

“There is no limit to what a man can accomplish if he doesn’t care who gets the credit.”

>Ronald Reagan<

The 2018 Winter Olympics in PyeongChang, South Korea, are just around the corner. There is something profoundly awe-inspiring about these extraordinary athletes and their singular drive to compete and to push their bodies beyond the limits to set new records.

Unknown faces become living legends in the Olympics. In 1976, a tiny 14-year-old prodigy from Romania inspired young girls everywhere with the first perfect 10 in Olympic gymnastics history. Nadia Comaneci then went on to achieve six more perfect 10 scores and earned a total of nine medals.

In the 1936 games, Jesse Owens set five world records and equaled a sixth in a span of just 45 minutes, competing with an injury so severe it nearly got him pulled from the competition. (That’s an average of one world record every nine minutes!)

Carl Lewis set track and field records that were unbroken for decades. He was hailed as “Olympian of the Century” after his appearances in the 1984 and 1988 games.

Mark Spitz set new world records in all seven swimming events in which he competed in 1972. His record was unsurpassed until Michael Phelps won eight golds at the 2008 summer games. Competing in the last three summer Olympics, Michael is now the most decorated Olympian of all time with a total of 28 medals, and he holds 39 world records for his swimming.

Usain Bolt, Jesse Owens, Mary Lou Retton, Greg Louganis, Jackie Joyner-Kersey. Grinning, tearful, flag-wrapped—all phenomenal men and women who received the adoration and the accolades they so richly deserved.

But not one of these amazing athletes made it to the podium alone. Standing in the shadows of their victories were so many others who had toiled and sacrificed right alongside them. Early mornings, long days, summer heat and frigid winters, these unknown and unsung heroes provided the strong foundation upon which dreams were built. Their highest reward is the satisfaction that they have played a critical role in the making of a champion.

What is true in athletics is also true in business. Just as great coaches produce great athletes; so too, great leaders create great companies. The best leaders are the ones who help their people discover and develop their full potential, who encourage them to persevere through their challenges, and then applaud their achievements from the wings. Who doesn’t want to work for a boss like that!

“There is no limit to what a man can accomplish,” President Reagan would say, “if he doesn’t care who gets the credit.” The success of each one of us is dependent on so many who have been willing to coach from the sidelines. Focus your satisfaction on making others shine, and together we will accomplish what none of us could do alone.



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