. Watch the spirit not the scoreboard: he observed his players, which is my prime focus when they compete as their behavior will tell me all.
7. The big stick: in fact all he wanted was to prepare them for the unforeseen and it then became foreseen, simulate pressure, or as he called it chaos.

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8. Forget the ring (scoreboard): which he saw as counter productive; even the idea of ensuring we don't lose, both of which mean we are losing emotional control.

And these are his other three:

9. Turn the mundane into the sacred: he got players to see basketball as all important.
10. One breath one mind: he had players sit and breath and meditate.
11. When in doubt do nothing.

Fellow readers, bowls coaches, take what you can from someone else as a coach who was the world's best.