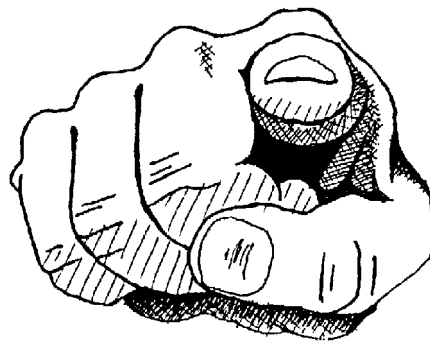


Your Season of Significance

I sincerely hope your team wins the state championship this year. Chances are you won't. How's that for motivation? The question is: How can you play beyond the scoreboard and lead your team to a season of significance regardless of your record? Am I saying your record is not important? No. Winning is great. I love to win, and I don't like losing. It's possible that using the ideas in this book may help your team win a few additional contests this year.

As a team captain, you will have the opportunity and the responsibility to lead your team to a season of significance, regardless of your record. *Playing Beyond the Scoreboard*

means looking at more than just wins and losses. It's about looking at the entire experience of athletics and being a leader as a building block to the future. The lessons you learn can last an entire lifetime.



About the Author

Craig Hillier has been speaking to teens since 1990, and he speaks to more than 75,000 young people each year. His high-energy programs and contagious enthusiasm captivate audiences throughout the United States. In addition to leadership keynotes and school assemblies, Craig focuses his efforts on student leadership training. His programs are upbeat, fun, and educational. Craig was awarded the Outstanding Young Alumni Award from Mankato State University and is a CSP (certified speaking professional) with the National Speakers Association. He also is the author of *How to Step Up as a Teen Leader*. He lives in Lakeville, Minnesota, with his wife Kelly and two children, Derrick and Abigayle.



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How to Use this Book

According to Webster's dictionary, significance is defined as "meaningful, important." Success is defined as a "favorable result, becoming famous." Significance is about creating lasting, important memories and lessons while success is about the end result or team record. Ideally, your season would be both significant and successful. I can't guarantee you a successful season, but I can predict you'll have a significant season by using the material in this book.

This book is a working manual for your season. Keep it in a place you can refer to often. Hopefully this will be a resource you will toss in a box of high school stuff when you graduate. Then in future years when you think about some of the highlights of high school you will look at the book and it will rekindle some incredible memories.

A Manual on Leadership

Up until now there have been few resources on becoming a strong team leader. *Playing Beyond the Scoreboard* examines the ins and outs of team leadership. You'll find out what to do and what to stay away from in the upcoming season. Obviously, it's impossible to cover every aspect of the season,

Ten Myths of Being a Captain

Myth 1: You are still part of the “gang.” When you accepted the role of team captain you also gave up being a part of the gang. At times, this is a challenging spot to be in. The coach is expecting you to be a shining example of a strong work ethic and discipline while your teammates and friends may be expecting you to cut them a break when they are slacking off and not working hard. Many times, you are going to feel like a rubber band being pulled in two different directions. The best captains get comfortable with being pulled in two directions. The key is to stretch without snapping.



Myth 2: The best players = the best leaders. Too often it is assumed that if you're a great player you instantly become a great team leader. Leadership skills and athletic skills are vastly different. Leadership is about *people skills* while athletic skills typically focus on *physical talent*. It's no secret most of the great coaches in sports were average players at best. However, an average athlete with excellent leadership ability can lead a team to an incredible season. Sometimes the most talented athletes can't understand why every-



one doesn't have the same ability they have. Therefore, they have a difficult time communicating with team members who are not at their same skill level. In a crucial situation, these types of leaders take it upon themselves to ensure a victory. If they were a little more objective, however, a different plan may be more effective. Don't get me wrong; if you are the best player on the team you have an excellent opportunity to lead. If you have the physical talent and apply the principles in this book, look out!

Myth 3: You must be loud to be a leader. A good friend of mine once said, "Don't confuse the loud with the strong." It seems there are a lot of people who are very loud but don't say anything of value. Some leaders are gifted at getting a team fired up with their words prior to a game. For others, getting up in front of the team and trying to give a "pump up" talk will not work. However, they lead by example. They may only say a few words, but their words are so valuable and thought out everyone takes them to heart. Both loud leaders and quiet leaders can be powerful team captains.



Myth 4: Leaders must be popular. Colin Powell in his "Leadership Primer" program says, "Good leadership involves responsibility to the welfare of the group, which means that some people will get angry at your actions and decisions. It's inevitable if you're honorable. Trying to get everyone to like

The Truth about Being a Captain

Now that you know the myths of being a captain, what about the truth? The truth is: It's going to be a memorable, valuable experience. One you will never forget. You will have the chance to really make a difference this season. Captains have the opportunity to help teammates reach beyond their potential. The truth is: A team will never have a season of significance without great leadership. You're the one who has been selected or elected to take this position.

The chapter title asks, "What makes it worth it?" I think Tom Hanks, in the movie "A League of Their Own," answers this question.

"A League of Their Own" illustrates the difficult part of keeping a team together while facing several obstacles. At a pivotal point in the movie, the team leader of the women's professional baseball team has had enough and wants to quit. Tom Hanks, who plays the coach of the team, asks, "Why do you want to quit?" The woman replies, "It just got too hard." Hanks, in this defining moment, pauses to reflect and responds, "It's the hard part that makes it worth it."

This same principle applies to being a captain. It's not going to be an easy, uneventful, smooth ride. You may run into situations where you wonder why you wanted to be a team leader. It's not uncommon to doubt your leadership ability. You may think it would have just been easier to be a team member versus trying to lead the team. As you face these situations, remember the words of Tom Hanks, "*It's the hard part that makes it worth it.*"

Eight Key Leadership Qualities

Evaluate yourself with each of these eight key leadership qualities. Checkmark one box for each quality that best describes where you're at right now.

Key Quality	Totally True	Mostly True	Somewhat True	Never True
1. Passionate — I am enthusiastic about my sport, and I can't stop talking about it.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Trustworthy — When people tell me their secrets, I don't tell others.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Knowledgeable — I know all the rules of the sport I play, and I have read the rule book.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Organized — I know what's going on, when things are going to happen, and I keep track of this information in a planner or calendar.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Honesty — I always tell the truth, even when it isn't easy.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

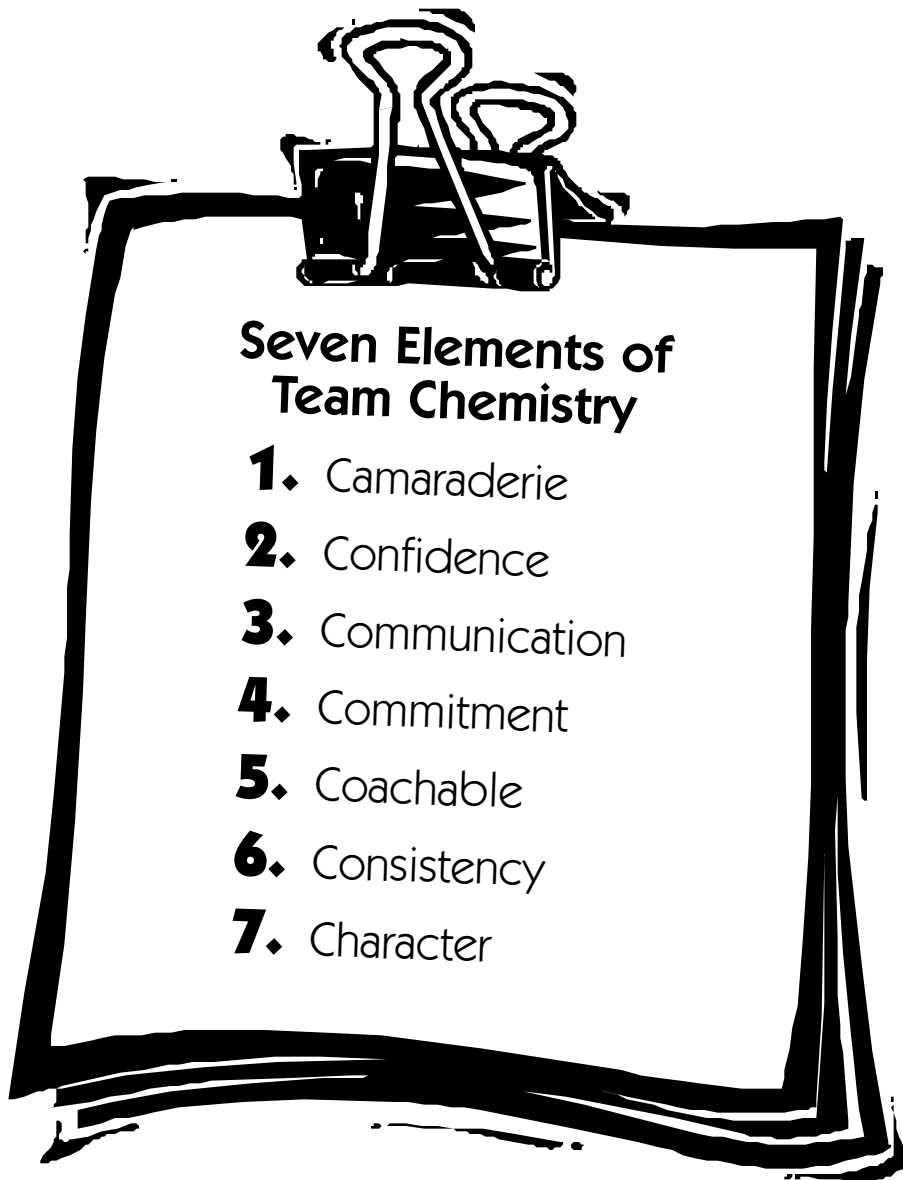
PLAYING BEYOND THE SCOREBOARD

Key Quality	Totally True	Mostly True	Somewhat True	Never True
6. Listening — When others talk to me, I <i>repeat</i> the information I've heard, I <i>respond</i> to the person while the person is talking to me, and I <i>request</i> more information.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Flexibility — I put the team's needs in front of my own and give new people and new positions a try, when necessary.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Caring — I follow the CARE formula of <i>complimenting</i> others, <i>acting</i> in the team's best interest, <i>respecting</i> differences, and <i>extending</i> a helping hand.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

When you're finished, look at the boxes you've checked. What are your strengths? What are your weaknesses?

Now go back and place a star next to the one quality that is the easiest for you. Circle the one that is the most challenging for you. Commit to making all eight of these qualities a top priority.

CAPTAIN'S CLIPBOARD



Coach to Captain Questionnaire

What do you expect from me personally this season?

If you were to write a job description for me this season, what would it look like?

How can I help you this season?

What's the process to address problems and concerns this season?

What do I need to understand that I may not know?

What's your leading style? (Circle one. See chapter three for a description of each style.)

Togetherness Enterpriser Analyzer Motivator

What's your supporting style? (Circle one.)

Togetherness Enterpriser Analyzer Motivator

What's your villain style? (Circle one.)

Togetherness Enterpriser Analyzer Motivator

How Drugs Affect Your Team

What are the potential side affects of drugs and alcohol on the team? If people are using drugs or alcohol it could affect:

- Team spirit
- Momentum
- The image of the team

That's not all. A division between those using and those not using could occur, which could destroy your team's sense of teamwork. Athletes could get caught and be suspended or removed from the team.

So what do you do if you're a captain, you don't use drugs or alcohol, but you know of team members who do? I think



you suggest that the team go to a movie or arcade together. Try to find a way to have some fun despite the current situation.

Key #8: Keep Losing in Perspective

Professional basketball coach Phil Jackson once said, “We never let winning go to our head or losing go to our heart.” This is a powerful statement to live and play by. After a loss, it’s natural to be mad and disappointed. It’s all right to hold on to that for a short time. It may serve as motivation to work harder in practice for the next game.

Unfortunately, however, many individuals and teams hold on to the loss way too long. *The only thing you can do after a loss is learn from it. Evaluate what went right and what went wrong.* After you’ve done that, move on and begin preparations for the next contest.

On the other end of the spectrum, avoid totally blowing off a loss. I’ve seen teams who lost by a huge margin laugh out loud as to how bad they were beaten. That sends a poor message to the coaching staff and to the fans who are trying to support the team.

Key #9: Keep Winning in Perspective

Remember what Phil Jackson said about winning? Never let it go to your head. It happens almost every season to one team in your school. That team is destroying opponents left and right. Suddenly the team is ranked in the state poll. Then all of the sudden, a team with very little talent comes along and defeats that state-ranked team.

Mediating Conflict

As a team leader, it's your obligation to be a conflict manager. Throughout the season, challenges will arise that require your mediation. This isn't easy. It's tempting to just ignore the conflict with the hopes it will disappear.



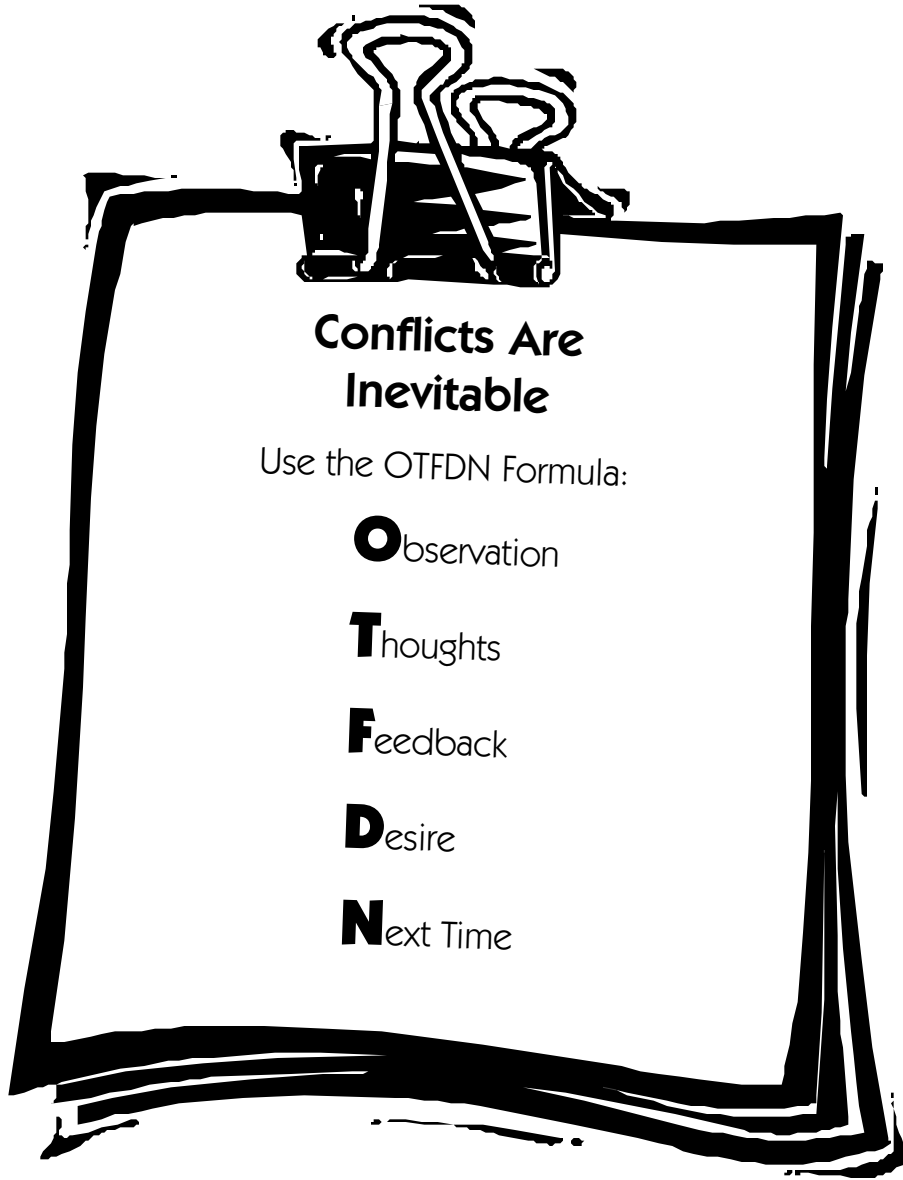
Don't let small issues build until they get out of control. If you have a problem with a coach or teammate, be strong enough to address the situation. Do it as soon as possible. Remember: you may not have all the facts. You could be making an unfair or inaccurate conclusion based upon the limited knowledge you have.

Although the OTFDN formula is effective, it is not 100%. Sometimes you can't work through the conflict, but at least you had the courage to try to resolve it. Team leaders are wise enough to understand that sometimes people are going to disagree. But you can come to an agreement on that. Agree to disagree.

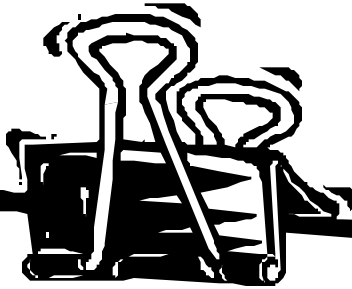
Sometimes both sides will see the other's point of view but neither will compromise their position. You can still have a season of significance even if everybody doesn't agree all the time. It's rare to have complete harmony on a team.

I promise the OTFDN formula will help you manage conflict in a positive manner. You will be able to use this formula not only with teammates and coaches but in every relationship you have. Conflict is inevitable. Manage it and then move on!

CAPTAIN'S CLIPBOARD



CAPTAIN'S CLIPBOARD



Five Keys to Sportsmanship

- Key #1:** Cool heads prevail.
- Key #2:** You can't control a bad call.
- Key #3:** The other team is the opponent, not the enemy.
- Key #4:** Arrogance is ugly.
- Key #5:** Win or lose, commit to class.