

Name:

Instructor:

Course:

Date:

Leadership as depicted in *Miracle (2004)*

1. *What leadership traits, styles and behaviors did Coach Brooks display?*

Coach Brooks displayed confidence, self-motivation, accountability, effective communication, and toughness in his leadership. He was confident in his abilities to lead the United States national hockey team to win first place in the 1980 Olympics. Moreover, he believed that his players could play as a team and defeat the highly favored Soviets. The confidence displayed was inspiring to the players and the United States Olympic Committee. There were many hurdles to overcome from teammate rivalry to favoritism from the committee to obvious dislike of a new coach. However, Coach Brooks kept displaying resolve despite the setbacks. He exhibited authoritative leadership by defining the outcomes and enforcing his expectations on the team and the US Olympic committee.

2. *What strategies did Coach Brooks use to build the team and win the gold medal?*

One of the strategies that Brook uses is constructive criticism. Rob McClanahan has a knee injury that would slow his action as a forward. However, this player could play just as well in the field, a fact that the coach understands. When this player refuses to join the team in their match against Sweden, he criticizes him for failing the team. Rob takes up this challenge and gathers the courage to join the team, resulting in a remarkable win over Sweden (“Miracle 2004”). Another strategy that Brooks employs in building his team and winning medals is reinforcement. He makes us of the intermission to advise his team on the various ways through which they can overcome their rivals. After a defeat in the first half, he understands that the team

is demotivated and may perform even worse in the second round. Brooks reinforces the culture of winning and keeps his team motivated to tackle the opponent in subsequent rounds (“Miracle 2004”).

3. *What were the differences in leadership style between Coach Brooks and assistant coach Patrick? How did each style benefit the team?*

Patrick is moderate in behavior while Brooks is vigorous. When Rob enters into a fight with one of the teammates, Patrick sets in to stop it but Brooks allows the fight to proceed (“Miracle 2004”). The leadership approach between the two people is evident in their selection of the team to play in the Olympics. Patrick opts for the “best” players while Brooks seeks to name the “right” team for this game. This implies that both leaders are goal-oriented, but Brooks believes in nurturing the ability of a player rather than retaining the old ones that could feel indispensable and perform poorly. Patrick’s behavior serves to promote harmony while Brook’s style builds courage in the team and attracts victory.

4. *Did any of the team members emerge as leaders? Discuss.*

Rob emerges as a leader as the team proceeds with international games. At first, he breaks into a fight with an old rival, but later discovers the importance of unity for the success of the entire squad. Due to his love for the team and the desire to win, he joins the team while sustaining a knee injury and performs exemplarily well to win the title for the United States (“Miracle 2004”). His rise through the leadership ladder is a direct effect of Brooks’ motivation and leadership. Initially, Brooks recognizes that Rob is a talented player. He knew that his old rivalry with a schoolmate would affect his performance in the team going forward. He, therefore, allows him to fight the teammate as a step towards burying the hatchet. He then asks him to

introduce himself to the team as a way of cultivating solidarity. In other words, Rob emerges as a leader because of Brooks' mentorship and encouragement.

5. Discuss your perspectives on working as a team leader or team member (at work or school) or having a great or poor team leader from your high school or college sports experiences. What strategies/approaches worked and what did not?

Being a team leader is a challenge since the person has to display the skills that distinguish them from the rest of the teammates. Emerging a leader begins by proving one's ability. This happens when a person develops an interest in something. A leader should stand out from the rest by doing things that other people do not take part in. At the workplace, a person may come out as a leader when he or she takes charge of meetings, contributes constructively, and explores ideas towards achieving a specific target.

Additionally, the workplace environment calls for inclusivity and cultural competence. Workmates hail from diverse backgrounds and hold varying opinions on various matters. A leader must be inclusive. He or she should make decisions that incorporate the opinions of other people. In remaining inclusive, a leader should understand the backgrounds of the people under his or her control (Bourke and Espedido 4). An inclusive leader must appreciate the inherent abilities that each teammate has and strive towards improving each one of them.

A leader must be transformational. Peter G. Northouse's definition of leadership implies that leaders seek to improve their followers (Northouse 6). Moreover, the definition relays the fact that both the leader and followers work towards a common goal. It follows, therefore, that a team leader should nurture the abilities of the team members. He or she should investigate and find what each person is good at. This will help the team leader to identify the strategies that would improve a person for the sake of the entire team.

Works Cited

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