Coach as Performer

SCP12: Week 4
• Some introductory comments

• A video (from 2004)

• Some thoughts about coach as performer and some of the literature

• A contemplation about coaching roles

• A consideration of charisma and power
Direct Instruction, Personal Learning and Expert Pedagogues

By Keith Lyons on 8 November, 2011 | Edit

There was a reprint published last month of Noel Pearson’s 2009 Quarterly Essay Radical Hope: Education and Equality in Australia.

In the essay Noel observes that:

“There seems to be a contradiction at the heart of our commitment to public education. On the one hand, educators are briefed with the task of enabling

Performance Narratives

By Keith Lyons on 21 July, 2011 | Edit

I am back in Australia after a visit to Germany.

On my return I have come across three different resources to fuel my interest in performance narratives.

1. Team BMC

James Bennett has posted a great article on the Drum website. In a post titled Cadel Evans and the Armstrong parallels, James points out:

- Cadel Evans’s references to how he structured this year’s season around the Tour de France sounds like what another guy who was good at winning Le Tour used to say.
- Lance Armstrong changed professional cycling by focussing exclusively on riding to win just one race a year (albeit the biggest race of the year).
- He did that with the backing of his directeur sportif, Johan Bryneel, who created a squad of riders whose sole objective was to drag Lance around France, because he believed that Lance could win the race.
- Evans joined forces with American Jim Ochowitz. He is an Olympian who founded the...
Coaching!
Nikolay Karpol

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Nikolay Vasiliyevich Karpol (Russian: Николай Васильевич Карполь; born May 1, 1938 in Brzeźnica (now Bereznitsa) in Polesie Voivodeship, Poland; now Pružany Raion, Brest Voblast, Belarus) is a retired Russian women's volleyball coach, who is considered to be one of the most experienced international coaches in the history of the modern game.

Following a four-year stint from 1979–1982 Karpol, who took over as head coach of the national Soviet Union women's team for a second time in 1988, has kept Russia at the top of women's games for the best part of the last two decades with astonishing success. He has retired from the post of national team coach after winning the silver medal in the Olympic Games 2004 in Athens. He still remains head coach of his club team Uralochka Ekaterinburg.


This stunning record of achievement has been recognised by the FIVB on a number of occasions with his naming as the FIVB Coach of the Year in 1989 and 1991, and the best coach of the 1990 Volleyball World Championships.

Karpol is famous for yelling at his players all throughout matches. According to his own statements he never insults players but only gives technical advice. Furthermore he says nobody ever left a hall because of his yelling but many people have left halls because of bad matches.

For lifetime dedication and great career, he was inducted in 2009 to the Volleyball Hall of Fame.¹¹

“The coaching process is the contract/agreement between the athlete and coach and the operationalisation consists of the purposeful, direct and indirect, formal and informal series of activities and interventions designed to improve competition performance. The most evident part of the process is normally a planned, co-ordinated and integrated programme of preparation and competition.”


The Coaching Process
“expert coaches and the connections between their lives, their careers, their personal philosophies on coaching and their highly individual recipes for good practice.” (p.1)


“coaches’ stories are complex, messy, fragmented and endlessly fascinating, and that they demonstrate a need to understand the interconnections between coaches’ lives and their professional practice.” (p.1)
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*Sports Coaching Cultures*
Pedagogy as four interlinked elements:

- Coaches
- Learners
- Knowledge
- Learning environment

Kathleen Armour, 2004, p.97
“although the recognition that coaching may have much in common with education, in so far as both should develop the totality of the individual, has surfaced, the link towards seeing pedagogic theory as a means to inform coaching has remained undiscovered.”

Robyn Jones (2006), p.9

The Sports Coach as Educator
“learning is not simply the ‘transfer’ of knowledge but is part of situations, practice and context ... (it is) impacted by individual biography as well as contextual factors, and is as much about ‘becoming’, a transitional process across boundaries”.

Chris Cushion (2011), p.178
The Sociology of Sports Coaching
“It is widely accepted that what coaches do in their practice, and how they do it, tends to be shaped by their **personal principles and values** - attributes that are thought to comprise their respective coaching philosophies.”

Tania Cassidy, Robyn Jones and Paul Potrac (2009), p.55
*Understanding Sports Coaching*, Second Edition
Absolutes Badeverbot!
swimming prohibited!
Roles, Status and Power
Charismatic authority

Max Weber

“a certain quality of an individual personality, by virtue of which he is set apart from ordinary men and treated as endowed with supernatural, superhuman, or at least specifically exceptional powers or qualities.”
Acquisition, Ascription and Achievement
• Socialised Instructor

• A Committed Improvisor
Coaching, Conducting and Performing

By Keith Lyons on 14 August, 2009 | Edit

I believe there are enormous similarities between coaching and conducting. In this post I would like to explore these similarities.

Some years ago I sat enchanted whilst I watched Leonard Bernstein's *The Love of Three Orchestras* (1986). It was a ninety-minute video with excerpts from rehearsals and concerts. In it Leonard Bernstein talks about his career as a conductor and his experiences with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra. I realised that I had found one of the leading coaching resources available to me.
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Woman drinking a coke underwater during performance as mermaid at Weeki Wachee Springs (State Library and Archives of Florida)

Frame Grab from Coaches’ Video, Channel 9 (2004)

Bratislava (Sam Lyons)

Primary School Children Sports Day (Dullhunk)

A Girl and her Shadow (Len Matthews)

Augsburg (Keith Lyons)

Coaches (Michael Heiniger)

Football Break (Keith Lyons)