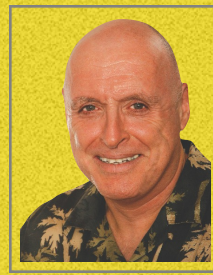


THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



1654 The Transient Nature of Sports and Our Workplace

The Los Angeles Dodgers came from behind and beat the New York Yankees yesterday, winning the World Series. I'm a Dodgers fan and it was a great day for fans of the Blue. I watched a number of the player interviews on YouTube last night, and what many of them said brought back a flow of memories about the nature of the game and how it relates to the experiences you and I have likely shared. I'm Jerry Roberts and that's next on the Extra Point.

In both sports teams and organizations, the concept of a unit that exists for a limited time is prevalent.

A sports team, like the Dodgers and Yankees, is together as a special unit for just one year, one season. It would be shocking if either of those teams fielded exactly the same roster of players next year. Players leave for other teams, and there are new faces to replace them.

Organizations and those of who work for them or who have, experience the same thing. We have a team and that team changes as workers come and go.

With each change, the structure of the team and how we feel about it also changes. I've seen this in the kids' baseball I played, where I played in three championship games. I also was a member of the 1981 Atkins Kroll Islanders that won a title.

It was the first baseball I'd played in almost 20 years and whatever talents I ever had were a memory at that point. The manager, Bill Payne, was gracious to let me play in a few games as a novelty of sorts, and I mostly watched a group of really good players blaze to the championship.

Still, as I had in my earlier years, I appreciated the little things about the people around me and just being a part of a group of people who came together for a common cause. To win.

I felt the same about KUAM in the late 1970s, K-57 in the early 80s, and Directions magazine beginning in the 90s. All were championship teams, which dominated their markets.

While winning was great, turnover was never far away. You looked up one day and somebody you thought would always be there, was saying goodbye. And it was never the same again.

Not that it wasn't sometimes better. There were times when the replacement was even stronger than the person you lost. Maybe they were a better teammate. Maybe you developed a bond with them that lifted the entire team higher.

Each new hire adds unique skills and attitudes, as well as experiences that shape a team's identity.

Sometimes, while new talent can give you a boost, drive innovation and growth, it can also disrupt existing workflows and relationships, and some people feel left out or left behind.

Leaders like Dodgers manager Dave Roberts play crucial roles in fostering an environment where all of these unique people and their unique skills come together, collaborate and trust each other.

The parallels between sports teams and other organizations highlight the importance of adaptability, cohesion, and culture in achieving success.

While individual players or employees may change, the collective goal remains the same. Embracing the transient nature of these units can lead to resilience and growth, allowing them to navigate both the challenges and the opportunities that lie ahead.

(Con't.)

I told you about my winning teams. How about you? What teams were you a part of, and what do you remember about those special units?

Do you recall when you lost a member and welcomed their replacement, and how that worked out?

All the teams that were in your past, maybe are in your present, and perhaps will be in your future, were a snapshot, a moment in time, your time.

I hope you'll have a few moments to reflect on your teams today, and the people who were there with you.

Maybe you can reach out and contact one or two of those people, and share a good memory about your special moment in time.

And if you're on a team right now, I'm hoping what we've talked about today will help you see your team in a different light.

That's the Extra Point. Be responsible and make something good happen today. For 93.3FM, the Ray Gibson Show, and First Hawaiian Bank, I'm Jerry Roberts.

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