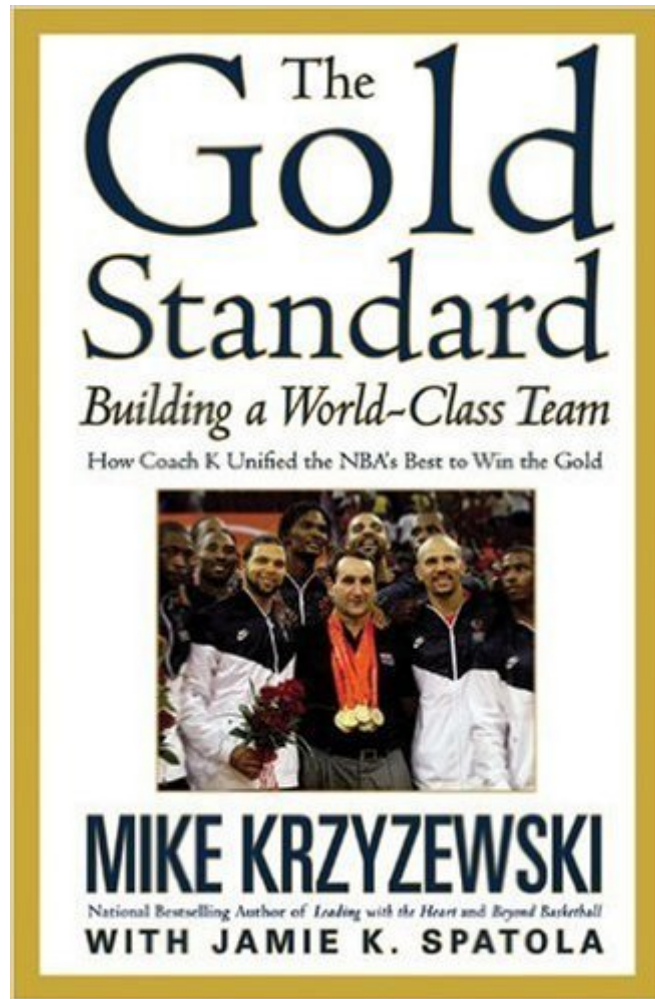


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# The Gold Standard: Building A World-Class Team



## Synopsis

Says Coach K: "In all forms of leadership, whether you are a coach, a CEO, or a parent, there are four words that, when said, can bring out the best in your team, your employees, and your family...I BELIEVE IN YOU. These four words can mean the difference between a fear of failure and the courage to try." In his previous bestselling books, Coach K has guided readers to success the way he has guided his teams at Duke University - - with the power of his inspirational words and phenomenal leadership skills. But that was with college kids.....Now, Coach K has stepped up to take on an entirely new challenge - by volunteering to coach the US Olympic Basketball team. Comprised of some of the biggest NBA stars, Coach K had to work with huge egos and personal rivalries in order to create an American team that could win against the best competition in the world and restore Team USA to the gold standard of basketball. This is more than a celebratory book - it's Coach K's first-hand account of how he dealt with such stars as LeBron James, Kobe Bryant, Carmelo Anthony and all the rest to buy into his "total team" play. Half a book on basketball, half a book on management techniques, THE GOLD STANDARD captures Coach K's personal style and approach to getting different (and sometimes difficult) people to work hard and succeed in reaching a common goal.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I like the book. As a corporate director of human resources, I am continually looking at various books for business and leadership advice. More often than not, I find the real gold nuggets embedded not in management books but tomes covering a wide array of genres. For me, this is one

of those books. Most management books are simply repackaged repeats of the same drivel so we must look outside of own arena. Yes it is almost entirely related to basketball and a bit ego-stroking but that is okay. In addition, when Mike Krzyzewski does delve into managerial advice, it is obvious he "knows not of what he speaks". Nevertheless, there are many management lessons that we can take from the book if we will look at the base content. My favorite chapters were: \* Time to understand context \* Time to cultivate leadership \* Time to adapt internally If a person can forge an entire group of ego-maniacs into a cohesive team, then I am willing to listen and hopefully learn. For those who like relating sports to business, I would suggest reading Phil Jackson's book, Sacred Hoops: Spiritual Lessons of a Hardwood Warrior There is a certain Zen flakiness to it but then again we are looking for those nuggets. I hope you find this review helpful Michael L. Gooch, SPHR - Author of Wingtips with Spurs

This book by Coach Krzyzewski is a very good read about Basketball and the Olympics. But, it was the inner story that I found fascinating. There is a short episode about Colonel Brown and a few soldiers he brought to talk to the Olympic team. Injured soldiers. Heroes. This was remarkable. Just remarkable. The book was well written and interesting, but the inner story about the soldiers and this Colonel was incredible. It shows Coach K's humanity and his kindness, and it shows the courage that these soldiers live with every day. Well worth the time. Randy

This book lays out really nicely the challenges of dealing with great talent and finding a way to give them great purpose. Awesome background into how Coach K manages professionals differently than college players. Fast read, but gives some really good insight into the personalities and interactions that led to the Gold Medal!

Written to teach many lessons from basketball, to patriotism, to team building, to people skills. If you run any organization and like sports, this is a book for you. I would hasten to add even a Carolina fan may find it enjoyable....well maybe at least palatable.

Admittedly I'm a Coach K and Duke Blue Devil fan, so without question that biases my review. That said, I thoroughly enjoyed the book and I found several "leadership takeaways" that I can apply to my professional life as a military officer. The book was an easy read and what I enjoyed most was the picture Coach K painted of the relationships he developed both on and off the court with basketball royalty. I'm looking forward to Coach K's next book now that he has another Gold Medal

and NCAA championship to add to his long list of accomplishments. What I hope to see in the near future is a book about Coach K from the perspective of his former players to include the NBA elite.

Coach K's ability to relate to his athletes and the times are something I admire about him. I hope in my career I can continue to learn from Coach K and be half the coach he is. A true mentor and wonderful book to read to learn how to set standards for teams and organizations.

I have an unbelievable amount of bias and admiration for Duke and Coach K and the men's senior national team and proud of it! This was an amazing and fascinating book for me. The stories from the perspective of player, coach, and fan are spectacular. Concepts of excellence and achievement mentioned in this book are relevant for everybody.

As a basketball fan, I found this book to be an interesting, in-depth look at the 2008 gold-winning Olympic basketball team...the team that brought honor back to USA basketball. As a teacher, I found this book to be informative about team-building, bringing people together to achieve a common goal. A great read!

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