

QUOTES
FOR LEADERS
ON
TEAMWORK
AND
LEADERSHIP



On Leadership:

You won't win consistently without good team leadership. It's just that plain and simple. You've got to have players who are willing to buy into your system, demand the best from themselves and their teammates, and hold their teammates accountable.

Pat Summitt, Tennessee Women's Basketball Six-time National Championship Coach

Talent is important. But the single most important ingredient after you get the talent is internal leadership. It's not the coaches as much as one single person or people on the team who set higher standards than that team would normally set for itself. I really believe that that's been ultimately important for us.

Mike Krzyzewski, Duke Men's Basketball Three-time National Championship Coach

Having great leadership is a big key to success. It's really the leaders' team because they are the ones whom the rest of the players, especially the freshmen, look up to when setting the standards. Our team will go as far as our leaders are willing to take us. *Mike Candrea, Arizona Softball Seven-time National Championship Coach, USA Softball Olympic Head Coach*

On every team, there is a core group that sets the tone for everyone else. If the tone is positive, you have half the battle won. If it is negative, you are beaten before you ever walk on the field.

Chuck Noll, Pittsburgh Steelers Four-time Super Bowl Winning Coach

Leadership on any team is critical to success... Often leadership is awarded by being elected captain by your teammates or selected by the coaching staff. However, not all leaders are captains, and just because you are not a captain doesn't mean you cannot lead.

Lauren Gregg, U.S. Soccer National Team Assistant Coach

The final piece in a championship team is leadership. The most attractive type of leadership to me is the student-athlete who is a coach on the field. I want a driving force who won't let standards slip. That's how teams with ordinary talent can win championships. Without leadership, even a team with great talent will struggle to become a champion.

Anson Dorrance, North Carolina Women's Soccer 18-time National Championship Coach



Teams that have strong leadership have a decided advantage. If you look at the great NBA teams of the past 15 years, one of the common threads is they all had great veteran leaders with the group: Larry Bird (Celtics), Magic Johnson (Lakers), Isiah Thomas (Pistons), Michael Jordan (Bulls). Each had his own style but they all demanded excellence from the people around them. Not just once in a while, not just when things were going well, but all the time.

Rick Pitino, Louisville Men's Basketball National Championship Coach

Contrary to the opinion of many people, leaders are not born. Leaders are made, and they are made by effort and hard work.

Vince Lombardi

The most dangerous leadership myth is that leaders are born - that there is a genetic factor to leadership. This myth asserts that people simply either have certain charismatic qualities or not. That's nonsense; in fact, the opposite is true. Leaders are made rather than born.

Warren Bennis, author of On Becoming a Leader

There's a process to becoming a leader and it's up to you to not only learn what that process is, but be able to benefit from it. You must study people who have been successful. Whether you call it modeling or using a mentor or simply following people in your profession you admire, the method is the same. You look at people who have been successful leaders and you study them. What do they do? What do they do right? You have to learn from people who are successful. You have to recognize those traits that enabled them to be successful.

Rick Pitino, Louisville Men's Basketball Coach

We build self-esteem in small increments just like athletes build strength. They don't do it overnight. They do it day by day, adding a little more weight to the bar, adding a little more distance to the run. Pretty soon, they are magnificent, powerful, wonderful athletes. The same is true with leadership; it happens the same way. A little bit every day, a little better at communication, a little better at delegation, a little better at servant leadership, a little bit better at listening to people. But it's conscious and it is inspiring to be around.

Steve Chandler, author of 100 Ways to Motivate People

The longest development process we have in the United States Army is development of a commander. It takes less time to develop a tank - less time to develop an Apache helicopter - than it does to develop a commander. It takes anywhere from twenty-two to twenty-five years before we entrust a division of soldiers to a commander... [leaders] must continue to grow and to learn and to study [their] profession, to learn by [their] own experience, to learn by study, school, reading and from others... It [requires] total professional involvement.

General Fred Franks



Every leader has weaknesses and screws up some of the time; an effective leader learns to admit that. My shortcomings are painfully obvious to me. I have high expectations and don't hand out praise easy. Though most players find me compassionate, I'm not a touchy-feely kind of guy who'll slap a fellow on the back and console him when he doesn't perform. I also can be stubborn and intractable, and sometimes I get caught in conflicts that rumble on in the background for months before they get resolved.

Phil Jackson, Los Angeles Lakers Coach

A well-designed leadership pipeline, discipline, and commitment are absolutely essential in order for an organization to assure that it will have the leaders it needs when and where it needs them. Without a deliberate and formal pipeline structure, leadership development is only random. Some leaders will emerge, but their emergence will not be predictable, there will not be nearly enough of them, nor will they have the diversity and level of skills of those who have been systematically taught and tracked. *Noel Tichy, author of the Cycle of Leadership*

To every man there comes in his lifetime that special moment when he is figuratively tapped on the shoulder and offered a chance to do a very special thing, unique to him and fitted to his talents. What a tragedy if that moment finds him unprepared or unqualified for the work which would be his finest hour.

Winston Churchill

Your opponent, in the end, is never really the player on the other side of the net, or the swimmer in the next lane, or the team on the other side of the field, or even the bar you must high-jump. Your opponent is yourself, your negative internal voices, your level of determination.

Grace Lichtenstein American Writer & Editor

Sports Do Not Build Character...They Reveal It

John Wooden

Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an indomitable will.

Mahatma Gandhi

The spirit, the will to win, and the will to excel are the things that endure. These qualities are so much more important than the events that occur.

Vince Lombardi (1913-1970) US football coach

I never criticize a player until [he is] first convinced of my unconditional confidence in [his] abilities.

John Robinson



One man can be a crucial ingredient on a team, but one man cannot make a team.

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, NBA Center

Be strong in body, clean in mind, lofty in ideals.

Dr. James Naismith, the father of basketball

If all I'm remembered for is being a good player, then I've done a bad job with the rest of my life.

Isiah Thomas American Basketball Player, Coach

The act of taking the first step is what separates the winners from the losers.

Brian Tracy

I don't believe in just ordering people to do things. You have to grab an oar and row with them.

Harold Geneen

The only real limitation on your abilities is the level of your desires. If you want it badly enough, there are no limits on what you can achieve.

Brian Tracy

Things may come to those who wait. But only the things left by those who hustle.

Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865)

Desire is half of life, indifference is half of death.

Kahlil Gibran

What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant.

Robert Louis Stevenson

The state of your life is nothing more than a reflection of your state of mind.

Dr. Wayne W. Dyer

Man's reach should exceed his grasp, or what's a heaven for?

Robert Browning

Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great ones make you feel that you too, can become great.

Mark Twain



If people are coming to work excited . . . if they're making mistakes freely and fearlessly . . . if they're having fun . . . if they're concentrating doing things, rather than preparing reports and going to meetings - then somewhere you have leaders.

Robert Townsend

Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not. The world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent. The slogan, 'Press on,' has solved and will solve the problems of the human race.

Calvin Coolidge

If what you're working for really matters, you'll give it all you've got.

Nido Qubein

Kites rise highest against the wind -- not with it.

Sir Winston Churchill

Watch your thoughts; they become words.

Watch your words; they become actions.

Watch your actions; they become habits.

Watch your habits; they become character.

Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.

Frank Outlaw

Don't measure yourself by what you have accomplished, but by what you should have accomplished with your ability.

John Wooden

Nobody motivates today's workers. If it doesn't come from within, it doesn't come. Fun helps remove the barriers that allow people to motivate themselves.

Herman Cain

You cannot raise a man up by calling him down.

William Boetcker

Do not wait for leaders. Do it alone, person to person.

Mother Teresa

The final test of a leader is that he leaves behind him in other men the conviction to carry on.

Walter Lippmann



On Teamwork:

Team building has a price, in energy, money, and time. When you build a team, you pay with your life. But if you do, in return you receive a better life.

John C. Maxwell

If a team is to reach its potential, each player must be willing to subordinate his personal goals to the good of the team

Bud Wilkinson

Even when you've played the game of your life, it's the feeling of teamwork that you'll remember. You'll forget the plays, the shots, the scores, but you'll never forget your teammates

John C. Maxwell

The freedom to do your own thing ends when you have obligations and responsibilities. If you want to fail yourself, you can, but you cannot do your own thing if you have responsibilities to team members.

Lou Holtz

Teamwork requires that everyone's efforts flow in a single direction. Feelings of significance happen when a team's energy takes on a life of its own... Teamwork is the only way to reach our ultimate moments, and create breakthroughs that define our careers and fulfill our lives.

Pat Riley

There are plenty of teams in every sport that have great players and never win titles. Most of the time, those players aren't willing to sacrifice for the greater good of the team. The funny thing is, in the end, their unwillingness to sacrifice only makes individual goals more difficult to achieve. One thing I believe to the fullest is that if you think and achieve as a team, the individual accolades will take care of themselves. Talent wins games but teamwork and intelligence win championships.

Michael Jordan

In the end, the team fails or succeeds together. The best way to serve the individuals on the team is to see that the whole team wins. Do that, and dreams can come true for everyone.

John C. Maxwell



Loyalty is very important when things get a little tough, as they often do when the challenge is great. Loyalty is a powerful force in producing one's individual best and more so in producing a team's best

John Wooden

Real integrity is doing the right thing, knowing that nobody's going to know whether you did it or not.

Oprah Winfrey

Everyone's a star and deserves the right to twinkle

Marilyn Monroe

I'm not beautiful like you. I'm beautiful like me.

Joy Drop

Beautiful Dreams come a size too big so that we can grow into them.

Josie Bisset

All kids need is a little help, a little hope and somebody who believes in them.

Earvin "Magic" Johnson

Nobody who ever gave his best regretted it

George Halas.

Setting a goal is not the main thing. It is deciding how you will go about achieving it and staying with that plan.

Tom Landry

Expect victory and you make victory.

Preston Bradley.

Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.

William Arthur Ward.

Continuous effort - not strength or intelligence - is the key to unlocking our potential

Winston Churchill.

We have no limits--we create them in our mind.

Bud LaBranche, Motivational speaker and writer



Our aspirations are our possibilities.
Robert Browning (1812-1889), Poet

The answer to having a better life is not about getting a better life, it's just about changing how we see the one we have right now.
Angel Kyodo Williams, Founder of the Urban Peace Project

I tell people: If you don't want to get into positive thinking, that's OK. Just eliminate all the negative thoughts from your mind, and whatever's left will be fine.
Bob Rotella, Sports psychologist

It's how you deal with failure that determines how you achieve success. - David Feherty

A positive attitude can really make dreams come true -- it did for me.
Zina Garrison

Nothing in life is so hard that you can't make it easier by the way you take it.
Ellen Glasgow

What happens is not as important as how you react to what happens.
Thaddeus Golas

It's not the load that breaks you down, it's the way you carry it.
Lena Horne

The greatest discovery of my generation is that human beings can alter their lives by altering their attitudes of mind.
William James

If you will call your troubles experiences, and remember that every experience develops some latent force within you, you will grow vigorous and happy, however adverse your circumstances may seem to be.
John R. Miller

Our attitude toward life determines life's attitude towards us.
Earl Nightingale



Always keep that happy attitude. Pretend that you are holding a beautiful fragrant bouquet.

Candice M. Pope

Attitude is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than what people do or say. It is more important than appearance, giftedness, or skill.

Charles Swindoll

There is little difference in people, but that little difference makes a big difference. That little difference is attitude. The big difference is whether it is positive or negative. -

W. Clement Stone

Great things are done by people who think great thoughts and then go out into the world to make their dreams come true.

Anonymous

If a team is to reach its potential, each player must be willing to subordinate his personal goals to the good of the team.

Bud Wilkinson

You don't get the breaks unless you play with the team instead of against it.

Lou Gehrig (1903-1941) Baseball player

There can only be one state of mind as you approach any profound test; total concentration, a spirit of togetherness, and strength.

Pat Riley

There is a big difference between hard work and teamwork.

Jim Lundy

The way a team plays as a whole determines its success. You may have the greatest bunch of individual stars in the world, but if they don't play together, the club won't be worth a dime.

Babe Ruth

When your team is winning, be ready to be tough, because winning can make you soft. On the other hand, when your team is losing, stick by them; keep believing.

Bo Schembechler

Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, and working together is success.

Henry Ford



Snowflakes are one of nature's most fragile things, but just look at what they can do when they stick together.

Anonymous

Begin doing what you want to do now. We are not living in eternity. We have only this moment, sparkling like a star in our hand and melting like a snowflake.

Marie Beyon Ray

Never believe that a few caring people can't change the world. Indeed, that's all who ever have.

Margaret Mead (1901-1978), Anthropologist

You can buy someone's time, you can buy someone's physical presence at a given place; you can even buy a measured number of skilled muscular motions per hour or day. But you cannot buy enthusiasm; you cannot buy initiative, you cannot buy loyalty; you cannot buy devotion of hearts, minds, and souls. You have to earn these things.

Clarence Francis

Few burdens are heavy when everyone lifts.

Anonymous

You can learn more about a person in one hour of play than a year of conversation

Plato

I've always felt it was not up to anyone else to make me give my best.

Akeem Olajuwon

**INCORPORATE THESE QUOTES INTO
YOUR ORGANIZATION'S CULTURE!**



A FEW GREAT OPTIONS FOR BUILDING YOUR TEAM:

