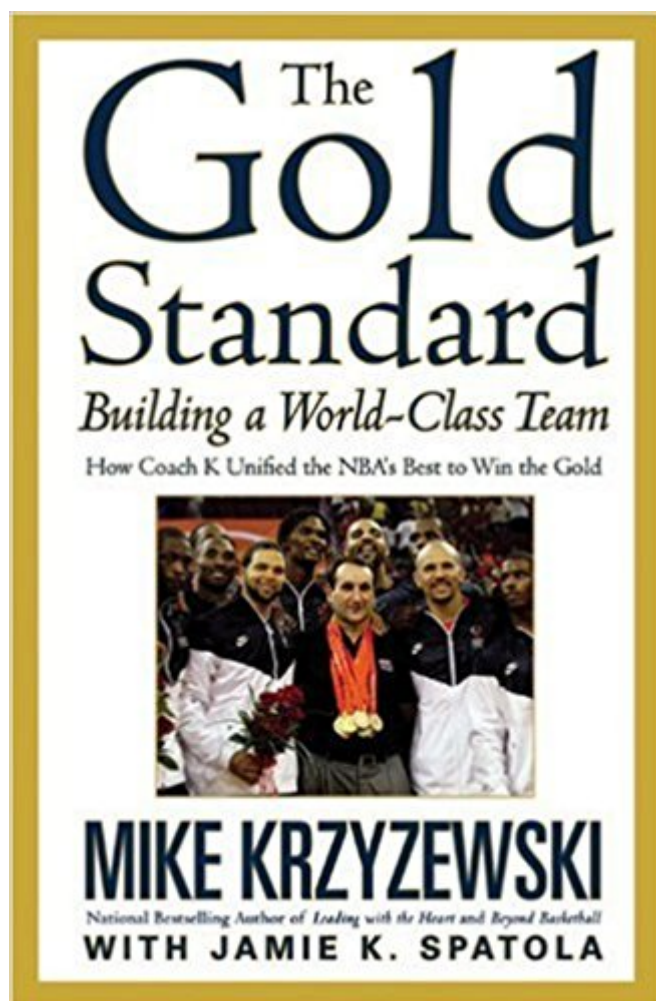


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# The Gold Standard: Building A World-Class Team



## 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

The U.S. reasserted its dominance over the basketball world by winning the gold medal in the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Krzyzewski, with an unquestioned track record as the head coach at Duke, was chosen to lead the team. His challenge was to adapt the coaching methods that worked so well with

college kids to a team of NBA superstars. The naysayers felt no one could rein in the egos of millionaire NBA stars, but Coach K obviously succeeded. In his telling of the tale, the egos weren't an issue. To a man, the players sublimated their games to the needs of the team. If anything, Krzyzewski had to guard against excess deference. Kobe Bryant, the NBA's premier scorer, for example, was so determined to prove his unselfishness that, in an early scrimmage, he did not take a single shot. Krzyzewski relates his team-building techniques, offers numerous anecdotes about the players, and provides insightful commentary on the key games. This is not a great book, but it will serve as the definitive account of the U.S.'s climb back to the top of the international basketball mountain. --Wes Lukowsky --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

MIKE KRZYZEWSKI has been the basketball coach of the Duke Blue Devils for thirty years, winning three NCAA championships and twelve national Coach of the Year awards. He is revered and respected by sports fans and business leaders everywhere. Coach K lives with his family in Durham, North Carolina. JAMIE K. SPATOLA is a graduate of Duke University, where she majored in English. She is also one of Coach K's daughters.

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!

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.

Reading it for a second time because it is a classic model for taking our highly paid, spoiled athletes and molding them into a TEAM. Coach K and his assistants do an amazing job. Excellent read.

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.

Hope my grandson likes it.

Great read! Coach K is the very best.

Arrived in excellent shape. This was a gift. I hope the receiver of the gift enjoyed it.

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