



The Muscle of Teamwork

If you had a choice would you choose to be on a winning team?

Well of course you would. Winning is glorious. It's an injection of self-esteem. It reinforces that you are on the right track. Winning pays more – in dollars, accolades or perhaps even psychic income, but everyone is happy when you win.

Everybody shines on a number one team. Winning spotlights each member's contribution, which makes victory so much sweeter. There is great reward when individual strengths are applied toward a group effort. The glimmer of a gold medal always shines brighter when a team is involved. To contribute is to belong; to belong is to become.

There is less risk with a high performance team. Jobs are safer because extraordinary performances protect the people who produce them; teammates watch out for each other. When your teammates are good at what they do, you're less likely to be jeopardized.

Whether you pocket more money or merely draw great satisfaction out of the game, it pays to play on a winning team!

So how can you get a chance to compete with a group like that?

Instead of changing teams, **help change the team you're on!!!**

Those who want to play on a championship team or work with a high performance unit know what it takes. They can't afford to be selfish, irresponsible or lazy. Teams that achieve uncommon results do so because their members trust their leaders, own their challenges and do the things no one else will do.

Champions understand that no dream ever died because of circumstances, dreams die because of lack of effort. Quitting is prohibited. Paul "Bear" Bryant said, "Quitting the first time is the hardest, then it just gets easier and easier." It annuls the other team member's commitments and sacrifices. Quitting kills the human spirit!

There is no whining, criticism or blame on a successful team. Acknowledging the fact that acceptance has nothing to do with liking it -- all teammates accept personal responsibility for overall performance. Certainly there will be bumps in the road but team players know that the way to handle tough times, the inevitable downsides, is to put more in. There is no place for blame within collective responsibility.

The inexorable Vince Lombardi said, "Teamwork is a personal commitment to a group goal." It's delayed immediate gratification, ego deflation and compromise. It's about using our tools to make our teammates better. It's saying here is everything I have for the good of the unit and I don't care who gets the credit. Teamwork is a muscle.

The reality is this: You do have a choice. You and your teammates can choose to be capricious or you can work the magic that moves your group beyond mediocrity and onto the medal stand. The Muscle of Teamwork – **IT'S UP TO YOU!**

Randy Snow