



The WINNER WITHIN: A Life Plan for Team Players

By Pat Riley

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The WINNER WITHIN: A Life Plan for Team Players By Pat Riley

Not only is Pat Riley one of pro basketball's winningest coaches, but his speeches before hundreds of corporations, from ARCO to AT&T to Toyota, have earned him the title of "America's Greatest Motivational Speaker." The Winner Within is his formula for success. It is a book about winning, leadership, mastery, change, and personal growth, based on understanding and controlling the shifting dynamics of a team - any team, whether it is a small company or a giant corporation, a family, a city, or a group of athletes. How does a struggling team form a covenant to work together instead of separately? How does a successful team battle complacency? How does any team overcome the thunderbolts that strike out of the blue? Drawing upon the great teachers and his own experiences in and out of sports, interweaving them with dozens of parallels and stories from business and society, Riley shows how to ride the cycles of team change, balance role players and stars, build solid foundations, break through self-imposed barriers, create change within continuity, and nurture cooperation within competition. "All of my contacts and experiences have proved to me, over and over again, that the complex inner rhythms of teamwork - flows of ambition, power, cooperation, and emotion - are the keys to making dreams come true," says Riley, and in The Winner Within, he provides the tools, insights, and plan of action to help master those rhythms. It is a book of universal power and scope - a new classic of the literature.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In the 1940s, mathematician John von Neumann developed "game theories" utilizing models taken from games of strategies and chance. In the 1980s, basketball coach Riley (Showtime) called on these ideas and others to craft his own theories about motivation, selfishness, teamwork, complacency, winning and "choking" that have lead to NBA championships and "Coach of the Decade" honors. Here he outlines his theories, and recounts his successes and infrequent failures with the Lakers and the Knicks in a superb, candid study. Yet Riley also maintains that his concepts work in large and small businesses. He provides vivid examples of how the "winner within" each of us can adapt his ideas to all types of team play, whether in the sports arena, in daily life, or in the marketplace. This book should have wide appeal among sports fans, coaches and people looking for realistic managerial practices useful to non-experts.

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From Library Journal

Riley, the coach of the New York Knicks and the author of Show Time (LJ 8/88), combines popular trends in business management, including team-building, with highlights from his two-decade association with professional basketball to produce a readable and inspirational guide for any coach, manager, and team member. Riley provides glimpses of the role played by the emotional side of basketball in winning and losing. He interweaves these experiences, mainly from playoff and championship games, with sound management principles and examples from the business world to illustrate his team-building leadership philosophy. Along the way, he tells some wonderful basketball stories. This book will appeal to a wide audience. Recommended for all public and secondary school libraries. Previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 5/15/93.

- Andrea C. Dragon, Coll. of St. Elizabeth, Convent Station, N.J.

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From Kirkus Reviews

Winning, if demanding, prescriptions for success from one of the NBA's best coaches. Drawing on his experiences in and out of professional basketball, Riley (Showtime, 1988) takes a hard-line approach to personal growth. By his anecdotal account, achievement is more reliant on cooperation, diligence, positive thinking, preparation, resilience, respect for authority, and other bedrock virtues than on tricks of the trade. Not too surprisingly (in light of his vocation), the author puts a premium on teamwork, notably on its highest manifestation--unselfish willingness to subordinate individual goals to the good of a group. Using object lessons learned during his near-miss as well as championship seasons with the Los Angeles Lakers and New York Knicks, Riley provides cautionary insights on withstanding pressure, the perils of complacency, the frustrations of playing not to lose, and the roles to be played by superstars and lesser lights. Having spent time in the trenches (e.g., as a no-name coaching assistant), he values and commends apprenticeship as an opportunity to develop skills--and perception--in arenas where physical or intellectual gifts are merely starting points. He also endorses occasional, calculated outbursts of ``temporary insanity'' as an effective means of jolting sports or other organizations in need of wake-up calls. Throughout, however, the writer and coach maintains an impressive sense of proportion, to be seen in vignettes of a family friend who survived a racking bout with breast cancer; the combat vet responsible for getting the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C., built; his own father-in-law (a WW II submariner); and others whose triumphs have little to do with athletic glory. Engaging, down-to-earth advisories from a master of the game. -- Copyright ©1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

James Marcotte:

Book is to be different for every grade. Book for children until adult are different content. As it is known to us that book is very important for all of us. The book The WINNER WITHIN: A Life Plan for Team Players ended up being making you to know about other information and of course you can take more information. It is rather advantages for you. The reserve The WINNER WITHIN: A Life Plan for Team Players is not only giving you considerably more new information but also being your friend when you really feel bored. You can spend your personal spend time to read your book. Try to make relationship together with the book The WINNER WITHIN: A Life Plan for Team Players. You never really feel lose out for everything should you read some books.

Orlando Hernandez:

The e-book untitled The WINNER WITHIN: A Life Plan for Team Players is the book that recommended to you to learn. You can see the quality of the e-book content that will be shown to an individual. The language that writer use to explained their way of doing something is easily to understand. The author was did a lot of research when write the book, to ensure the information that they share for you is absolutely accurate. You also could get the e-book of The WINNER WITHIN: A Life Plan for Team Players from the publisher to make you much more enjoy free time.

Wendy Poston:

Is it anyone who having spare time then spend it whole day through watching television programs or just telling lies on the bed? Do you need something totally new? This The WINNER WITHIN: A Life Plan for Team Players can be the reply, oh how comes? It's a book you know. You are therefore out of date, spending your free time by reading in this completely new era is common not a nerd activity. So what these books have than the others?

Terry Pullen:

As a pupil exactly feel bored in order to reading. If their teacher inquired them to go to the library as well as to make summary for some e-book, they are complained. Just little students that has reading's heart and soul or real their hobby. They just do what the educator want, like asked to the library. They go to at this time there but nothing reading really. Any students feel that reading is not important, boring along with can't see colorful pics on there. Yeah, it is to become complicated. Book is very important to suit your needs. As we know that on this time, many ways to get whatever we wish. Likewise word says, ways to reach Chinese's country. Therefore , this The WINNER WITHIN: A Life Plan for Team Players can make you sense more interested to read.

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