

# *LEADERSHIP*

Hockey coaches look for leaders amongst their players and they talk about leadership to individual players and to their entire teams. But to often if you ask a player to define leadership they will mutter something about the Captain, leading by example, and of course scoring the big goal or making the game saving stop in net.

Leadership is hard for many people to define exactly what it is but they seem to know it when they see it. Most great teams have strong leaders at the helm and on the ice. The leaders on the ice take their cue from the helm. Most people would agree that Vince Lombardi, Herb Brooks, Scotty Bowman, Rick Patino, Colin Powell, Dwight Eisenhower, Harry Truman, Jack Welch and John Wooden were and are great leaders. Although some lead teams and some lead a company and some the entire nation they all have a few things in common. They were leaders who had vision and the ability to make things happen.

As hockey coaches were are faced with many of the same challenges. Former Air Force General William Cohen lists eight laws of leadership in his book "*The Stuff of Heroes*". His list is as follows;

- 1) Maintain Absolute Integrity
- 2) Know Your Stuff
- 3) Declare your expectations
- 4) Show Uncommon Commitment
- 5) Expect Positive Results
- 6) Take Care of Your People
- 7) Put Duty Before Self
- 8) Get Out In Front

Great leaders influence others through passion, integrity, trustworthiness and loyalty. They do what is right regardless of the risks or costs. They do not do it because they think it will help them win or give them an advantage. They do it because it is the right thing to do.

As you prepare for the up coming season spend a few minutes on the list of eight. How do you measure up against that list? Where can you get better? The young people that you coach this season will learn more from your behavior and actions than your words.

**Be a leader, the world needs more them**

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**July 2003**