

Positive Role Models

By Rex Tucker

In society, we often look up to people because they inspire us in one way or another. They may inspire us by the way they carry themselves, the way they talk, or they look, their position of influence in society or their many accomplishments. Generally, we admire successful people.

People can equate success in many forms: money, fame, social status and influence, overcoming many obstacles in one's life or their contributions to make the world a better place to live.

Each individual will have a different type of role model depending on how they perceive the world and what they value highly in life.

Positive role models may come in the form of a good parent (s) or relatives, a loyal friend, school teacher, police officer, fire fighter, religious leader, social worker, sports coach, boss, that special woman in your life who makes you want to be a better man , a political leader who has overcome great odds and obstacles to reach a position of power and influence, an athlete who has achieved tremendous success in the athletic arena, or a person who has overcome great tragedy in their life, and persevered and made a success of his or her life.

There are people in society, who look up to Bill Gates, Warren Buffett, Oprah Winfrey and Donald Trump for financial inspiration.

There are people in society, who look up to Wayne Gretzky, Michael Jordon, Tiger Woods and Roger Federer for athletic inspiration.

There are people in society, who look up to Mother Teresa, and Jimmy Carter for humanitarian inspiration.

There are people in society, who look up to Nelson Mandela, and George Chavalo, who have overcome great personal tragedy and obstacles in their life, for inspiration in perseverance.

There are people in society, who look up to religious leaders such as Martin Luther King or Billy Graham and the Vatican Pope for spiritual guidance.

There are people in society, who look up to environmental / earth care givers such as Dr. David Suzuki and Al Gore.

There are people in society, who look up Sir Winston Churchill, John F Kennedy, Pierre Trudeau and Bill Clinton for their intellect and political savvy.

As well, there are even people in society, who look up to the glamour, fame and antics of Hollywood socialites like Paris Hilton and Brittny Spears for various entertainment reasons.

For different reasons, people admire and look up to others as a positive role model in their lives. A positive role model exemplifies the qualities that we often hold dear. They give us positive thoughts which motivate, and inspire our lives. Often we admire others because they can do things which we know we simply cannot do. Often they inspire us, make us feel good and take us out of our ordinary lives. We admire them for their special qualities and may wish to be like them, maybe people would like to do what others do or live the life others are living. They are often unique people with special god given talents or gifts.

As a young boy growing up in rural Newfoundland, I loved the game of hockey and my childhood idols were hockey greats Bobby Hull and Bobby Orr.

Today, now reflecting back on my 15+ years of hockey coaching and instructional experience, the following people in the hockey community come to mind as positive role models in my hockey journey to - date.

Lyle Hanna taught me my first NCCP coaching course in 1991. He expressed a sincere, genuine, due diligence of coaching and profound love of the game. These personal traits were very helpful to me in getting my “right start” in the coaching game and later growing my own full-time hockey business.

Dave Picciano took me under his wing and helped me grow and develop as a coach in the midget and Junior B levels of the Calgary minor hockey system.

Dave King – I watched and studied numerous practices and evaluation camps of his Canadian National teams. I admired the way he ran his practices with purpose and excellent time management skills. I remember Dave being asked about coaching behavior behind the bench. “What would your mother think of your behavior?” he said.

Wally Kozak – After training for many summers in the early 1990’s at his elite hockey conditioning camps, I appreciated Wally’s attention to coaching and instruction details and the many technical aspects of the game of hockey.

Tom Renney – Knowing Tom, I have appreciated and admired that role of the coach is not only to teach hockey skills but life skills as well. Being a good coach is important but being a good person is of greater importance.

Laura Stamm – One of the true pioneers of power skating instruction, she has spawned the development of an entire industry and is a model for a new generation of power skating instructors who have followed in her foot steps.

Pat Lawton – General Manager of Crowchild Twin Arenas. We have had many good hockey chats over the years. Pat is the type of individual, who always makes you feel better every time you are in his company.

Last but certainly not least, I have become more consciously aware and value more deeply over the years, the positive role model (s) of my relatives and especially my parents in my personal and hockey life. My admiration and respect for my parents, Raymond and Phoebe Tucker grows stronger and deeper with each passing year. They inspired me.... to be just “me”!

In conclusion, I believe a positive role model is some one you look up to and who inspires you to be a better person.