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9 C's Of Leadership

Where Have All the Leaders Gone? is a book written by successful businessman Lee Iaccoca. In his book Mr. Iaccoca expresses that there are 9 C's of leadership.

In order for the goaltender to be successful it is very important for them to have strong leadership skills. It is the goaltender who is usually the first to step out onto the ice and lead their team into battle. It is only logical to assume that the goaltender must also be involved in leadership within the team. In order to succeed at this leadership task, the goaltender must possess Mr. Iaccoca's, 9 C's of leadership.

Curiosity: The goaltender must be willing to expose themselves to new ideas. Not only relating to their individual or positional skill sets, but to team concepts as well. Game tactics and schemes change over time and the successful goaltender must be able to adapt to these changes.

Creative: The goaltender must be innovative and imaginative. As hard as we try to make all saves in a controlled manner this is not always the case. Whenever problems arise there can be more than one solution. Therefore having a creative approach may help us in those desperate times.

Communicate: Physical and verbal communication is a must for all goaltenders. Communication is not limited to just on-ice communication. How you respond and interact with your coaching staff, team mates and fans all have a bearing on your success. Even proper on-ice communication starts off-ice first. Be loud, be seen/heard and be confident in your communication skills. Make sure what you are trying to communicate is understood and followed! The goaltender who can have his/her teammates trust and follow the communication of the goalie the entire team is more likely to experience success.

Character: The goaltender's disposition, temperament and personality all make up the goaltenders moral fiber and define them as a person. Teammates must have a faith in not only the goalie's physical abilities but a conviction that they, as a person, are someone they can trust to supply moral support, confidence and conviction in their own game as well.

Courage: Playing the position of the last line of defense, takes a person of nerve who must have confidence in their abilities. All people question themselves at times. All goalies will experience setbacks. It takes courage to suffer these setbacks and to refocus and get back to the task at hand. Whether this task is game or career related.

Conviction: As stated before, all goalies will suffer some sort of disappointment. All goalies have had a goal scored against them and had a teammate tell the goaltender what they should have done differently. Upon review, do not dwell on the past. It is with the knowledge and belief in abilities, knowing that leading up to a game the goalie has done all they could on and off ice to be successful, that enables goalies to build or regain confidence. Even the best goalies make mistakes and goals sometimes happen where the goaltender had little to no chance to be successful. The goalie must be able to regroup and get that belief in themselves back.

Charisma: A successful goaltender has a personality, an appeal or allure of success. They make the team better just by being themselves. They are someone that is not only confident in themselves but inspires confidence in others. We have all seen teams play better in front of one goaltender on a team than the other. Yes, skill sets between the two goalies on a team may vary but sometimes it is just the difference in a goaltender's charisma and character that will provide a difference in their team's performance and execution.

Competent: Leadership is enhanced when a goaltender is, simply, more skilled and proficient. Ability is not the only part of being a competent goaltender. Knowledge of the game (positional and tactical), a strong fitness level, and a strong work ethic are examples that can help the goaltender be more competent.

Common Sense: The goaltender that has a reasonable and consistent approach will be in a better position to lead. Eating right, sleeping right, are examples of some factors that can determine personal success. Goalies must try and understand these variables and do what you can to incorporate them into your life style.

Summary:

There are many factors to being a leader. Look at the people you admire and see as leaders. What characteristics and traits do they possess and how do they compare to yours?

Do you consider yourself a leader? If not, why not? Is a lack of leadership holding you back?

There can be many things that advance or hold back a goaltender in the development of their goals and objectives, do not let lack of leadership be one of them. Remember leaders are made not born!