

SUPER

Appreciating Differences

With the talent and think power we had, we were able to open up the court and let one or two guys penetrate, then feed off of them. In the fourth quarter your leadership, your unity, your understanding of personnel, your fulfillment of roles – all those things come out. And I think that's the way we won.

~ Michael Jordan

Appreciating Differences

Some differences are important and many are not. We need to respect people for who they are and value what they can contribute to themselves and others.

- It is important to understand your own strengths and areas you need to improve.
- It is also important to understand and appreciate the strengths and areas in need of improvement in others.

Imagine putting together a team of people for a competition in your sport. You would want to have individuals who were strong in different areas. Examine the team you are playing on or one that you have played on in the past. Consider the differences in the skills and strengths of each member of the team. Consider the following:

- Although all of you share a common interest in your activity, there are differences among you in the way you play the game.
- You all have your own strengths and weaknesses. The same is true outside of sport. Some of you may be strong at math, others at English.

In sport and in life, we can all benefit from teaming up with people who have different skills than we do--people with different ways of dealing with challenges or those who have skills in areas in which we are not as strong. They can help us see and learn.