

# APRIL 2010 BCAM MONTHLY REPORT

*From the Executive Director*

*Tom Hursey*



**State Finals:** Another basketball season ended with the playing of the state finals. Both the girls and the boys played their finals at the Breslin Center, home of the MSU Women's and Men's basketball teams. I always wonder why more coaches of the girls' teams don't attend their state finals. I guess the tradition of the boys' tournament is what draws many years of state championships for the ladies, it seems that coaches need to start their own tradition.



Coaches and officials filled the MSU Women's Practice gym at the BCAM Hospitality Room during Boy's State Finals.

**Hoopfest Top Shooters:** This was the first year for BCAM and the MHSAA to sponsor a Top Shooters Shootout as part of the Hoopfest event held at the Jenison Fieldhouse during the Girls' and Boys' State Finals. The two top qualifiers during the morning shootout moved to Breslin for the final shootout during half-times of the state final games. The final contests were televised over FOX Sports TV.

**Legends Clinic:** BCAM Hall of Famers were featured at the Legends Clinic held at Jenison Fieldhouse as part of the Hoopfest event. This was the second annual clinic for kids that were present at the Hoopfest. The following volunteered their time to make this clinic a success: Dan Young (Westland John Glenn), Warren Wood (Carrollton), Bernie Holowicki (Hall of Fame), Greg Williamson (Garden City), Calvin Beard (Lansing Eastern), Phil North (John Glenn), Mike Mack (BCAM), Rahsaan Hawkins (Maple MS), TJ Hawkins (Lansing Eastern & Greater Lansing Sports Authority), Dan Jimenez (Lansing Eastern), Tom Negoshian (North Farmington), Kellen James (N Farmington), Waleed Samaha (AA Huron), Rod Watts (Lansing Eastern), Tyrone Maxwell (Dwight Rich MS), Julius Edwards (East Lansing), Glenn Donahue (Hall Of Fame)

**BCAM'S BEST & ALL STAR SELECTIONS:** The Girls Regional Directors met the morning of the Girls State Finals and the Boys Regional Directors met the morning of the Boys State Finals to select the top players for BCAM's Best and the All-Star Teams. The results will be posted on the website later this month. Look under the AWARDS tab.

**President-Elect:** In a close election for President-Elect, Matt Schelich (Kingsley Girls Varsity) was elected by a vote of 168 – 147. He defeated Brian Samulski (Canton Girls Varsity). Matt will serve as President-Elect for this coming school year followed by one year as President and one more year as Past President. BCAM thanks both Matt and Brian for running for this office.

**National High School Basketball Coaches & Directors Association (NHSBC&D):** The NHSBC&D has encouraged the NFHS to directly contact our members with a questionnaire about the High School Basketball Rules. Head Varsity Coaches were emailed this notice in March and hopefully you responded. Your input is greatly appreciated by the NFHS and does impact rule changes.

**Coaches vs Cancer:** Last year high schools around the state raised \$23,000 through their efforts. This was a great start for our initial effort. So this year BCAM asked coaches to get more involved. DID THEY RESPOND? YES, BCAM HELPED RAISE \$130,000 FOR THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY!!! One hundred thirty-six schools sponsored events during the season and fans came

through. Local offices of the American Cancer Society around the state thank those of you who sponsored these events. What a wonderful way to involve fans in the fight against cancer.

**Coaches vs Cancer Golf Scramble this Summer:** Mark August 9 on your calendar and line up your foursome for the Second Annual C vs C Golf Scramble. It will be held at the beautiful Walnut Hills Country Club in East Lansing. BCAM members will have until July 1 to sign up. If there are openings after July 1, the event will be open to the public. It will be a great day of golf and fellowship. It will also be another way for BCAM to support Coaches vs Cancer. The cost will be \$100 per person: which includes golf, cart, food, drink and prizes. Get your foursome lined up now. You will be receiving registration information next month.

## BCAM'S "RETRO" MR. BASKETBALL

For 30 years, BCAM – the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan, in association with the *Detroit Free Press*, has sponsored the Hal Schram Mr. Basketball award, given to the state's top prep senior. Lansing Everett's Sam Vincent was selected in the spring of 1981 as the recipient of the first award.

BCAM is proud to announce a new project designed to recognize the sport's top high school players from years past.

"Retro" Mr. Basketball - honoring the state's top senior prep basketball players will span the years 1920 through 1980. The project will evolve over the next ten seasons. This year, BCAM honors seniors from 1920, 1930, 1940, 1950, 1960, 1970 and 1980. Next year, the organization will honor seniors from 1921, 1931, 1941, 1951, 1961 and 1971. In 2019, the list will be complete.

As with the current honor, the goal is to focus on high school careers. Hence, information pulled from All-State and All-Tournament teams is used to guide the committee as they select nominees for the award.

While gathering statistical information on players from the 1920s and 1930s present challenges, BCAM did not want to avoid honoring athletes from the era when the center jump was a dominate feature of the game.

"BCAM has considered trying to go back to years previous to 1981 and coming up with players that would have been named Mr. Basketball if there was such an award at the time," notes BCAM executive director Tom Hursey. "The Retro Mr. Basketball project accomplishes this goal. The basketball fans of Michigan will enjoy going back in time and either agreeing with or finding fault with our committee's winners. Either way it will be fun reminiscing about days gone by."

Retro Mr. Basketball Selection Committee: Gene Paxton, Glen Donahue, Ray Lauwers, John Maciak, Richard Haffner, & James Bannen.

Here are this year's nominees and winners of BCAM's Retro Mr. Basketball.

**(Winners are listed first in ALL CAPS, followed by those selected as nominees by the committee in alphabetical order.)**

### **1980 TIM MCCORMICK – CLARKSTON**

6-10½ center, McCormick earned 2<sup>nd</sup> team *Parade* Magazine All-American honors. Earned top All-State honors from the Detroit Free Press, the Detroit News, and the Associated Press. Averaged 24.7 points and 17.6 rebounds per game as a senior.

### **M.C. "Tony" Burton III - Grand Rapids Catholic Central**

The son of former Muskegon Heights and University of Michigan star M.C. Burton, the 6-6 Burton was selected as a 1<sup>st</sup> team Class B selection by AP and the Free Press and earned Dream Team status from the News.

### **Randy Morrison – Olivet**

Earned All-State honors in both his junior and senior season at Class C Olivet. Scored 479 points in 14 games.

### **Anthony Scott – Grand Rapids Creston**

6-4 forward, averaged 22 points and 13 rebounds a game as a senior.



## **1970 RICK DREWITZ – GARDEN CITY WEST**

Averaged 29 points a game, the 6-7½ Drewitz scored 42 points in the Class A semifinals as West fell victim to Pontiac Central and Campy Russell, 84-79.

### **Dave Freeman - Battle Creek Central**

A 60 percent shooter from the floor, Freeman averaged 20 points per game for the Bearcats.

### **George Kubiak - Carrollton**

Top ballplayer for the Class B runner up. Averaged 25.5 points per game as a senior, scoring over 1,000 points in his two season with the varsity.

### **Larry Tatum – Muskegon**

Shot .723 from the floor and averaged 24 points for the Big Reds.



## **1960 PETE GENT – BANGOR**

“Accumulated a 22.6 scoring average shooting with either hand,” noted Hal Schram in his Free Press All-State write-up. The 6-2 Gent scored 21 as Bangor knocked off top-ranked Grand Rapids Lee, 57-45 for the Class C state title. An author, he penned several books, including “North Dallas Forty” following a pro career in the NFL.

### **Bill Chmielewski – Detroit Redeemer**

Standing 6-10, Chmielewski 23.4 points and 18 rebounds per game for the Class B state champs. A 4<sup>th</sup> team *Parade Magazine* All-American.

### **Doug Herner - Lansing Sexton**

Member of the 1959 and 1960 Class A state champions. Scored 290 points in 22 games as a senior.

### **Fred Thomann – Taylor Center**

Scored 415 points in 19 games for a 21.9 average

## **1950 CHARLIE PRIMAS – DETROIT MILLER**

A three-year veteran for Coach Will Robinson’s Trojans, the 6-2 Primas earned top All-State recognition from the Detroit Times, the Free Press and the News as a senior. He led Miller to two consecutive Metropolitan League titles. Played college ball at Wayne State.

### **Milton Mead – Bay City Central**

Established a new Saginaw Valley League scoring mark with 269 points in 12 contests. Played at University of Michigan.

### **Jim Plecas – Detroit Catholic Central**

Three-letter winner, established a new Parochial League record as a senior with 232 points in 12 games. Led Catholic Central to the Class A semifinal round of the tournament in 1950. Attended Yale.

### **Art Spoelstra – Grand Rapids Godwin**

Top player in the Grand Valley League, the 6-8 center received 1<sup>st</sup> team All-State kudos from the Detroit News and the Detroit Times, and second team honors from the Free Press. Led Godwin to the Class B state semifinals in 1949, and the finals in 1950, where the unbeaten Wolverines were upset by Ishpeming. Attended Western Kentucky, then played in the NBA.

## **1940 RALPH GILBERT – FLINT NORTHERN**

Honorary captain of the Free Press All-State team. An honor-roll student, he scored 101 points in 18 games as a senior. Led Northern to back-to-back Class A titles in 1939 and 1940.

### **Roy Clark – Pontiac Central**

According to the Detroit Free Press article covering the All-State team, “many persons considered Clark the best basketball player ever to play at Pontiac. Scored 206 points in 18 games.

### **Jack Fultz – Keego Harbor**

Earned 11-letters during his high school career in basketball, football and track. Scored 287 points in 22 games for the Class C state runner-up squad. Outstanding passer..



## **1930 JOHN TOOKER – KALAMAZOO ST. AUGUSTINE**

Captain and center on for coach Harv Freeman's Class C State Champs. Dominated his position, and his ability to take the tip-off on nearly every occasion in the title game led to Augustine's 40-9 win over Lansing St. Mary in the title game. Also a state track champion.

### **Hank Ceasor – Port Huron**

A top all-around athlete in Port Huron, Ceasor earned 1<sup>st</sup> team All-Tournament honors for the Class A quarterfinalists.

### **Emanuel Fishman – Detroit Northern**

Known for his one-handed push shot, Fishman hit the game winner with 35 seconds remaining as the Eskimos defeated Kalamazoo Central 16-14 for the Class A state championship. (Detroit Public League schools dropped from state tournament competition the following year, and wouldn't return until 1962.) Co-captain at Northern, he was considered the city league's outstanding performer for the season.

## **1920 HARRY KIPKE – LANSING CENTRAL**

A 12-letterwinner, including three in basketball, Kipke served as captain and guard in his senior year. Was honored on the All-Tournament team where his team advanced to the semifinal round of the Class A tourney. Later played and coached at the University of Michigan.

### **Bruno Smokiewicz – Detroit Northwestern**

Starred for Coach Bert Maris on league championship teams in 1919 and 1920, state title squads in 1917 and 1920, and a State runner-up in 1919. Named to the 1920 All-Tournament team. Later played pro ball for ABL's Detroit Lions and the ABL's Detroit Pulaski Post.

### **William Springsteen – Detroit Northwestern**

One of six Honorable Mention players on the 1919 All-Tournament team, Springsteen earned 1st team all-tournament team honors in 1920. Also All-State in football as a center in the fall of both 1918 and 1919. Played college football and basketball at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA. Played professionally for the Frankfort Yellow Jackets of the upstart National Football League in 1925-26.

## **LOOKING FOR A GREAT “COACH’S BOOK”? Here is one for your library.**

Playing days for even the greatest of basketball players is limited when compared to the rest of their lives. Bird, Magic, and Jordan would be the first to tell you that. While the x's and o's and the strategies remain constant the players who move through the systems and play the game are always changing.

A coach must ask himself or herself each season: what is the talent and strength each player brings to the team and how can that best be utilized in a team setting? This is the ongoing challenge of any coach who is conscious of preparing for the season and for the bigger picture.....life.

In his new book "Coaching at 70 Miles Per Hour and Trying to Stay in the "Right Lane" Coach Dean Morehouse gives a candid accounting of what he has learned during his forty plus seasons in the coaching profession. He has coached and learned at all levels which has taken him from junior high school to high school and currently at the collegiate level.

Coach Morehouse has now had the advantage of watching players move from the basketball court into the "real world" and what many of his former players have shared with him as valuable lessons learned under his direction as their coach.

"Coaching at 70 Miles Per Hour" is a must read for anyone who is in the position of having the task of managing a group of individuals, maximizing their talents, creating team unity, and moving them toward success.

**Book Order Information:** email- [dean.morehouse@gmail.com](mailto:dean.morehouse@gmail.com) for an order form or use **PAY PAL** (please contact if large quantities). \$12.50 per book (tax inc.); \$3.50 S&H per book (contact if large quantities).

**More than “Wins” and “Losses”** *Written by Jeff Whiteley, Athletic Director, Flint Northwestern HS. Jeff is also a member of the BOCCC Committee.*

Take a deep breath, relax. The season is over and time to reflect. Regardless of the win-loss record, most coaches reflect on their season as what could have been. “If we could have done this, we would have won that game, conference title, district, regional or state championship.” The reality is that each year, only four of our fellow coaches fulfill their ultimate goal. Every coach would like to call themselves a state champion--a dream most of us never realize.

Having been out of coaching for the last 3 seasons, those losses that

“could have been victories” are still pretty fresh in my mind. The last two seasons I coached, we had teams that could have won state championships but ultimately lost in the semifinals. I thought those “State Championships” could be the defining moments in my coaching career.

But now as I look back on it, the win-loss record is not what defined me or our season, but it was the relationships that were built between our players and coaching staff. As I run into former players, I hear about their accomplishments and successes post-high school and realize that the lessons I tried to teach in practice and competition positively affected their lives. Lessons of hard work, respect, teamwork, selfless giving to others, leadership, and attitude are serving them well today.

So as you reflect and plan for next year, remember what “wins” really matter. Your record ultimately will not be what defines you or your team. Make plans for your team to do a community service project together, have a team night at your house, go bowling, visit children in the hospital, have your team read to an elementary class or raise money for Coaches vs Cancer. Make sure you have in place plans that will build the character of your players and the team. Those plans will go a long way in whether you will be successful next year.



## Momentum

You probably have a few to add to both lists and you probably disagree with some of our choices. But, our purpose in adding this post is to get you thinking about how to gain momentum for your team and how to stop it when it favors your opponent. We believe that you can come up with ideas and systems to practice to teach your team to avoid momentum killers, and to work at developing the mental toughness necessary to withstand momentum killers when they do happen in games. Have a plan, make your players aware of what they are, and work at it during basketball practice. Part of understanding how to play basketball is knowing how to control or shift the momentum.

Momentum in basketball is a great thing to have on your side. Of course, you can attempt to control momentum with timeouts, but you need those for the end of the game. This article has some thoughts on what types of plays can shift the momentum in a game. Raising your players' "basketball IQ" by teaching them to spot those momentum shifting plays and then working with their skill levels and your team's schemes in order to do something about them, will allow you to work at getting the momentum of the game on your side.

### Momentum Killers

1. **Bad shot selection**

Develop a way to rate shots that will help with consistency on what a good and a bad shot are.

2. **Missed free throws**

Practice, practice, practice with as much fatigue and pressure as you can muster.

3. **Giving up second shot baskets**

To emphasize block outs, chart it as a stat in basketball practice and in games. Give each player his or her stats. "Steve, you had 19 block out chances on defense, and only made contact on 12." It will make a difference in performance.

4. **Allowing opponent to score the last basket of a quarter**

If you hold the ball for the last shot as the clock is running down, your opponent is less likely to get the last shot.

5. **Giving up three point baskets in the fourth quarter**

As Dick Bennett says, "You must be tough enough to outlast your opponents." Work in practice to be physically and mentally tough enough to defend with everything you have for the entire game.

6. **Turnovers that lead to scores**

Your team must be able to defend the shots you take and the turnovers you make. A five second or travel turnover is better than throwing a pass up for grabs because with those turnovers, you can at least set your defense.

7. **Unnecessary fouls**

Playing hard and with discipline on defense is crucial. Rick Pitino says, "Fouling negates hustle."

Preach that to your team. If you play hard, you will get in position and be less likely to foul. If you play smart, you won't take chances that have low pay-off potential and high risk for picking up a foul.

8. **Loss of poise**

Focus on the task at hand and not on the distractions.



Momentum Getters

1. **Scoring to end a quarter**

Again, we feel that it is imperative to have a plan and practice it daily to get the last shot of each quarter.

2. **Negating a basket by taking a charge**

Emphasize how to and when to take charges in basketball practice and reward and praise it when it happens in practice or in a game.

3. **Making a shot to take the lead in the 4th quarter**

The right player shooting with great shooting technique, great shot selection, and repetitive pressurized success in practice increase your odds dramatically.

4. **Scoring against a press**

We believe in attacking a press to beat it with a basket or a foul, not just to withstand it.

5. **Diving on a loose ball to gain/save a possession**

Always grab loose balls with two hands and chin them.

**Answer a momentum getter by the other team.**

Work with your players in practice to understand what those plays are and how to answer them.

**CHARACTER COUNTS with Michael Josephson:**

**The Gamesmanship Trap in Sports and Law 448.3**

There are great similarities between high-level sports and the practice of law, especially regarding the gap in both fields between ideals and realities. The ideals of sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and notions like fair play and respect for opponents in the pursuit of athletic excellence. The ideals of law are similar in the pursuit of truth and justice.

Yet the reality is that too many athletes and attorneys disregard these ideals in the blind and ambitious pursuit of victory. Striving mightily to win is not the problem. It's wanting to win so badly that principles of decency, ethics and honor are ignored. It's the brazen adoption of gamesmanship strategies and the "whatever it takes to win" attitude that's the problem. It's valuing cleverness so highly that those who get away with breaking or bending rules are admired. So athletes fake fouls and taunt or illegally hold opponents, while lawyers assert groundless claims, confuse honest witnesses and use delay.

Gamesmanship tactics are so prevalent that some find it hard to imagine anyone being effective without them. But that's self-serving nonsense. Many people in both fields believe that no victory is real or worthy if it's achieved without honor.

The game of sports is about playing by the rules, not fooling referees or intimidating opponents. And law is not a game at all. The high road is not the easier road, but it's the only road for a person of character.

This is Michael Josephson reminding you that character counts.

As part of its ongoing relationship, the NABC will provide a commentary on ethical issues each month to its member coaches. The NABC encourages coaches to share this valuable information on ethics with your team members and staff.

**THE LATEST INNOVATION FROM GATORADE®**

In order to better serve the desire of many athletes, Gatorade will be removing high fructose corn syrup from both Gatorade Thirst Quencher and G2® over the next few months. By replacing HFCS with sucrose and dextrose, we can offer improved taste and premium quality without affecting the performance athletes have come to expect from us for over 40 years. For more information and upcoming news on Gatorade's latest scientific innovations, please visit [www.gatorade.com](http://www.gatorade.com).

