Team Captains' Perceptions of Athlete Leadership

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The purpose of this study was to identify and examine the leadership behaviors exhibited by formal athlete leaders. Semi-structured individual interviews were conducted with six former university male ice hockey team captains. The results of the analysis revealed three higher-order categories: (a) interpersonal characteristics and experiences, which included elements related to their personal make-up and previous leadership experiences; (b) verbal interactions, which included interactions with teammates and coaches; and (c) task behaviors, which included responsibilities and behaviors relating to administrative matters and to improving team climate, norms, and functioning. The results revealed the importance of formally designated athlete leaders (e.g., team captains) by describing the nature of their experiences, the behaviors they displayed, how the behaviors were manifested, and when and where their leadership behaviors were exhibited.

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This study examined the influence of athlete leadership behaviors on perceptions of team cohesion. The participants were 312 athletes from 25 varsity and club level teams. Each participant completed the Group Environment Questionnaire (Carron, Widmeyer, & Brawley, 1985) that assessed cohesion and the Leadership Scale for Sports (Chelladurai & Saleh, 1980) that assessed athlete leadership behaviors. Using semistructured interviews with team captains, Dupuis et al. found that these athlete leaders attempted to positively influence their teammates’ cohesiveness. Second, while leader behaviors is an antecedent in Carron’s (1982) conceptual model, the influence of athlete leader behaviors on cohesion have not been studied concurrently. As team captain, it’s your job to make sure your teammates are doing things correctly, but also that you keep a positive relationship with each of them. Read on for another quiz question. Want more quizzes? If you are a professional athlete, avoid getting into legal trouble. As a captain, you are one of the team’s most important public faces, and getting arrested or suspended is bad for your, and the team’s, image. It can also prevent you from playing, which doesn’t help your team at all. Whatever level or organization you play at, be careful about material you post on social media accounts. Lauren Kwasnowski is a Research assistant for this study, undergraduate student in the Allied Health Program at the University of Connecticut and a member/captain of the UCONN Division I Lacrosse team. *Corresponding Author: Sharon P. Misasi PhD, AT. The athlete’s gender played a role in the perceptions of coach support to team members. However, a similar difference was not identified among athletes based on their competitive division (Table 8). Two questions from the gender comparison were significant (Table 9). Female athletes felt that their coaches were more likely to help settle conflicts within the team than did male athletes. Discrepancy between preferences and perceptions of leadership behavior and satisfaction of athletes in varying sports.