

20070528mwm

JOSH CENTOR: Welcome with Mondays with miles. Today we're going to discuss leadership.

Dr. Brand, what is your style of leadership?

DR. MYLES BRAND: Good question, Josh. I'm not sure I have a distinctive style.

What I like to do is surround myself by smart, hard-working people who are committed to the same mission and goals that I am, and then turn them loose and be supportive of them.

Most of the things I've done, either at universities or at the NCAA, really require a team effort. You can't do it by yourself. So you need good teammates, who know what they're doing, who share the same perspective you do; and then learn to work together with them and help them achieve the goals which are the same for those individuals as myself.

JOSH CENTOR: When did you first realize that you had leadership qualities, that you were a leader?

DR. MYLES BRAND: I could say when I was at summer camp, and I was head of my co-award team, but I think I was 12 years old at the time, but that wouldn't be true.

Page 2

1	JOSH CENTOR: It counts; it counts.
2	DR. MYLES BRAND: Everyone gets some
3	opportunities when they're young to play a leadership
4	role, and that's important. But I think really my first
5	genuine chance took place when I moved from my assistant
6	professor job at the University of Pittsburg to become
7	Chairman of the Philosophy Department at the University
8	of Illinois Chicago, which at that time was a top 10
9	department in the country in philosophy. And that was a
10	big assignment for a person who had just barely turned
11	30. So that's when I think I had a genuine leadership
12	role and enjoyed it and apparently did well in it.
13	JOSH: You mentioned camp as a place where
14	maybe your first kind of leadership experience could
15	come.
16	DR. MYLES BRAND: Yeah.
17	JOSH CENTOR: Sports are a great indicator
18	of leadership attributes. Don't you think?
19	DR. MYLES BRAND: Absolutely. And, of
20	course, that was what camp was all about playing
21	sports and getting the city kids off the street, which I
22	was one of them. But absolutely, that was a great place.
23	I always enjoyed being able to play baseball on grass,
24	rather than on concrete. That was a lot
25	JOSH CENTOR: What advice do you have for

Page 3

1	young leaders, maybe some of them who have had grass			
2	around them their entire lives, but what advice would you			
3	have for them growing up?			
4	DR. MYLES BRAND: Take advantage of the			
5	situations that come your way. Everyone has			
6	opportunities. Don't shy away from them. Don't be			
7	afraid that the chance of failure is enough to drive you			
8	away. You've got to take some risks.			
9	And critically understand what it means to			
10	be a team member. If you're not the leader of the team,			
11	then be a good team member. If you happen to be the			
12	captain of the team, then be a good captain; but make			
13	sure that everyone is working together for the same			
14	goals.			
15	JOSH CENTOR: Now, this is something that			
16	the NCAA puts a lot of effort into leadership. We			
17	have Regional Leadership Conferences for Divisions I, II,			
18	and III throughout the year. Coming up in a few days, we			
19	have the National Leadership Conference, the 11th one, in			
20	Orlando. This is a great program.			
21	DR. MYLES BRAND: It is a great program.			
22	I've gone to it the last several years. We have 3- to			
23	400 of our best student athletes, who are not only			
24	proficient athletically, but have leadership skills.			
25	They're gregarious. They're enthusiastic. They're			

Page 4

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1
    bright. And it's so much fun to be around them.
                                                       And
2
     they're all leaders.
3
                   Could you imagine putting 3- or 400 of the
     best student athlete leaders in one place for a week?
4
                                                             Ιt
5
     is incredible. They're from all sports, all divisions,
     all shapes, sizes. You have 7-foot basketball players
6
7
     with 4'10" gymnasts. I mean, it is amazing. Racially
8
     diverse. It's diverse in terms of gender, part of the
9
     country, sports they play. It is just an incredible
10
     opportunity for these students.
11
                   And everything I've heard from them
12
     afterwards, even a few years later, they'll say, boy,
13
     that was the greatest experience of my life. And, of
14
     course, they all couldn't be leaders of the team, but
15
     just being part of the team was exciting to them.
16
                   JOSH CENTOR: Absolutely. Well, I had an
17
     opportunity to attend that conference when I was in
18
     college, and it was really a remarkable five days, and I
19
     will never forget it.
20
                   We will make sure to stay tuned to some
21
     stories of leadership from the National Leadership
     Conference on the DoubleAZone.
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23
                   Thank you, Dr. Brand.
24
                   DR. MYLES BRAND: My pleasure.
25
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A	committed 1:9	G	L	person 2:10
	concrete 2:24			perspective 1:16
able 2:23	conference 3:19	gender 4:8	leader 1:21 3:10	philosophy 2:7,9
absolutely 2:19		genuine 2:5,11	leaders 3:1 4:2,4	
2:22 4:16	4:17,22	getting 2:21	4:14	Pittsburg 2:6
achieve 1:17	Conferences	goals 1:10,17	leadership 1:3,5	place 2:5,13,22
advantage 3:4	3:17	3:14	1:20 2:3,11,14	4:4
advice 2:25 3:2	country 2:9 4:9	going 1:3	2:18 3:16,17	play 2:3,23 4:9
afraid 3:7	counts 2:1,1	good 1:6,14 3:11	3:19,24 4:21	players 4:6
amazing 4:7	course 2:20 4:14	3:12	4:21	playing 2:20
apparently 2:12	critically 3:9	grass 2:23 3:1	learn 1:16	pleasure 4:24
assignment 2:10		great 2:17,22	life 4:13	professor 2:6
assistant 2:5	D	3:20,21	lives 3:2	proficient 3:24
athlete 4:4	days 3:18 4:18	greatest 4:13	loose 1:10	program 3:20
athletes 3:23	department 2:7	gregarious 3:25	lot 2:24 3:16	3:21
athletically 3:24	2:9	growing 3:3		puts 3:16
attend 4:17	discuss 1:3	gymnasts 4:7	Μ	putting 4:3
attributes 2:18	distinctive 1:7	Symmasts 4.7	mean 4:7	
attributes 2.10	diverse 4:8,8	H	means 3:9	Q
B	divisions 3:17	happen 3:11	member 3:10,11	qualities 1:20
barely 2:10	4:5	hard-working	mentioned 2:13	question 1:6
baseball 2:23	doing 1:15	1:9	miles 1:3	-
basketball 4:6	DoubleAZone	head 1:23	mission 1:10	R
best 3:23 4:4	4:22	heard 4:11	Mondays 1:2	Racially 4:7
	Dr 1:4,6,22 2:2		moved 2:5	realize 1:19
big 2:10	2:16,19 3:4,21	help 1:17		really 1:13 2:4
boy 4:12	4:23,24	I	MYLES 1:6,22	4:18
Brand 1:4,6,22	drive 3:7	II 3:17	2:2,16,19 3:4	Regional 3:17
2:2,16,19 3:4		III 3:18	3:21 4:24	remarkable
3:21 4:23,24	E		<u> </u>	4:18
bright 4:1	effort 1:14 3:16	Illinois 2:8		require 1:13
<u> </u>	either 1:12	imagine 4:3	National 3:19	risks 3:8
	enjoyed 2:12,23	important 2:4	4:21	role 2:4,12
camp 1:23 2:13	enfoyed 2.12,23 enthusiastic	incredible 4:5,9	NCAA 1:13 3:16	1010 2.4,12
2:20	3:25	indicator 2:17	need 1:14	S
captain 3:12,12	5:25 entire 3:2	individuals 1:18	never 4:19	shapes 4:6
CENTOR 1:2		J	0	shapes 4.0 share 1:15
1:19 2:1,17,25	exciting 4:15			share 1.15 shy 3:6
3:15 4:16	experience 2:14	job 2:6	old 1:24	situations 3:5
Chairman 2:7	4:13	Josh 1:2,6,19	opportunities	sizes 4:6
chance 2:5 3:7	—	2:1,13,17,25	2:3 3:6	
Chicago 2:8		3:15 4:16	opportunity	skills 3:24
city 2:21	failure 3:7		4:10,17	smart 1:9
co-award 1:23	first 1:19 2:4,14	$\frac{K}{1112}$	Orlando 3:20	sports 2:17,21
college 4:18	five 4:18	kids 2:21		4:5,9
come 2:15 3:5	forget 4:19	kind 2:14	P	stay 4:20
Coming 3:18	fun 4:1	know 1:15	part 4:8,15	stories 4:21
			people 1:9	street 2:21
	I	I	I	

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			-
	[1
student 3:23 4:4	Y		
students 4:10	Yeah 2:16		
style 1:4,7	year 3:18		
summer 1:23	years 1:24 3:22		
supportive 1:11	4:12		
sure 1:7 3:13	young 2:3 3:1		
4:20			
surround 1:8	Z		
	0		
take 3:4,8			
team 1:13,23	1		
3:10,10,11,12	10 2:8		
4:14,15	11th 3:19		
teammates 1:15	12 1:24		
terms 4:8			
Thank 4:23			
things 1:12	20070528mwm		
think 1:24 2:4	1:1		
2:11,18	3		
time 1:24 2:8	$\frac{3}{3-3:224:3}$		
Today 1:3			
top 2:8	30 2:11		
true 1:25	4		
tuned 4:20	4'10 4:7		
turn 1:10	400 3:23 4:3		
turned 2:10			
U	5		
understand 3:9	6		
universities 1:13	7		
University 2:6,7	7-foot 4:6		
	/-1001 4.0		
W			
way 3:5			
we're 1:3			
week 4:4			
Welcome 1:2			
work 1:16			
working 3:13			
wouldn't 1:24			
<u> </u>			
	1	I I	1