



GRADOW
capital management

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Gradow Capital Management, LLC.
Visioning

Don Larsen: October 8, 1956; Game 5, World Series.

Gradow Capital Management was recently mentioned as a nominee for one of Portland's best Financial Advisors for 2006 by its peers. (Brainstorm NW March 2006). GCM has been opened 18 months. How does this tie into Larsen?

Vision:

*As a 6-year-old boy, my hero was Sandy Koufax. Gladiators were in vogue in those days, the Beach Boys were beginning to get recognized, and Jack La Lane was cool. **OK a bit of a stretch.** (He's still doing pushups at 92.)*

*Today, as a business owner and community leader, my hero is Mr. Donald Larsen: a very average pitcher, 4th year in the majors, age 27, one fall day in 1956... Yankee stadium; **Pitched the only perfect game in a World Series. EVER... ; In the complete history of baseball.....***

Lessons learned - Takeaways.

(1): Ordinary people can do extraordinary things through building collaborative relationships.

*Not just one individual was responsible for the accomplishment on that crisp autumn day. **Berra, Mantle, Larsen...**any one of them could have lost the perfect game to some pretty "good" players: Jackie Robinson, Gil Hodges.*

Mickey Mantle claims to have made his proudest, most difficult career catch that day, upon later reflecting on his career with a Hodges well hit fly ball to left-center field. Yogi Berra caught for Larsen all ninety-seven pitches. Only one batter went to a 3 ball count. Each Yankee player collaborated with Larsen in their own way, and gave the starting pitcher—and more importantly, their team—the victory.

It's the team that makes the difference. (And in the case of any business venture, the team does not have to include people solely in your own firm.)

(2): How one casts one's shadow as a leader, community member, and family man or woman is something an individual carries every day.

The events of that game fifty years ago give perspective on how it is a privilege to serve one's clients, family, and community with vision, clarity, and—above all—integrity. We all can achieve something as incredible as Donald Larsen achieved—regardless of our occupation, skill set, or barriers. The key is that we achieve it with honor—or we achieve nothing at all.

Some wonder why an exceptionally tough athlete who played with Johnny Bench in the 70's has never been accepted into the Hall of Fame. I don't. It's all about how one casts one's shadow. Larsen together with the players and coaches of the 1956 World series Yankees team cast their shadow with integrity. Got a challenge? Think Don Larsen. Tough day? Don Larsen. Triumph? Don Larsen.

Don Larsen: role model. Works for me.

*Best regards,
Steven M. Gradow*