**1. Describe an example of your leadership experience in which you have positively influenced others, helped resolve disputes or contributed to group efforts over time.**

It was 30 minutes before my juniors’ first basketball game at BBS Cup. I was setting up the event’s audio as committee member when I wondered about their preparedness. Coincidentally, one of them – Jevon – came at me panicked. I realized that Coach Hendy was nowhere to be found. He was extremely sick. This was the moment I accidently became a replacement coach for the team that I was a part of just the year before.

The mood was depressing upon the news of our coach. They were convinced that they would be disqualified without a coach. I was hesitant at first, but at no point was I going to let my juniors down… ever…, especially when we were against a rival team we barely beat last year. We wanted to leave them in the dust this time. So, I mustered every ounce of courage I had and said, “I’ll be the replacement coach,” with hopes to liven the mood.

As the coach, I needed to assess our assets and the opponents’: our rival was bigger and faster while our team had more finesse and was more strategic. Based on my experience and assessment, I knew they’d go for run-and-gun. So, I briefed the team for zone defense for two reasons: limit their pace and promote turnovers for offensive opportunities. My knowledge and confidence seemed to cheer them up and although initially, the nerves got to them, but a few timeouts and deep breaths later, we got the hang of it. At first, few believed we would have a fighting chance; in the end, we shook the crowd and actually won by 22 points.

The unexpected opportunity from a player to temp coach was indeed overwhelming. I was nervous beyond belief, but this experience taught me the importance of leadership: the leader sets the team’s performance. Ninety-percent of the success depends on the team. Thus, a leader’s responsibility is to give the team assurances, to support and encourage them that they can do it, and the rest follows through – just like when I have confidence in my three-pointers. It was an unforgettable moment and I am proud of their development.

Hi Octavio!

This is great! I was able to picture the situation in my mind as I read your prompt.

I’ve only added a few words in your prompt that I think would make it better.

All the best! 