

Athletic Department Exercise: PERSPECTIVE

You are a freshman player, starting and seeing significant minutes each game. You think that you'd be really happy given this opportunity, but haven't been able to form a bond with your fellow freshmen, and you think it's because they don't see the same playing time that you do. Apparently, a junior player, who started every game last season, lost his starting position when you came on board. You sense the cold shoulder from the upperclassmen as well, and you think that it's out of loyalty to their junior teammate. Nothing has been blatant, especially during game time, and you feel as though going to your coach could only make things worse. You want to be successful and stay with this program, but you can't help but feel stuck and alone.

How do you respond?

What parties are vital to the resolution of this situation?

From the point of view of the freshman, if this remains unaddressed, if you do nothing, who are the winners and losers in this situation?

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Your son is a collegiate athlete, who has begun a highly anticipated junior season. He's just coming off a fantastic sophomore year, having started every game, and earning some league honors. He had a bad ankle sprain over the summer, but he healed fully, had a strong pre-season, and his doctor said it should have no effect on his game. Three games into the season, your son is no longer starting, having lost his position to a freshman. When he is in the game, you see that he's playing with a lack of confidence in his ability, and he makes careless mistakes. You blame his poor play on the blow to his ego. He is devastated, but refuses to talk about it. You feel misled and betrayed by the coaching staff, but are unsure how to handle the situation.

How do you respond?

What parties are vital to the resolution of this situation?

From the point of view of the parent, if this remains unaddressed, if you do nothing, who are the winners and losers in this situation?

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You are an assistant coach, who has been working with your head coach for four seasons. Your main charge is recruiting, and you're very proud of the three freshmen you have brought in this year. One is even starting every game; he pushed a junior out of the starting line-up. You can't help but feel a little guilty, however. You have the best intentions for all of your recruits, always foresee each one playing a significant role on the team, and tell them so during the recruitment process. This year, only one is seeing the playing time you promised. You even recruited the junior who lost his starting position, and you think that he's taking it pretty hard. You're concerned that the others might be jealous of their freshman teammate's elevated position on the team, but no one has approached you or the coaching staff about it.

How do you respond?

What parties are vital to the resolution of this situation?

From the point of view of the assistant coach, if this remains unaddressed, if you do nothing, who are the winners and losers in this situation?

Athletic Department Exercise: PERSPECTIVE

You are a second season chaplain, who is excited for the opportunity to be back on the bench. You were once a collegiate athlete, who never saw major minutes, but loved every moment of the competition and camaraderie of your athletic experience. On this team, you have a freshman who has earned a starting position over a junior who was a starter last season. You have begun to notice a limited enthusiasm from the bench when the starting freshman makes a big play. You suspect this is over playing time. Your first instinct is shock at the sense of entitlement of the players, because as an athlete yourself, you were just so grateful to be part of the team. Your second instinct is to try and navigate a way to help the players get over it.

How do you respond?

What parties are vital to the resolution of this situation?

From the point of view of the chaplain, if this remains unaddressed, if you do nothing, who are the winners and losers in this situation?

Athletic Department Exercise: PERSPECTIVE

You are a senior captain, who is honored to be the student leader for the team. While you welcome the challenge, you did not know the kind of stress that it would entail. One of your close friends, a junior, started every game last season. He has lost his starting position to a freshman recruit, and rightly so - this new kid is awesome. You've heard your other teammates say to him that "Coach doesn't know what he's doing." Even though you think that the freshman starter has earned his spot, you feel badly for your friend, and can't seem to find right thing to say. The freshman starter seems to be a loner, and you want to reach out to him as well, but are afraid that your benched friend and the other upperclassmen might think you are picking sides. To make matters worse, you haven't formed much of a relationship with the other two members of the freshman class. You want to make the situation better, but don't know how to start.

How do you respond?

What parties are vital to the resolution of this situation?

From the point of view of the captain, if this remains unaddressed, if you do nothing, who are the winners and losers in this situation?

Athletic Department Exercise: PERSPECTIVE

You are a veteran trainer, who has been seen as very approachable by your athletes. You are grateful that they are so comfortable with you, but have noticed an increased amount of chatter in the training room. Some of the time, they're just talking to one another, but kids are saying things in your presence that you'd rather not hear - harsh things. Comments such as "Coach doesn't know what he's doing," and "I don't care how well you played in high school, you gotta pay your dues on this team," are flying around frequently. A junior, who you have been rehabbing for an ankle sprain, has revealed that he's lost his starting spot to a freshman. You think his ankle has healed completely, but he's insisting that it still hurts, and shows up in the training room daily. You suspect that he's milking the injury to save face over the embarrassment of losing his spot to a freshman. There is so much at work that can be damaging to the team and the players, but you aren't sure what to do.

How do you respond?

What parties are vital to the resolution of this situation?

From the point of view of the trainer, if this remains unaddressed, if you do nothing, who are the winners and losers in this situation?
