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KIN 6410 Professional Philosophy

October 28, 2014

The philosophy of a professional working in the sports field is something that defines them, and shapes the way they work, make decisions, and live their lives. When looking into my own philosophy it really made me think about what my beliefs are and what I want to stand for when working as a professional in sports. Such questions were brought to my mind such as: What is my style of leadership? , What ethical behaviors would I stick close with? , and How would I like to portray myself as a role model for young kids, athletes who I represent, fellow colleagues, or future sports industry professionals?. These are the hard-hitting matters that one who is working in the sports field must think about and constantly recall every time they make a decision that affects the athletes, staff, or coaches that are associated with them.

The area of sports administration I would like to enter is the Facility Management and Operations specifically for the collegiate field. I value this position very highly and think of it as a major aspect of a sports event team, and franchise. Without the proper facilities and proper management of these facilities the team could not perform properly if at all. To me this is one of the most important parts of sports that most people probably do not think about. To me this position is very important. As for my style of leadership I like to lead by example and not be too demanding. I do not like confrontation unless it is warranted and like to try and get along with everyone. But, I do know how to draw a fine line between being in charge and getting things done, and bossing people around. I believe that you should treat employees and fellow colleagues how you would like to be treated and respect them.

When looking into ethical behavior I like to think that I try to be as ethical as possible. I like to try and stick with the core values that my parents and family have instilled in me. This meaning not judging others by the color of their skin or ethnicity, and treating people with respect, and also being as honest as possible when doing work, talking to others, or in general everyday life. Like stated before equality is a big deal in how I look at the word of sports, especially when it comes to men and women. Even though most men’s sports are more popular there should still be equal opportunities for both men and women. Bringing diversity into the workplace, and in this case a team, can be a very good thing because it allows for understanding of new cultures and people. One of the biggest ethical issues that I look at a lot is the protection of the athletes and people working with or for me. It would be hard for me to allow something illegal to go on regarding a player or coworker without taking it to the proper authorities and having something done. Such cases as drug use, whether they are illegal drugs or performance-enhancing, illegal payments to student athletes, or cases such as those at Penn State University or Duke University. It doesn’t matter if it was being done to someone associated with athletics or not, every case should still be dealt with legally and to ensure the safety and justice of everyone involved.

Being a proper role model for kids, athletes, colleagues, or aspiring sports professionals is a very big deal to me. Showing these groups of people how I like to work and run my life makes a big impact on me. This is because I would like these people to see how my values and beliefs effect the way I work and live. One of the biggest areas that I like to pay attention to and stay concerned with is the athletic facilities that are being used and the safety, along with entertainment that comes from them. Wanting to go into the Sports Facility Management and Operations field and one day be in charge of this area, specifically collegiately, this area peaks my interest greatly. One thing that I try to keep close to me and think about is that sports are supposed to be entertainment and fun, not just for the athletes, but for the fans as well. Providing a great atmosphere and ensuring a good time and fun for the fans would be a big deal for me. As for the athletes, providing them with the most modern and state-of the-art facilities with amenities that can help them enjoy their time as well as perform at optimum level would be a key area for thoughts regarding this area. Another aspect of the facilities that I would look at and feel strongly about is creating the safest environment for students and fans alike.

When looking into sports professionals that had the same ideas as I do I found one in an article that really made me think and seemed to be similar to how I view things in the sports world. The first would be Ron Polk, former Mississippi State Baseball coach and considered the “Father of SEC Baseball”, who resigned from his coaching position to move into a job where he could stand up for the rights of college baseball coaches and student athletes alike. If I were in a position where I had to choose between the protecting the athletes and other coaches, or even other sports administrators, over not doing anything and keeping my career I would honestly believe that is the right thing to do. Another person that I share beliefs with is an athletic trainer that I interned, Kristie Hittle, with that used to work as the athletic trainer for a local high school. She would put the athletes safety and well-being first despite if they were a star athlete or despite possible urging of coaches. The integrity and loyalty for her job and for the safety of the student athletes is something that I like to compare myself with and would someday like to possess these assets as much as she does.

The beliefs and values that I have grown up with and have been taught through my experiences truly shape the way I work and live my life. In the sports administration field values such as loyalty, honesty, integrity, and hard-work truly can take you far and that is exactly what I intend. The goals that I have set for myself in the future and in this field will hopefully take me along way and I will continue to use my beliefs and thoughts to work towards these goals.

References

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