Perception of Coaching Leadership Among African American College Student Athletes

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Leadership is an important element when it comes to collegiate sports. Leadership is one of the most significant components in human resource management in corporations as well as in sport teams. Leadership in athletics refers to the process of inspiring of influencing athletes of a team to perform their tasks enthusiastically and competently to meet the team’s goals (Bridges & Raquemore, 1996). College student athletes are affected by leadership shown by their coaches. Students should be knowledgeable about how leadership affects your performance as college student athletes. The purpose of the study was to examine the leadership among African American College Student athletes.

Method

A convenient sample (N = 50) of student-athletes from classes at a small southeastern private historically black college and university was utilized in the study. Coaching leadership is measured in this study by the Modified leadership sport scale (Zhang, 1997). The questions utilized how the athletes feel about their coaches’ leadership qualities. The questions ranged from 1=Almost never to 5= Almost Always.

Analysis/Results

Demographic data from the questionnaire was analyzed using descriptive statistics. Independent t-test and ANOVA were utilized to determine the differences between the demographic categories and the perception of coaching leadership questions. Athletes reported a mean of 4.02 for Question 1. “Coach to the level of the athletes.” “Athletes reported a mean of 3.67 for Question 6. “Disregard athletes’ fears and dissatisfactions.” Athletes reported a mean of 3.67 for Question 8. “Clarify goals and the paths to reach goals for athletes.” Athletes reported a mean of 4.02 for Question 11. “Use alternative methods when the efforts of athletes are not working well in practice or competition”.

Discussion

Results from this study are similar to others in that there was a significant difference between gender and classification and their coaching of perception leadership. However, more studies are needed among historically black colleges and universities. Recommendations are made to further examine the perception of leadership among African American college student athletes.