



The banner features the 'play to potential' logo on the left. To its right are contact details: a WhatsApp icon with the number '+91 85914 52129*', a Twitter icon with the handle '@PlayToPotential', and a globe icon with the website 'playtopotential.com'. Further right, under the heading 'Also available on:', are icons for Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and Google Podcasts. On the far right is a portrait of the host, Deepak Jayaraman, with a red name tag below it that reads 'Podcast Host Deepak Jayaraman'. A small note at the bottom left of the banner states: '*Just send us a Whatsapp with your name, number and email and we will add you to our distribution list.'

Context to the nugget conversation

Chris speaks about Roger's curiosity and empathy when he met somebody. He speaks about how he would always be curious about where the other person was coming from before getting into tactical matters of business.

Transcription

Deepak Jayaraman (DJ): One thing that really struck me in the book was, you say that one habit that separates Federer from most of the elite athletes, I have encountered is that he will ask about you first and not in a perfunctory manner, inquiring about your journey to the particular place, your own perceptions of tournament, the country, the people, what struck me was he is an extremely curious individual, can you talk about that element of his personality and the way it comes across as a journalist?

Christopher Clarey (CC): It is quite surprising in a way because this is not somebody who was a brilliant student. He might have had good aptitude I do not know but his performance in school was not particularly exceptional. He was somebody who gets distracted easily, his priority was on sport, and not somebody who particularly enjoyed sitting in the classroom from what I understand anyway and digging into the books. I feel like he was almost a hyperactive child in some ways which has served him well in the sports world but probably did not serve him well in the classroom. He would agree with that. And yet, because of the kind of life he was going to lead with his international aspects, all these different types of people you are going to meet across all different levels of society from the players, to the agents, to the sponsors, often very wealthy successful people at a high level and much older, it is a wide range of personalities you are going to come across. And Roger decided early after consulting with his parents or his own natural way of being that he was going to try to learn from people that he met along the way, and not just give information grudgingly about himself or be a passenger in this journey, he wanted to be active. And so, my sense of him as a journalist, I would say I did not know him when he was 15, I met him when he was 18-19, was he was already on that journey trying to find out from people that he came across how does this work, what is your job, what do you actually do, where else have you been this week and who else have you met, what else you like. It was not like he was going on for 20 minutes about this, but he was curious to place you and learn about where you fit into the ecosystem. And he has a good sense about people, he made good choices about the people that he trusted along the way. He showed loyalty but maybe not too much loyalty along the way which was probably good, you need to keep refreshing your group, but in terms of the way he comes across, many of the athletes that you meet over the years, it is kind of a one-way conversation and it really is an interview, it is like you are extracting information sometimes. And Roger, it was definitely more two way than hardly anybody else I came across and also, you just sense in his demeanor, he would sit down and he would not like cross his

legs and his body and close himself off, he was open. Relaxed body language, open to conversation, somebody who enjoyed human contact and enjoyed that dialogue with whomever it might be. I know it is not just journalism, I mean, you could say, well, it is PR. Well, sure it is, sure it is PR. He is somebody who is, he knows The New York Times can be helpful to him and raise his profile as a Swiss tennis player and maybe down the road earn him some money for sure, but then, you hear stories about him talking to friends of friends who are construction workers or, for a couple of these stories where Roger meets somebody through somebody else where it could just be a handshake and it turns into yeah, how do you actually do construction, how do you build a house, how do you do these things. This is not the usual superstar athlete behavior from my experience anyway.

Reflections from Deepak Jayaraman

DJ: I have realized that curiosity is a super-power and is a meta-skill for us to be relevant in this ever-changing world. If you want to learn more about this, I would urge you to read the book – A Curious Mind by Brian Grazer. Brian is the person who produced movies like Beautiful Mind that profiles John Nash and Apollo 13, the lunar mission where an oxygen tank failed 2 days into the mission. The crew aborted the landing on the moon but instead looped around it and landed back safely on Earth. In a way, this book by Brian Grazer is one of the inspirations behind this Podcast series. He speaks about how curiosity can make a difference to various aspects of our lives and how it impacted the way in which he approached his craft.

Thank you for listening.

End of nugget transcription

RELATED PLAYLISTS YOU MIGHT LIKE

Curiosity: "A Curious Mind" by Brian Grazer (Oscar winning Producer of movies like A Beautiful Mind and Apollo 13) was the inspiration behind the Play to Potential Podcast. In this playlist, Leaders reflect about the role of curiosity and how it has helped them in their journeys. As Alvin Toffler says, the Illiterate of the 21st Century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn and relearn. You can access the playlist [here](#).

SIGN UP TO OUR COMMUNICATION

Podcast Newsletter: Join 1000s of leaders who benefit from the Podcast newsletter. Not more than 1-2 emails a month including keeping you posted on the new content that comes up at the podcast. High on signal, low on noise. Sign up for the podcast newsletter [here](#).

Nuggets on Whatsapp: We also have a **Podcast Whatsapp distribution group (+91 85914 52129)** where we share 2-3 nuggets a week from the Podcast archives to provoke reflection. If that is of interest, please click [here](#) and send a message stating "INTERESTED". Do also add this number to your Phone Contacts so that we can broadcast our messages to you when we share a nugget.

Christopher Clarey - Nuggets

- 100.01 Christopher Clarey - Signs of early potential
- 100.02 Christopher Clarey - Parenting influences on Roger
- 100.03 Christopher Clarey - Roger's curiosity and empathy
- 100.04 Christopher Clarey - Managing down-time between rallies
- 100.05 Christopher Clarey - Secret to Roger's longevity
- 100.06 Christopher Clarey - How Roger picked his Coaches
- 100.07 Christopher Clarey - Bouncing back from a rough patch
- 100.08 Christopher Clarey - Roger the businessman
- 100.09 Christopher Clarey - In Summary – Playing to Potential
- 100.10 Christopher Clarey - Sowing the seeds for the next innings

About Deepak Jayaraman

Deepak seeks to unlock the 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](#).

Disclaimer and clarification of intent behind the transcripts

This written transcript of the conversation is being made available to make it easier for some people to digest the content in the podcast. Several listeners felt that the written format would be helpful. This may not make sense as an independent document. Very often spoken word does not necessarily read well. Several of the guests have published books and the language in their books might be quite different from the way they speak. We request the readers to appreciate that this transcript is being offered as a service to derive greater value from the podcast content. We request you not to apply journalistic standards to this document.

This document is a transcription obtained through a third party/voice recognition software. There is no claim to accuracy on the content provided in this document, and occasional divergence from the audio file are to be expected. As a transcription, this is not a legal document in itself, and should not be considered binding to advice intelligence, but merely a convenience for reference.

The tags that are used to organize the nuggets in the podcast are evolving and work in progress. You might find that there could be a discrepancy between the nuggets as referenced here and in the actual podcast given this is a static document.

All rights reserved. No part of this document may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, or stored in any retrieval system of any nature without prior written permission.