

Characteristics of a Prima Donna

You often hear coaches, players, sportswriters, and even fans talk about prima donnas. Almost every team has one. Almost every player has at least one or two characteristics of the prima donna. What is a prima donna? Here are 13 characteristics of a prima donna. Your goal should be to have no more than one, maybe two of these.

1. She is doing the world a favor by living. More specifically she is doing her teammates and coach a big favor by playing. Because of this she should be allowed to practice only as hard as she wants, and almost anything is a good enough excuse for this.
2. She expects much better equipment than the school can ever buy. It should all be laid out for her to put on. She should have a special manager to pick up after her.
3. She thinks all patterns and styles of play should be built for the express purpose of showing off her talents.
4. She doesn't think she should ever be taken out of a game unless she asks to be.
5. She has a great deal of trouble with all officials. They cause her most of her troubles, because she herself makes no mistakes.
6. She has played for only two kinds of coaches:
 - A blundering, well-meaning idiot
 - A mean, vindictive idiot who "had it in for her"
7. She has trouble with many people. There are certain teammates that the coach must kick off the squad if prima donna is to play at her best. Most people "have it in for her".
8. She should definitely be allowed to pace herself into getting into shape. Getting into shape is quite a problem. Also, she is too good to take any discomfort if the workouts are too strenuous. If the coach tries to get her to workout harder, the coach just doesn't understand her and is "picking on her". Plus, she is already good, what good will working out do?
9. She insists on coaching herself—she is definitely more intelligent than the coach or any other player. Her superior mental ability will enable her to know more than those with years more experience. The fact that everyone else seems to think she has a definite flaw in her game doesn't worry her. Everyone else is wrong, and she is right. Never has anyone suggested anything to her that she didn't have an argument or excuse for. It starts out, "yeah, but..."
10. She sees herself through rose-colored glasses. She sees what she wants to see. She believes what she wants to believe. She fools herself. She is amazed, angered and disgruntled when everyone else won't share her opinion of herself and her ability.
11. She can take very little joking, teasing, kidding, or even the kindest most constructive criticism. If she thinks she can win, she will offer to fight the one teasing her. If she doesn't think that she can "get at" the person causing her discomfort, she will pout.
12. She must have a little more than the limit at the team meal. She must have the best seat in the car or on bus trips. There may even be some games in which she doesn't want to play.
13. She likes the flashy, pleasant parts of the game. She likes to shoot. She doesn't like defense. She doesn't like to fight for rebound position. She likes to receive passes. She seldom passes to anyone else, except when her own attempt has been stopped. She always feels that she isn't receiving the ball her share of the time (which is usually 70%).