

Summary:

Coach K gives lots of real life, entertaining, basketball related examples of choosing, building and leading teams. The examples are very translatable to business and life. He offers 169 tips, five fundamentals of great teams and 48 quotes from himself and other successful leaders.

Coach K's fundamentals of a great team:

1. Communication
2. Trust
3. Collective Responsibility
4. Caring
5. Pride

His best tips on choosing a team:

1. Recruit great individuals who are willing to be part of a team and who are coachable.
2. Believe in a handshake

His best tips on building a team:

1. Use plural pronouns like "we and "us" right away
2. Instill the discipline to tell the truth. It's a waste of time to deal with anything less.
3. Great teams embrace responsibility
4. Go through an appraisal/reevaluation process every year and rotate some responsibilities.

His best tips on leading a team:

1. Give people the freedom to show the heart they possess
2. Leaders should be reliable without being predictable.
3. All your assistants should have the vision of being a top leader.
4. That way they will want to learn and grow.
5. At the end of every season, thank your team for their effort
6. Sometimes, all the good things you do for team members do not make a big enough difference. Sometimes people have to move on.

The best of the best quotes:

1. "Believe that the loose ball you are chasing has your name on it." - Coach K
2. "Life changes when you least expect it to. The future is uncertain. So, seize this day, seize this moment, and make the most of it." - Jim Valvano

BVC Opinions:

Good news: Well-written, easy to read, lots of cool b-ball examples, and every chapter has a summary of Coach K's tips.

Bad news: Too many tips to remember and you have heard most of them before.

Other news: Most good ideas bear repeating and the timing needs to be right for a tip to be useful. The timing is probably right on some of these tips for everyone. Therefore, well worth reading!

Applications:

- I have been using and telling most of you more than 100 of Coach K's tips and ideas over the last 10 to 20 years
- Coach K would agree with me when I remind you that teams are built from clarity and trust
- Clarity in: vision, mission, s.m.a.r.t. objectives, roles, responsibilities, communication, processes, decision making and leadership
- And trust in all the above and each other
- Measure your team against these criteria and see where you need to get better
- Set goals for team improvement and create real action plans to achieve them
- Coach K would also agree that team building is a never ending process
- Keep at it, and get an outside consultant to help!

And Finally:

If you want help on anything I have suggested, please e-mail me at rsbvc@aol.com or call me at my office on 610-388-3680 or on my cell at 610-324-8466.