Team Captains’ Perceptions of Athlete Leadership

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The purpose of this study was to identify and examine the leadership behaviors exhibited by formal athlete leaders. Semi-structured individual interviews were conducted with six former university male ice hockey team captains. The results of the analysis revealed three higher-order categories: (a) interpersonal characteristics and experiences, which included elements related to their personal make-up and previous leadership experiences; (b) verbal interactions, which included interactions with teammates and coaches; and (c) task behaviors, which included responsibilities and behaviors relating to administrative matters and to improving team climate, norms, and functioning. The results revealed the importance of formally designated athlete leaders (e.g., team captains) by describing the nature of their experiences, the behaviors they displayed, how the behaviors were manifested, and when and where their leadership behaviors were exhibited.

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There is definitely a lot to learn from those captains like Oliver Kahn, but knowledge cannot just be based on the perception of one person or a small group of outstanding people. Thus, besides anecdotes which illustrate the essential role of athlete leaders in a team, profound research is needed to deepen our understanding of different functions of players in team and individual sports.


McCrimmon, Mitch (1996-2009). The Social Change Model of Leadership Development. "Team Leadership" Captains must participate in the Leadership Program. What Can You Do, Why Do You Do It? Captains of varsity sports meet regularly with the administration, the director of athletics and/or members of the coaching staff to discuss current issues and events as they relate to their teams, to the athletic department, and to the high school. Issues such as leadership, team building, and the continuing development of the ideal student-athlete profile are central themes for discussion. All student-athletes that desire to be team captain's must first compete the 'Captain's Clinic' to be considered by the team's coaches as a captain. Clinics will be conducted three times per year; spring, fall and winter. Team captains' perceptions of athlete leadership. Journal of Sport Behavior, (29), pp. 60-78.

Glenn, S. D. and Horn, T. S. Psychological and personal predictors of leadership behavior in female soccer athletes. 1993 - Journal of Applied Sport Psychology. In-text: (Glenn and Horn, 1993). Your Bibliography: Glenn, S. and Horn, T., 1993. Psychological and personal predictors of leadership behavior in female soccer athletes. Journal of Applied Sport Psychology, 5(1), pp.17-34. Book. Journal of Sport Behavior; Mar 2006; 29, 1; ProQuest. pg. 60. Team Captains' Perceptions of Athlete Leadership. Martin Dupuis and Gordon A. Bloom McGill University. Todd M. Loughead. University of Windsor. The purpose of this study was to identify and examine the leadership behaviors exhibited by formal athlete leaders. Semi-structured individual interviews were conducted with six former university male ice hockey team captains. The results of the analysis revealed three higher-order categories: (a) interpersonal characteristics and experiences, which included elements related to their per