

Making the connection: women, sport and leadership



A background in sport can improve a woman's leadership potential and help her land a job, according to women executives surveyed by the **EY Women Athletes Business Network** and **espnW**. Just what is it about sport participation that can help speed girls and women down the path to success?

The respondents

400 women on **4** continents

49%
are C-suite executives



51%
hold other management positions



52%
of the C-suite women played at university-level or above



94%
played sport



Does sport help? A resounding "hurrah"



74%
of respondents say a background in sport can help accelerate a woman's career

61%
of respondents say sporting involvement has contributed to their own career success



It's OK to want to win

Three out of four respondents say that being described as "competitive" is considered an asset to their leadership style.

The top three leadership skills developed by sport



Why athletes are fit for jobs



Two out of three respondents say a candidate's background in sport would be a positive influence when making a hiring decision.

Candidates with a sport background are thought to have the following traits:

- 1. Strong work ethic**
- 2. Team players**
- 3. Determined**

"Sport teaches intangible leadership skills that can't be taught in the classroom."

Beth Brooke-Marciniak

Global Vice Chair, Public Policy, EY, a US Title IX basketball scholarship recipient and one of the World's 100 Most Powerful Women, according to Forbes