



Seven Learnings from the 2016 World Series

Being a longtime Chicago Cubs fan, I don't have to tell you how happy I was to see the Cubs win the championship after 108 years. I couldn't help but think about what made them winners and what accountants and other professionals can learn from the series that just ended.

Perseverance. No one can argue with the fact that the Cubs and the Indians never gave up. Their determination, drive, steadfastness in the face of constant turmoil was evident from the teams' management to the bat boys and girls.

Team Support. True team support means there is no criticism of a fellow teammate even when he strikes out with bases loaded or commits an error and the opposing runner gets on base. The team supports its members because each player knows that it could happen to them next. There is no blame, censure or reproach when someone makes a mistake. Team members are there to support each other.

Strategy. Both teams had a strategy to win. Cleveland started with its best pitcher. When he was unable to execute, they changed their course of action. The Cubs had some of their batters hit to the opposite field in order to get more hits. Both teams continued to tweak their plans throughout the 10 innings.

Deep, deep team competencies. There is little doubt that both teams had some of the best players in the American and National Leagues. They got to the championship game because they had deep, deep skills and supported each other.

Passion to win. Aroldis Chapman, the Cubs relief pitcher, tired and worn after pitching the night before, exhibited the passion to win. To dig within himself to find the energy to keep pitching. The Indians also exhibited the fire in their belly, playing every inning with passion.

Invest in the future. Cubs' team owners have been building this team for several years. They had the patience to build for the future, to invest, to have a long term vision rather than just focusing on the present.

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Management. The managers and coaches of both teams steered their teams to the championship game. They had a vision, directed and executed. That's what leader should do.

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