

Catalyst

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Playing Your Bigger Game – Part 1

“The size and quality of the game you play designs who you become”.
- Laura Whitworth

and feedback, comments and questions are important to this process (see box, page 2) – please send them to BiggerGame@DancingStar.com.

Game, you will experience a sense of fulfillment, using all of you for the sake of something bigger than yourself. This applies whether you play a personal Bigger Game or are part of a team or workgroup that has committed to a Bigger Game.

Someone who plays a sport for fun – who joins the game when in the mood, the weather fine – brings a different energy to their game than someone who has set their sights on Olympic gold. The second player needs different capacities – for visibility, for failing over and over again, for commitment/discipline/determination, for valuing what they bring to the world – in order to achieve their goal. This is true whether the arena is sports, the arts, or business. Neither is right or wrong, but only one is playing a Bigger Game.

If the idea of achievement at the level of an Olympic gold medal tires you, this is probably not for you. If it excites you, read on.

This article is the first of a series which will flesh out the Bigger Game model, created by Laura Whitworth to codify the process which she initially used to bring coaching training into prisons. An overview of this model – a leadership model which Laura is now bringing into Fortune 500 companies – is available at www.DancingStar.com/BiggerGame.htm. We are currently writing the book – these articles will help flesh out our material. Your thoughts

The Bigger Game Model

Comfort Zone	Hunger	Higher Purpose
Sustainability	The size and quality of the game you play designs who you become	Gulp
Allies	Bold Action	Investment

The core tenet of the model, as shown in the diagram, is that the size and quality of the game you play designs who you are becoming.

Play a small game with small goals, and typically little is required of you.

Play a Bigger Game, go for the equivalent of that Olympic gold, and you have to exercise new muscles, both metaphorical and physical. You will start developing latent competencies, capacities, and talents, ones you did not know you had, and/or ones you have not acknowledged. As you commit to and engage in your Bigger

A Bigger Game poses questions such as: Who am I, who do I want to become, who WILL I become? What am I here for? What must happen in the world, what is needed? What must stop, what is no longer acceptable? What seemingly simple idea could move, shift, or change the planet?

A Bigger Game is a metaphor for what you are up to in service of a higher purpose. It calls you to step beyond where you normally stop. It helps to shape your legacy, so in that sense it is a life path. It is a model for leadership and change.

Like all good technologies (and this falls in the category of powerful human capital technology), this model is in development. However, one thing some of us have learned the hard way – take it piecemeal at your peril! The components of the model are powerfully interconnected. Exercise rigor when defining and carrying out each block of the model and the likelihood of powerful impact and sweeping change are much greater.

– Deborah Huisken

Next month we'll look at hunger.

ARE YOU UP FOR IT?

For coaching (of executives, entrepreneurs, and other artists) or consulting services, to bring an experiential workshop (Bigger Game, Dimensions of Leading, Power at Work) into your company, or to subscribe to this newsletter, contact Dancing Star Productions, phone: +1 413.367.9416, email: info@DancingStar.com, or on the web at www.DancingStar.com.

Why not go out on a limb? That's where the fruit is. – Will Rogers



Deb's Corner



Who did Nelson Mandela become to go from being a kid from the country – albeit privileged and well-connected – through rebel, outlaw, and jail-

rocketry and deep space issues as well as, I would guess, the disbelief of those around them.

There were no roadmaps for these people. What the Bigger Game model provides is a framework for creating your own roadmap as you enter uncharted territory. As one who has tried to play at least two Bigger Games with more and less success, I can tell you that Whitworth is onto something important with the components she identified.

What competencies do you need to step into the unknown? Faith? Curiosity? Self-knowledge and self-reliance? Humor, humility, and perspective? These are internal competencies – external competencies might include becoming an articulate public speaker, a team player, a leader of leaders intent on saying yes when everything around you seems to scream NO!

One important competency is bottom-lining – being able to speak your Bigger Game in less than ten words. Put a man on the moon. End apartheid in South Africa. Share experience, strength, and hope with other alcoholics who still suffer. This brevity serves the dual purpose of keeping you focused on your target and giving you a project in which others can easily enroll. Because make no mistake (I did!) you cannot play a Bigger Game alone. You need allies – but more on that to come. For now, what is the Bigger Game for which your life has been preparing you? When will you start?

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Submissions

Send comments, questions, and submissions to 32 North Taylor Hill Rd, Montague, MA 01351 USA, or e-mail to info@DancingStar.com. For return of postal submissions, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. We reserve the right to edit articles for length, clarity, and readability.

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Rates and deadlines available on request.

THE HELP EXCHANGE

Your thoughts, feedback, comments, questions, and experience are important as we develop this model, and can help others (as well as yourself) play a Bigger Game. Will you share your story with us? Send it to BiggerGame@DancingStar.com.

You are welcome to use this newsletter as a vehicle to put out your call for allies, resources, and support for your own Bigger Game. Send in your request and we will publish it here and put it on the website.

bird, to leader of his nation, a man whose name stands for integrity, commitment, and perseverance against all odds?

Who did the team at NASA become to achieve John F. Kennedy's vision of putting a person on the moon when, at the time he publicly set the goal, moon landings were the stuff of science fiction?

When Alcoholic Anonymous co-founders Dr. Bob and Bill W. first met, they were drunks whose doctors told them that if they did not quit for good they would die, as their vital organs were starting to fail. Who did they become to get sober themselves, and then inspire people in over 150 countries, from poor unknowns to the rich and powerful, to get sober using their 12-Step recovery program?

Whether we choose the game or it chooses us, a Bigger Game will stretch us beyond where we currently live. In choosing to play, we must choose the stretch and commit to play full out, because unless we do, the game will play us.

Often we meet resistance. The South African government was not encouraging Mandela to play his Bigger Game; Dr. Bob & Bill W. had to confront years of denial, habit, and disgust – their own and society's. And the NASA team faced previously little-understood forces such as

A STRONG PERSON VS A PERSON OF STRENGTH

A strong person works out every day to keep his body in shape...a person of strength builds relationships to keep his soul in shape.

A strong person isn't afraid of anything...a person of strength shows courage in the midst of her fear.

A strong person won't let anyone get the best of him...a person of strength gives the best of himself to everyone.

A strong person makes mistakes and avoids the same in the future... a person of strength realizes life's mistakes can also be unexpected blessings and capitalizes on them.

A strong person wears a look of confidence on her face... a person of strength wears grace.

A strong person has faith that he is strong enough for the journey...a person of strength has faith that it is in the journey that she will become strong.

– adapted, author unknown