



BEYOND MORT

MORT'S KEYWORDS FOR TEAM SUCCESS

A

ADAPTABILITY – YOU MUST ALWAYS BE WILLING TO ADAPT. WHEN YOU DO, YOU AND YOUR TEAM WILL BE EVEN MORE SUCCESSFUL. WE MUST REMEMBER THAT NO TEAM OR INDIVIDUAL IS THE SAME AS THOSE FROM A YEAR AGO OR EVEN A DECADE AGO

ADVERSITY – CAN TEACH YOU MORE ABOUT YOURSELF THAN ANY SUCCESS. OVERCOMING AN OBSTACLE FEELS EVEN BETTER THAN AN EASY WIN ON THE FIELD. THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN ABOUT YOUR ENDURANCE, YOUR ABILITY TO TURN A NEGATIVE INTO A POSITIVE, AND YOUR PERSONAL STRENGTH OF HEART.

B

BALANCE – BEING MOTIVATED BY MORT IS IMPORTANT, BUT YOU MUST BE CAUTIOUS NOT TO BECOME ONE-DIMENSIONAL. IF THERE IS NO BALANCE BETWEEN THE TIME AND ENERGY SPENT ON MORT, YOUR FAMILY, YOUR FRIENDS, YOU CAN BECOME UNBALANCED INTERNALLY. BE CAREFUL.

BELIEF – IN ALL FORMS OF LEADERSHIP, WHETHER YOU ARE A MENTOR, A PARENT, A STUDENT, THERE ARE FOUR WORDS THAT, WHEN SAID, CAN BRING OUT THE BEST IN MORT, YOUR TEAMMATES, AND OUR MORT FAMILY – “I BELIEVE IN YOU”. THESE FOUR WORDS CAN MEAN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A FEAR OF FAILURE AND THE COURAGE TO TRY.

C

CARE - WHEN YOU CARE ABOUT SOMEONE OR SOMETHING YOU SHOW A GENUINE CONCERN FOR THAT PERSON OR GROUP, IN GOOD TIMES AND BAD.

COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY – WE WIN TOGETHER, WE LOSE TOGETHER. AT ANY GIVEN POINT DURING OUR SEASON, WHEN YOU LOOK UP AT THE RANKING BOARD, THERE’S NO INDIVIDUAL’S NAME. INSTEAD, IT SHOWS “1 1”. THIS MEANS THAT IN NO WAY DOES A SINGLE INDIVIDUAL WIN OR LOSE A MATCH. EACH MATCH, AND

INDEED EACH MOMENT OF OUR SEASON IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ENTIRE TEAM.

COMMITMENT – COMMIT TO MORT’S SUCCESS. IT IS EASY TO BE COMMITTED TO A GROUP DURING GOOD TIMES, BECAUSE WHEN THINGS ARE GOING WELL, YOUR COMMITMENT IS NEVER CHALLENGED. BUT LOYALTY AND DEDICATION DURING DIFFICULT TIMES CAN BE TOUGH. WHEN COMMITMENT DOESN’T WAIVER, THAT’S WHEN YOU HAVE THE GREATEST CHANCE OF SUCCESS.

COMMUNICATION – EFFECTIVE TEAMWORK BEGINS AND ENDS WITH COMMUNICATION. THE WORD MEANS TO CONVEY A MESSAGE. IN ORDER TO EFFECTIVELY COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR TEAMMATES, YOU MUST ASK YOURSELF AND ONE ANOTHER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. HOW DO WE TALK TO ONE ANOTHER?
2. HOW DO WE LISTEN?

TO ENSURE THAT EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION OCCURS, WHEN YOU TALK WITH EACH OTHER, YOU LOOK EACH OTHER IN THE EYE.

COURAGE – WE ALL POSSESS COUNTLESS GOOD QUALITIES AS AN INDIVIDUAL, BUT IF WE DON’T HAVE THE COURAGE TO PROCEED, YOU MAY NEVER SEE THOSE QUALITIES COME TO FRUITION. FOR THE MOST PART, PEOPLE DO NOT ATTEMPT THINGS BECAUSE THEY FEAR THE CONSEQUENCES. BUT THE GREATEST CONSEQUENCE OF ALL COMES IN NOT ATTEMPTING TO DO THOSE THINGS YOU BELIEVE YOU CAN. BOLDLY PURSUE YOUR DREAMS!

CRISIS MANAGEMENT – PREPARATION! CRISES ARE NOT HANDLED IN THE INSTANT THEY OCCUR BUT ARE PREPARED FOR IN ALL OF THE MOMENTS THAT YOU AND THE TEAM SPEND LEADING UP TO THAT ONE CRISIS. YOU PREPARE FOR THE CRISIS WELL AHEAD OF TIME BY ESTABLISHING TRUSTING RELATIONSHIPS AMONG ALL OF MORT’S MEMBERS.

CULTURE – DEVELOPING A CULTURE MEANS HAVING A TRADITION THAT MAINTAINS THE STANDARDS YOU WANT TO DEFINE OUR TEAM/PROGRAM. A SUCCESSFUL DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURE IS WHEN YOU HEAR THE DIFFERENT VOICES ECHOING THE SAME

MESSAGE THROUGHOUT THE TEAM – NOW AND THROUGH THE HISTORY OF MORT AND INTO THE FUTURE.

D

DEPENDABILITY – IS THE ABILITY TO BE RELIED UPON. TO ALWAYS BE THERE TRYING TO DO YOUR BEST. DEPENDABILITY IS NOT ONLY ABOUT BEING THERE PHYSICALLY, BUT THERE AT YOUR BEST. IT IS ABOUT LOYALTY AND COMMITMENT, ABOUT BEING SOMEONE WHOM YOUR TEAMMATES CAN COUNT ON.

E

EMPATHY – THE ABILITY TO WALK IN ANOTHER PERSON’S SHOES. IF SOMEONE BELIEVES THAT YOU CAN IDENTIFY WITH THEIR SITUATION AND UNDERSTAND THEIR FEELINGS, THEY ARE MORE APT TO TRUST YOU, WHICH LEAD TO FASTER RESPONSES TO SITUATIONS AND BETTER CONCLUSIONS.

ENTHUSIASM – IS A GREAT INTEREST OR EXCITEMENT. WHEN YOU ARE ENTHUSIASTIC, YOU ARE A CATALYST TO THOSE AROUND YOU. YOUR UNABASHED LOVE AND EMOTION FOR WHAT YOU ARE DOING IS CONTAGIOUS.

EXCELLENCE – DEFINE YOUR OWN SUCCESS AND FAILURE; ONLY YOU KNOW WHETHER OR NOT YOU HAVE GIVEN YOUR ALL. THE PERSISTENT PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE DETERMINES WINNERS, NOT THE FINAL SCORE OF THE MATCH.

F

FAILURE – NO ONE CAN BE PERFECT. WHEN YOU BREAK OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE AND TRY NEW THINGS, YOU WILL PROBABLY EXPERIENCE SOME FORM OF FAILURE. FAILURE CANNOT BE YOUR FINAL DESTINATION; RATHER, YOU CAN USE IT TO SHATTER LIMITS. IT IS MERELY A STEPPING STONE ON YOUR JOURNEY TO GREATNESS.

FAMILY – MORT IS AN EXTENDED FAMILY FOR ALL INVOLVED; STUDENTS, MENTORS, PARENTS, SPONSORS, ETC. WE ARE ALL HERE FOR THE GOOD AND BAD TIMES. THERE’S A PLACE FOR EVERYONE IN OUR MORT FAMILY.

FRIENDSHIP – THERE IS NOTHING MORE VALUABLE THAN A TRUE FRIEND. THEY REMIND YOU OF WHO YOU WERE, WHO YOU ARE NOW, AND WHO YOU ARE GOING TO BE. THEY KEEP YOU BOTH GROUNDED AND GOING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

FUNDAMENTALS – IF YOU WANT TO STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE, YOU MUST EMBRACE CONTINUAL WORK ON THE FUNDAMENTALS. WITH INTENSIVE, INTELLIGENT, AND REPETITIVE WORK, WE CAN ALL DO THE BASICS. BETTER!

G

GIVING BACK – NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHAT YOU HAVE ACHIEVED, YOU ARE INCOMPLETE UNTIL YOU FIND A WAY TO USE YOUR TALENTS AND EXPERIENCES IN YOUR LIFE TO HAVE A POSITIVE EFFECT ON OTHERS. HAVE A POSITIVE INFLUENCE ON OTHERS!

GUIDANCE – WHEN SOMEONE ASKS YOU FOR GUIDANCE, YOU DO JUST THAT GUIDE. YOU CAN GO TO SOMEONE YOU TRUST AND RESPECT TO POINT OUT A PATH, BUT REMEMBER: ***SOLUTIONS ARE PERSONAL***. THEY ARE YOURS. YOU MUST TAKE OWNERSHIP OF THEM.

H

HELP - WHEN YOU SEE SOMEONE THAT NEEDS HELP, STOP AND LEND A HAND. MANY HANDS LIGHTEN THE LOAD! WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER!

I

IMAGINATION – USE IT!! THE GREATEST GIFT A TEACHER, MENTOR OR PARENT CAN GIVE A STUDENT IS THE OPPORTUNITY TO IMAGINE GREAT THINGS. THESE DREAMS IN CHILDHOOD PAVE THE WAY FOR FUTURE SUCCESSES. THE FOUNDATION OF ACHIEVEMENT IS IN THE DREAMS, IN IMAGINATION.

INTEGRITY – INTEGRITY MEANS DOING WHAT'S RIGHT WHETHER YOU ARE ALONE OR WITH A GROUP, DOING THE RIGHT THING NO MATTER WHAT THE REWARDS OR THE CONSEQUENCES MAY BE. IT MEANS PUTTING YOUR BASE OF ETHICS INTO ACTION.

L

LEARNING – NEVER STOP LEARNING! ONCE YOU STOP LEARNING YOU HAVE STOPPED LIVING. THE KEY TO LEARNING IS LISTENING. LISTEN TO EVERYONE AND LEARN FROM THEIR EXPERIENCES!

M

MOTIVATION – THE EXTRA PUSH NEEDED TO REACH A GOAL. SURROUND YOURSELF WITH GREAT PEOPLE. WHEN WE MOTIVATE EACH OTHER, OUR TEAM USUALLY ENDS UP AT A GREAT DESTINATION.

N

NEXT MATCH – THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE “NEXT MATCH” IS ESSENTIALLY WHAT YOU HAVE JUST DONE IS NOT AS IMPORTANT AS WHAT YOU ARE DOING RIGHT NOW! DON’T WASTE TIME LAMENTING ABOUT A MISTAKE OR CELEBRATING A SUCCESS SINCE IT’S A DISTRACTION THAT CAN LEAVE YOU AND THE TEAM UNPREPARED FOR WHAT YOU ARE ABOUT TO FACE NEXT!

O

OWNERSHIP – THE TEAM BELONGS TO ALL OF US AND IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL OF US TO SUSTAIN IT AND MAINTAIN ITS VALUES, PURELY BECAUSE THEY ARE OURS. WE WILL CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH EVERYONE FEELS A PART OF THE TEAM AND KNOWS THAT THEY ARE IMPORTANT. WHEN EVERYONE HAS A SENSE OF OWNERSHIP, OUR TEAM WILL NEVER FAIL!

P

PASSION – EXTREME EMOTION! WHEN YOU ARE PASSIONATE, YOU ALWAYS HAVE YOUR DESTINATION IN SIGHT AND YOU ARE NOT DISTRACTED BY OBSTACLES. YOU BELIEVE THAT NOTHING CAN STOP YOU!

POISE – KEEPING YOUR COMPOSURE IN SPITE OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES. POISE REQUIRES MATURITY. IT’S ABOUT REMAINING MENTALLY AND EMOTIONALLY BALANCED ALL THE TIME,

NO MATTER WHAT IS TAKING PLACE AROUND YOU. NEVER SHOW A WEAKNESS THROUGH YOUR WORDS, FACIAL EXPRESSIONS OR BODY LANGUAGE.

PRESSURE – PRESSURE IS A COMPELLING INFLUENCE. THE ABILITY TO HANDLE PRESSURE IS ALL IN HOW YOU LOOK AT IT. WE NEED TO LOOK AT PRESSURE AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW HOW STRONG AND CAPABLE YOU AND MORT REALLY ARE. PREPARATION IS THE KEY IF YOU HOPE TO OPERATE WELL UNDER PRESSURE.

PRIDE – PRIDE IS DEFINED FOR MORT AS THE FOLLOWING: SELF-RESPECT AND A FEELING OF SATISFACTION OVER AN ACCOMPLISHMENT. IT ALSO COMES FROM BE A PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER THAN YOU. PRIDE MEANS HAVING AN UNDERSTANDING THAT YOU PUT YOUR SIGNATURE ON EVERYTHING YOU DO AND ENSURING THEN THAT WHAT YOU DO IS DONE IN THE BEST MANNER POSSIBLE.

R

RESPECT – TREAT EVERYONE THE SAME. THE SIMPLE ACT OF SHOWING RESPECT WILL ALLOW YOU TO MEET PEOPLE, TO LET THEM COME INTO YOUR LIFE, AND TO MAKE YOU A BETTER PERSON. VALUE EVERYONE!

S

SELFLESSNESS – YOU WILL DO WHAT’S BEST FOR THE TEAM. BEING A PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER THAN YOURSELF REQUIRES SELFLESSNESS AND THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THERE WILL BE PERSONAL SACRIFICE FOR THE GOOD OF THE TEAM.

STANDARDS - A LEVEL OF EXCELLENCE THAT WE CONSIDER THE “NORM”. STANDARDS DEFINE WHAT IS AND IS NOT ACCEPTABLE FOR AN INDIVIDUAL OR A TEAM. KEEP YOUR STANDARDS INTACT, KEEP THE BAR HIGH AND CONTINUE TO TRY YOUR BEST EVERY DAY TO MEET THOSE STANDARDS.

T

TALENT – TALENT IS A NATURAL GIFT AND A WONDERFUL THING TO HAVE. THE ABILITY TO DEVELOP YOUR TALENT IS A TALENT WITHIN ITSELF. HOW WE GET TO OUR DESTINATION IS NOT THE ISSUE.

THE PEOPLE WHO REACH THEIR DESTINATIONS ARE THE ONES WHO DEVELOP THEIR TALENTS FULLY AND EFFECTIVELY. IT'S UP TO EACH OF US TO DEVELOP OUR TALENTS!

TRUST – TRUST IS THE FOUNDATION UPON WHICH RELATIONSHIPS MUST BE BASED. TRUST IS DEVELOPED THROUGH OPEN AND HONEST COMMUNICATION AND, ONCE ESTABLISHED CREATES A SHARED VISION FOR A COMMON GOAL. ESTABLISHING TRUST WITHIN A TEAM BOLSTERS A FEELING OF CONFIDENCE THAT ONLY COMES IN KNOWING THAT YOU ARE NOT ALONE. IT ESSENTIALLY MEANS, “I HAVE YOUR BACK”!

W

WILL – WHEN YOU INVEST IN SOMETHING AS SUCH A HIGH LEVEL, YOU WILL DO ANYTHING TO MAKE IT HAPPEN. WILL BEGINS WITH A FOUNDATION OF CHARACTER, VALUES, AND STANDARDS. WILL IS THE REFUSAL TO GIVE UP ON YOUR VALUES.

WORK – AMBITION ALONE IT NOT ENOUGH! THE AMBITION MUST BE COUPLED WITH HARD WORK FOR SUCCESS TO BE ACHIEVED. WORK IS A NECESSITY IF YOU WANT TO IMPROVE. FAMOUS BASKETBALL COACH JOHN WOODEN ONCE SAID “NOTHING WILL WORK UNLESS YOU DO.” THAT SUMS IT UP FOR MORT!