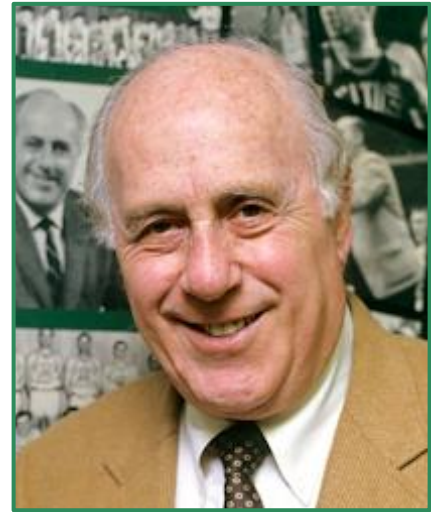


Picking Your Team

Growing up, I was a huge Boston Celtics fan. Perhaps it had something to do with the name and its reference to the people of Wales, Ireland and the Scottish Highlands and the fact that I am of Irish descent. But more so, I was enamored by the team's winning ways – particularly in the era of Coach Red Auerbach.

Auerbach is considered one of the top 10 coaches in the history of the National Basketball Association. He won nine NBA championships in 10 seasons. That happened, of course, because of his ability to recruit and develop outstanding players.



Here is what Auerbach said about that:

“How you select people is more important than how you manage them once they're on the job. If you start with the right people, you won't have problems later on.”

In other words, you have to begin with the right raw materials in order to create a winning team.

Another proven champion of finding and molding leaders is John C. Maxwell, author and internationally recognized expert on leadership development. Here is what he had to say on that subject:

I want the people close to me to ...

- *Know my heart:* This takes time for both of us and desire on their part.
- *Be loyal to me:* They are an extension of me and my work.
- *Be trustworthy:* They must not abuse authority, power or confidences.
- *Be discerning:* They make decisions for me.
- *Have a servant's heart:* They carry a heavy load because of my high demands.
- *Be a good thinker:* Our two heads are better than my one.
- *Be able to follow through:* They take authority and carry out the vision.
- *Have a great heart for God:* My heart for God is my driving force in life.

As you choose the talent that will lead to success, or not, in Life Care and Century Park, it would be well to adopt Maxwell's guidelines as your own. They will pay dividends in the long run.

Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business (Acts 6:3 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter