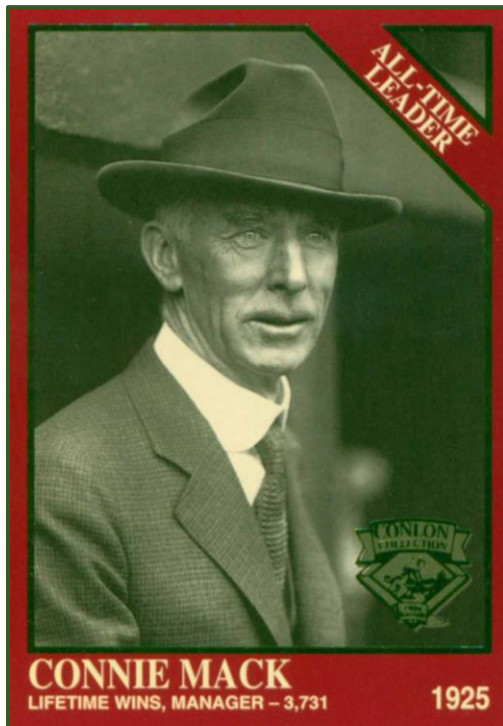


Secrets of Winning Baseball

Connie Mack, a native of Brookfield, Massachusetts, was a professional baseball player, manager and team owner. He was the longest-serving manager in Major League Baseball history, holding the record for wins (3,731), losses (3,948) and games managed (7,755), with his victory total being almost 1,000 games more than any other manager.



He was the first manager to win the World Series three times, and is the only manager to win consecutive Series on separate occasions (1910-1911 and 1929-1930).

How did he do all this? One of the secrets of his success was that he knew how to lead and inspire men. He knew that people were individuals.

Once, when his team had clinched well before the season ended, he gave his two best pitchers the last 10 days off so that they could rest up for the World Series. One pitcher spent his 10 days off at the ball park; the other went fishing. Both performed brilliantly in the World Series.

Mack never criticized a player in front of anyone else. He learned to wait 24 hours before discussing mistakes with players. Otherwise, he said, he dealt with the goofs too emotionally.

In his first three years as a Major League Baseball manager, Mack's teams finished sixth, seventh and eighth. He took the blame and demoted himself to the minor leagues to give himself time to learn how to handle men. When he came back to the major leagues again, he handled his players so successfully that he developed the best teams the world had ever known up to that time.

Mack had another secret of good management: He didn't worry. "I discovered," he explained, "that worry was threatening to wreck my career as a baseball manager. I saw how foolish it was and I forced myself to get so busy preparing to win games that I had no time left to worry over the ones that were already lost. You can't grind grain with water that has already gone down the creek."

What lessons for us in Life Care and Century Park can be drawn from his successes? Several, including...

(more)

- Know our associates individually – their strengths and weaknesses – to be able to manage them for the success of the team, as well as to assist them in their career development.
- As a leader, be willing to accept responsibility for missing team goals, and learn from our own mistakes.
- Avoid criticizing an associate in front of others, and be slow to discuss errors.
- Avoid worry.

These are worthy considerations for a leader. In baseball, and in health care and hospitality.

Anxiety in a man's heart weights him down, but a good work makes him glad (Proverbs 12:25 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter

