



## DECEMBER, 2010 BCAM MONTHLY REPORT

From the Executive Director

Tom Hursey

**HERE WE GO AGAIN:** The girls are underway and the boys will hit the hardwood next week. It is always a great time of the year with expectations running high. Coaches are not sure what to expect in those first few games. New players, new offensive schemes, new twists on defense and so little time to put them in action. But the games will show your strengths and weaknesses. And then you make your adjustments on the practice court.

I spend some time in Florida and I am always amazed by the small amount of time available to coaches in Florida to get their teams ready for the season. Their football season extends past the start of the regular basketball season. Florida has many outstanding athletes playing basketball but because of their limited practice time (since they play 3 games a week for most of the season) they lack the basic fundamentals compared to Michigan players. Our Michigan players are better schooled in the basics since we have more practice time to spend on the fundamentals.

Hopefully you will not put fundamentals on the back burner as you prepare for the next game. I always started my practices with about 30 minutes of basic fundamentals since it is so easy to take time away from fundamentals and insert offensive and defensive schemes.

I keep reminding coaches how important it is that you communicate with your parents throughout the year. If parents know *what* you are doing and *why* you are doing it, they will have fewer reasons to question your coaching decisions during the heat of the battle (game). As I keep saying, *it is not the X's and O's that will get you fired, but rather how you deal with your players and their parents.* As we head into the season, keep in mind some of the events and projects that BCAM is involved with:



**REACHING HIGHER SHOWCASE:** If you have an underclass player that you believe can play at the next level, you need to be aware of the nomination process for the Top 100 Reaching Higher Showcase. Go to [www.bcam.org](http://www.bcam.org) and click on the REACHING HIGHER link for all the information you will need. The nominations take place in December so don't put this off.

**COACHES VS CANCER:** The National Suits and Sneakers week will be January 24-30, 2011. Please make plans to do your part in this great effort to fight cancer. **To request a Coaches vs Cancer kit for your school, visit [www.coachesvscancer.org](http://www.coachesvscancer.org) or contact your local American Cancer Society office by calling 1-800-227-2345.**

**SPONSORS:** BCAM is very fortunate to have such great sponsors. They are the reason that we can offer such low membership rates, clinic rates and showcase rates. I am asking you to use them as much as possible. Their logos are on this Monthly Report and you can go directly to them on our website by clicking on their logo. Meijer, National Guard, Rawlings, DC Sports, Pistons, Noah Basketball and Gatorade.

**THE COACHING FRATERNITY:** Anytime I hear Coach Tom Izzo talk to coaches, he emphasizes the importance of coaches looking out for their fellow coaches. BCAM is here to help, but each of you should do whatever you can to support and encourage your coaching peers. It might be someone in your school or from another school. You can go head to head with a coach during a game but once it is over, understand that he/she might be in a situation that needs your support. Don't be reluctant to reach out to a fellow coach.

**MICHIGAN ARMY NATIONAL GUARD AND BCAM JOIN FORCES** – I would like to remind you of the partnership between BCAM and the National Guard. The National Guard has become a major sponsor of BCAM and they will be the reason that a new "sportsmanship" program will be undertaken this season. You should make all players, parents, administrators and fans aware of this sportsmanship endeavor.

This new program will be called THE TOP 100 SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD. It will be conducted as follows:



- At every varsity basketball game, boys and girls, game officials will provide sportsmanship feedback scores for the players, coaches and game administration using the school sportsmanship feedback system that has been used by the MHSAA. This will be done for all regular season games, home and away.
- At the end of the regular season, the MHSAA will use the officials' feedback scores to determine the Top 100 Boy's Programs and the Top 100 Girl's Programs.

- At the start of the 2011-12 season, the National Guard will present a Top 100 banner to the 100 schools whose girls' teams were rated in the top 100 for sportsmanship and to the top 100 schools whose boys' teams were rated in the top 100 for sportsmanship. This presentation will take place at the first home game or an early season home game of the winning schools. [Click here to see what the banners will look like:](#)
- The banners will be displayed in the gym of the Top 100 schools.

It is the hope of BCAM and the National Guard that all schools will work to improve their sportsmanship. With schools competing for this prestigious award, overall sportsmanship should improve at high school basketball games in Michigan.

**COACH JOHN WOODEN WEBSITE:** If you are looking for direction for your coaching career, you might check out this website. You will not find a better role model and mentor. <http://www.woodencourse.com/>

**BOCCC REPORT – Bob Williams, MHSAA Official and Assignor**

Where did the time go? It seems that we were just closing out the last season and here we go again, getting ready to embark on yet another season of high school basketball. Coaches and officials alike are preparing just like in past seasons: conditioning, new rules, rule meetings, association meetings and making sure everything is in place.



Let's not forget the most important aspect of "Why are we here?". We are the luckiest people of all because we are involved in the great game of high school basketball. I never forget the privilege it is to be around the youth of America and the talent that so many have to contribute. It is imperative that coaches and officials work together and share their responsibilities of "Caretakers of the Game" including a very vital part "Sportsmanship." If you look at the Code of Ethics for Coaches as well as the Code of Ethics for Officials set forth by the National Federation you will see that there are many similarities. Coaches and officials shall uphold honor and dignity of the profession. Coaches and officials shall be aware that he or she has a tremendous influence on the education of the student athlete.

Officials need to show their officiating passion for the game by not only knowing the rules and how to enforce them but to understand the proper way to remain fair and to be aware of the coaches' comments within reason. Coaches need to understand that officials are carrying out their responsibilities during a contest and that constant bickering during the contest does not make things better but many times makes things worse. Coaches and officials also must realize that it's not personal. Coaches and officials are doing their job, both are influential on the players and fans, both are a vital part of this game, and both must continually ask the question "Why are we here?"

We may not always agree on the results of a particular situation, but we can always agree to disagree in a positive sporting manner. Hey they are watching us you know!!



**About Me** Bill Pope -

I am an advance scout for the Detroit Pistons in the NBA in the midst of my 7th season. Prior to that I coached in college as an assistant for 11 years and spent 6 years as a head coach in college. My current job entails watching our future opponents and developing strategies to (hopefully) defeat them. As I watch the many games, I come across a number of effective plays that I think would be beneficial to share with other coaches. The goal of this website is to share 1 play a day with you, so that at the end of the year your playbook will expand with 365 new / different plays, or ideas.

Click on Bill's website and get his daily play: [www.todaysbasketballplays.com](http://www.todaysbasketballplays.com)

**SPORTSMANSHIP? DOES YOUR TEAM OR LEAGUE HAVE IT?**

By **Dr. Tom Crawford**

There has been some sad news lately in the world of amateur sports that should cause all of us to re-consider the role that sportsmanship plays in our participation in sports. Two fathers at a hockey practice got into a fight, and one ended up killing the other. Unfortunately, many people involved in sports weren't shocked or surprised when they heard the news... we all saw events like this coming.

Why? Sportsmanship seems to have taken a back seat to winning, succeeding, or advancing. While the pursuit of victory

has always been an important part of sports, it is the pursuit of victory with honor and sportsmanship that is really what sports should be about.

How can you be sure you haven't forgotten about sportsmanship?

Let's start by trying to define sportsmanship: At the core of sportsmanship is respect...for oneself and for all other participants, including players, coaches, officials, parents, and administrators. Respect and sportsmanship mean treating all of these participants with integrity and fairness and honesty.



How can all of us help make sportsmanship an important theme of our daily sports life? Here suggestions:

- Show by your actions and words, everyday, that you really care about sportsmanship. As my Mom always reminds me, set a good example, and remember that actions speak louder than words.
- Expect and demand that everyone involved follows all the rules, including fans, and parents. If they don't, they should not be welcome to continue participating...period. Leagues and teams should communicate the importance of sportsmanship to all participants on a regular basis, not just at the beginning of the season. Check out a few of our eteamz member sites that have already highlighted good sportsmanship and emphasized the importance of leadership and integrity in sports.

<http://www.eteamz.com/nlbi>  
<http://www.eteamz.com/TorranceAmericanbaseball>  
<http://www.eteamz.com/aysoregion440>  
<http://www.eteamz.com/scll>  
<http://www.eteamz.com/stlouisesprit/>  
<http://www.eteamz.com/Battlin'Beavers/handouts/>



- Establish a sportsmanship award for your team that is just as important as any other award or recognition.
- Have team discussions about sportsmanship throughout the season. If someone sees something at another game or on TV that bothers them, or is a good example of sportsmanship, talk about it. Visit our bulletin boards and exchange ideas with parents, coaches and players who are already discussing this issue.

<http://www.eteamz.com/baseball/board>  
<http://www.eteamz.com/soccer/boards>  
<http://www.eteamz.com/basketball/board>  
<http://www.eteamz.com/football/board>

- Never tolerate un-sportsmanlike behavior whether in practice or a competition...never.
- There should be clear and immediate penalties for un-sportsmanlike actions no matter what the surrounding circumstances are or how important a game is to a season. Remember, only the pursuit of victory with honor is really victory.

**Some specific things that should not be tolerated:**

- Taunting and trash talking: How is this respectful?
- Disrespectful, "in your face", celebrations.
- Fighting or violence of any kind.
- Use of profanity or other disrespectful language.
- Questioning or disagreeing with officials

**Some specific things that should be encouraged:**

- Congratulating teammates and opponents for effort and excellent performances.
- Shaking hands wherever it fits into a sports culture.
- Helping up a teammate and opposing players who have fallen or been hurt.
- Thanking officials for their effort and work.



- Thanking coaches for their time and help.
- Keeping facilities clean, both home and away.

None of this is new or very hard to follow. It's really what we want all aspects of our lives to be about. Let's make sure that in our sports lives, from today on, we never forget the important place sportsmanship should hold in all aspects of our participation.

## ***Life Lessons that Transcend the Game***



### **Have Fun!**

- **Go the Extra Mile**

*But First...Make Sure You're Pointed In the Right Direction!*

- **Prepare to Succeed**

If You Fail To Prepare...You Are Preparing To Fail

- **Teamwork...Put the Team's Success Before Your Own**

T.E.A.M...Together Everyone Achieves More

- **Trust Your Teammates! More Importantly...Trust in GOD!**

HIS Gameplan is Far Superior to Yours!

- **Master the Fundamentals**

If you're gonna do something, do it "right" ...so you don't have to do it "over".

- **Nobody's Perfect...**

Except for GOD...and HE's Coaching in the Big Leagues!

- **Life's Not Always Fair**

When it's not...stand-up for what's right. Then, keep your chin up...forgive...forget...and move on.

- **If You Want to Get Better at Something...You Have to Work at It**

90% of life is just showing up...and working hard.

- **Perseverance...When the Going Gets Tough, the Tough Get Going**

Winners never quit...and quitters never win.

- **Focus on Improvement...Not Wins, Losses or Stats**

Work on Improving Your Game...Daily...and the Wins and Stats Will Follow

- **Encourage & Serve Others... On & Off the Field**

Encouragement takes guts. That's why they stuck the word "courage" right in the middle of it!

- **Life's Too Short to be Miserable...So Make it Fun!**

Baseball & Basketball are supposed to be Fun...that's why they call it a **GAME**!

- **Listen Twice As Much As You Talk**

That's Why GOD Gave You TWO Ears and Only ONE Mouth"

· ***Do Your Best...Give it All You Got!***

Play HARD...Play SMART...and Play with a FIRE in Your Belly

· ***Sportsmanship...Play the Game to Honor GOD...Not Yourself***

How **W**ould God Play? No doubt HE would lead the league in sacrifices & assists! Play the game in HIS name...and feel HIS pleasure!

· ***Focus on the Present...Don't Fret the Past or Worry About the Future***

Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is a "Gift"...that's why they call it the "Present".

· ***Patience vs. Hustle: Winners Have Good Timing on Both***

Things may come to those who wait, but only the things left by those who hustle. *Abraham Lincoln*

## **Random Tip**

### **Deny Opponent's Point Guard from Getting the Basketball**

When we talk about denying the basketball to a player we're usually referring to the opponent's best player. Many times this is a good idea if you're facing a great scorer. Although this quick tip is about denying the basketball, it's not about denying the opponent's best player. It's about denying their point guard from getting the basketball whether he/she is a scoring threat or not. Many teams depend solely on their point guard to start their offensive sets.

They've prepared each play to be run a certain way and each player to start from a set position. In these offenses the play will begin when the point guard has the ball and motions for the play to start. An example of this would be a raised fist to signal the play or the point guard calling out a number such as 14. If you can deny an opponent's point guard from getting the basketball it will greatly disrupt their offense because many teams aren't prepared to run their set plays without the point guard initiating the play.

You don't have to deny them every trip down the floor, just enough to keep their offense out of rhythm. To prevent this from happening to your own team try to teach at least a couple of players how to run each set from different positions so another player can begin the play if your point guard doesn't have the basketball.

## **ABSOLUTES OF COACHING**

- **Coaching success is about motivating and focusing players to a common goal and modeling/teaching all aspects of good citizenship.**
- **Don't ever say: "Now, I've seen it all!" or "No one is stupid enough to do that!!"**  
The reality is "No, you haven't!" and "Yes, they are!!"
- **You will be fired, or resign, from a coaching position quicker for not handling parent issue than for any lack of knowledge of X's and O's.**
- **Know what you stand for and believe in.**
- **Team chemistry is a very special and important feeling in your program.**
- **Always try to develop positive relationships and partnerships with players, parents, and other coaches.**
- **Never talk to parents by yourself.**
- **Parents are not objective, have selective hearing, and have an attention span of about three minutes.**
- **The most enjoyable part of coaching is game day. But the job's off-field obligations cannot be ignored.**



## ***Food For Thought***

We can't all make it to the top. We can't always have great players. We can only do the best we can with what we have, both with our teaching abilities and with the players we have to work with.

However, that shouldn't be a crutch for coaches to prop themselves up with when the wins are fewer than the losses. Sure, lots of us remain in situations for the love of what we do, where we are good coaches in programs that will never be at the top. But, this is where the real challenge lies--are we losers because we don't win? Are the players losers who play on a team that just doesn't have the talent to go the distance versus the more talented? We have to look at the players and communities we serve and know we really are doing the best we can do at teaching the game where the talent pool just isn't there.

**If we focus on being the best we can be--on teaching and preparing our players to play at the best of their abilities and guiding them to be good young men and women--we win.**

If we have instilled this same focus within the spirit of our players, then they too win. Coach John Wooden has been quoted often to the effect, saying, **"We have no control over how good the other players are or over how well they are prepared. We do have control over how well we prepare, and if we've done our best, even in a losing effort, we have still won."**

**Now is the time to take stock of your coaching preparation. Are you ready to improve your teaching game? Go to coaching clinics, workshops, and take college coaching courses. Get books and DVDs to help take your game to a higher level.**

While you are getting your teaching skills "in shape", don't forget the mental and spiritual preparation it will take in order for you to get to a higher level of teaching and to enable you to better guide your players to their own higher levels. –

*Ronn Wyckoff*