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Context to the nugget

Vijay reflects on how he transitioned to a new career as his family context changed and he approached the end of his active tennis career. He talks about how re-inventing yourself is often like throwing yourself in the deep end of the pool without knowing how to swim. Perspectives that could be relevant for leaders who are trying to re-invent themselves given significant shifts in the world of work and in personal circumstances.

Transcription

Deepak Jayaraman (DJ): How you thought about the transition as you near the end of your tennis career, how you thought about the different options that were in front of you and how you thought about reinventing yourself. So, give us an insight into how you took stock of life as you were sort of nearing the end of your active playing career?

Vijay Amritraj (VA): First of all, I always knew that my tennis career was really a stepping stone to what life is really all about how can my tennis career educate me into preparing myself for the rest of my real life and honestly when you say a thirty years old you are too old to play the game of tennis you know you are basically lucky to be starting life at that particular age. So, I think when I got married at 29 to 30 years old and then had my first son right away perspectives started to change whether you like it or not? And even though I was fortunate to played the game for another four five years after that it was very important to me to understand what the future is going to look like and I was not just caring about myself because there were two other peoples to care about at that point in time and then four years later my second son was born and then obviously things changed even further but by that time I was prepared for looking after others were more important than myself so I think that preparation was taking shape as and when yes, the early years would be more trying because you are playing your profession at the same time there were other people tend to and look after and there is that rub because when you are playing on your own its all you and what's good for you and so on and so forth but now there are others and that itself is a challenge in itself and then you are able to address it in a matter of speaking similarly as we did in tennis and then it would teach you how to be that person in your thirties and then by the time I was well settled in that sort of family life and my tennis career took a back seat by the time I ended my career playing Wimbledon for the last time. You don't really know however well you have prepared for anything that you want to do in life whether it's a film industry whether it's a television, whether its other businesses and so on and so forth it's a new venture all together and you are really not educated in that venture so in a way you are getting into the deep end to the pool perhaps without knowing how to swim very well. So, I think all of that took shape when I started doing Wimbledon in 1991 or

rather the joining at that time Prime sports which now is a Star Sports across Asia to become a broadcaster from 1991 itself so all of a sudden I was entering into the profession I had no knowledge about and that was an another wonderful challenge but I was blessed with the fact that I have played this sport at the highest level so for me now the challenge was not to win at a sport but win with the audience to be able to get the audience to see the game through my eyes and at the same time induce people and encourage them to play for a variety of reasons so that was the nice transition for me to go onto television broadcasting for the sport that I loved and enjoyed and that given so much to me and at the same time enjoy my new family at that particular moment in time at my thirties and then also from there sort of digress into other areas of life.

Reflections from Deepak Jayaraman

DJ: What was impactful for me to note here was the notion of being in the deep end of the pool when you move from one phase of career to another and that realization often is half the battle won. With leaders transitioning from one career to another it's often about having the humility and awareness about the new culture, about how success is measured in the new place, what the new environment functions like and what the skills for success in the new place is and so on. And it's in these situations the notion of what got you here won't get you there is relevant in a more pronounced way. Thank you for listening. For more, you could follow the Twitter handle Play to Potential.

End of nugget transcription

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Vijay Amritraj - Nuggets

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About Deepak Jayaraman

Deepak seeks to unlock human potential of senior executive’s / leadership teams by working with them as an Executive Coach / Sounding Board / Transition Advisor. You can know more about his work [here](#).

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