



# DECEMBER, 2012 BCAM MONTHLY REPORT

Tom Hursey – Executive Director  
FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Bits and Pieces:

Another season is upon us. This brings concern, excitement, anxiousness, and many other feelings. Hopefully each of you has done all you can to prepare your team for early season games. Prepare yourself for moments of satisfaction but also many moments of frustration. Remember that your players are teenagers with only a few weeks of preparation under their belts. I watch college teams in the early season make bone-head plays and these players have had many more practices to prepare. So cut your players some slack and realize it is a long season. It is not how you start but how you finish that is really important. The teams that keep improving all season are the teams you need to look out for in the tournament. Will your team be much improved over the season? One area that sometimes suffers as coaches get into the regular season games is fundamentals. I suggest you have a time for fundamentals each practice day. If your players don't improve in their dribbling, passing, shooting and footwork skills, then your team will not improve in their offensive and defensive schemes.

Because of the limited time you have from the first day of practice to the first game, it is very difficult to get to all the things you want to cover. Therefore I always tried to put in the basic sets offensively and defensively early and added as the season progressed. Hopefully by Christmas vacation we had everything we wanted to do in place.



I had a checklist of every type of defense I could expect to see during the season. Then I would practice how we would attack those defenses. Obviously more time was spent on the defenses that we would see more often. By Christmas, my job as coach was to have practiced against variations of full court and half court defenses. If a team surprised us with a defense they hadn't used before, our team would have an idea of what to do. A long-time, successful coach told me in my early years of coaching that "As a coach, your job is to prepare your team for all situations that could come up in a ball game. If you have prepared your team for these situations, then you have done your job. If you haven't prepared your team for all situations, then you have not done your job."

I wish each of you success this season. Prepare your players to the best of your ability. Remember to be patient with players, parents and officials. We are all in this great sport together. Let's make it a positive experience for all.

May I be one of the first to wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.



## DAVID BARNES LOSES BATTLE TO CANCER:

On behalf of the Barns Family, we would like to thank you and BCAM for all of the support and prayers you have offered David Barnes and the Barns Family during the past two years as Dave has battled cancer.

Unfortunately, his battle came to an end Sunday, November 5, 2012. He loved his family, he loved life, and he loved coaching and playing basketball. He was 30 years old.

## COACHES VS CANCER NEEDS YOUR INPUT:

North Carolina's Gary Bowne is the Nat'l HS rep for Coaches vs Cancer and he has been tasked with gathering information from high schools across the country to find out what type of events are being used and how much money schools are raising for Coaches vs. Cancer.

Can you please fill out the Google Doc survey?

Please click on the link and complete the Google doc sharing information about any CvC events that your school participated in last year.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0Arzo6Pqh3YFKdFRcMy1za19aZVR0YU0yVXISUHpET3c>

## A MESSAGE FROM THE NHSBCA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear BCAM Members:

Well, the 2012 Holiday Season is upon us and the balls are bouncing in every gym in Michigan! What a beautiful time of the year – every team starting the season with hope, excitement and optimism. As a young coach I spent way too much time dwelling on “winning at all costs.” I finally learned that the “real victories” are in the journey we experience while coaching those entrusted to us. Participation, setting realistic goals, preparing to play well (whether we do or not), teaching the game properly while honoring its purity, modeling for these youngsters what is appropriate at ALL times, and remaining flexible and mindful with our student-athletes / these are the real victories. Actually WINNING a game is a BONUS!



Greetings from YOUR national coaches' association - the NHSBCA (National High School Basketball Coaches Association). As members of BCAM you're automatically in the NHSBCA. Last July (because of the recommendation and sponsorship of your leader, Tom Hursey) I was named the Executive Director of the NHSBCA. **What an honor!** My work within this organization is to represent and carry out the directions of the NHSBCA Executive Board, a group of outstanding educators, coaches and leaders from different regions of the country. We are aggressively seeking to get representation from every state in America on our NHSBCA Board. Each summer the NHSBCA conducts national meetings (last summer was in Wisconsin / this coming July they will be held in Indianapolis) that focus on high school basketball coaches, their “conditions,” opportunities, the dilemma of “travel basketball” involvement, and any other issues that affect our coaches and in turn the young people they work with.

Tom Hursey was one of the original group that created the NHSBCA when it was merely just an idea. Now this organization is vibrant, expanding (34 states are officially “on board” with 6 to 8 more hoping to send representatives to the summer meetings in July!), and aligned with the NCAA, NABC, and others at the national level. Our involvement with the NABC (National Association of Basketball Coaches / the group that runs the Final Four for the NCAA) is fast becoming a statement for our newly recognized status in “basketball circles.” Dave Archer (New York / past President of the NHSBCA, and along with Tom Hursey was one of its founding members) is the NHSBCA representative to the NABC. He has a seat at the table while representing all high school basketball coaches in America, and is a “voting member” of this powerful organization. Progress takes time, but the NHSBCA is representing you at the highest levels. I certainly hope you visit the [www.NHSBCA.org](http://www.NHSBCA.org) website, tap into some of the wonderful resources it provides, and familiarize yourself with the association and its mission.



I'm one of YOU! I've lived in Michigan my entire life and have coached at every level in 36 glorious seasons. I'm humbled to have this position with the NHSBCA, and know that you and everyone else in Michigan involved with our students are constantly on my mind. Have a glorious Christmas, and let's have a terrific New Year!

*Dave Ginsberg - Executive Director, NHSBCA*

## **BASKETBALL OFFICIALS AND COACHES COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE (BOCCC) REPORT**

*Joe Ricard (Chairman of the BOCCC Committee)*

### **THROUGH THE EYES OF A PLAYER**

As a member of the Basketball Coaches and Officials Communication Committee (BOCCC), I frequently am in discussions about communication between coaches and officials PLUS sportsmanship in the game of basketball. After reading the most recent issue of MHSAA *Benchmarks*, I wonder if we are leaving out of our discussions the most important part of our game – the player.

Case in point: 59 coaches were ejected from games last year along with 88 players. Neither number is acceptable. However, considering ten players are always on the floor but only two coaches are involved, the ratio of coaches' ejections to player ejections is HUGE!

Case in point #2: there were 22 "praise" reports submitted by officials compared to 195 "concern" reports. It is probably a pretty safe assumption that a coach might not have been directly involved in each concern report; a coach, though, somehow probably influenced the majority of the reports.

So I ask: do we, both coaches and officials, need to view the game more often and more deliberately through players' eyes? Is it way past time to realize the expectations players bring to the game - and officiate and coach as the players' desire? Would 59 coaches be ejected if they saw the game as their players see the game? Would there be less items of concern if REALISTIC expectations were talked about with players, parents and administrators? Most of the games I officiate have more communication between the players and the officials than communication between coaches and officials; can't 4 or 5 adults work together throughout a game to insure it is played like the players want it to be played?

Trust me; it has taken me a long time to get to this point of realizing what players expect. Maybe it is an age thing on my part. Maybe it is now coaching a sport (tennis) without officials. Maybe it is teaching elementary phys. ed. and being with kids all day who just want to have fun. Whatever it is, I fear players are getting lost in the shuffle as adults change rules, change seasons, change practice amounts, change team requirements, change coaches longevity, change demands and expectations.

Next time you pull on your striped shirt, next time you fill out your lineup, ask yourself one question: am I here only for the kids tonight?

### **MARK DELAP (IONIA HS BOYS BASKETBALL COACH) TALKS ABOUT COACHING LEGEND DON MEYER:**

Last night I was privileged to go to a coaching clinic in Saginaw where one of my good friends and basketball mentors was speaking. This man is an ESPY award winner for perseverance and gives a tribute on the back cover of my book "A Warrior's Heart". He has won over 900 college games and for a while held the top spot in that category. Last night he talked about many. Don Meyer's body is failing. It was a coaching clinic like none I've ever been to. He was sick from the cancer medicines he was on and weak from three valves that were put into his body. He is not expected to last through Christmas... but there he was sitting in a chair for 3 hours talking to us and passing on his wisdom. He didn't hesitate to sign a basketball for my program that we will be giving away at our "Charity Stripe Classic" later this year. We listened to him talk about the three "f's" - faith,



family, friendship. We learned about how close he was to Heaven and that he was sure that he still had a purpose or God would have taken him home. He challenged us to be "spiritual servants" - and to leave a legacy... and to leave a place "Better" than when you found it. One of the simplest and most profound things he told us was not about picking or screening or shooting or defending a zone defense... but he quietly looked into my eyes and said... "pick up trash". It was in that moment, that more than ever before in my life, it was so clear and evident that it's not what they hear you say, but what they see you do that will leave the most important impact. A picture really is worth a thousand words.

Sometimes the greatest thing we can hear... are no words at all. Sometimes the greatest thing is not preaching a million words without taking a breath. Sometimes... the greatest sermon you can preach to someone is what they see you do.

I watched a man come to preach in his own special way last night to a handful of coaches a thousand miles from his home and family.... in the midst of his adversity... a trip he didn't really have to make... and it wasn't the words that impressed us as much as his just being there... and us, watching a man give everything he had left, to people who could give him nothing in return. He told us in dealing with our relationships... that we can find out a lot about a man when he's "getting his butt kicked"... and how a man will treat people that can never repay him or do anything for him. We watched a man receive his reward from the passion that he gave himself to... the chance to talk about God and family and friends... and basketball.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_019GcX-lyc&list=FLkOY9k5-m1veUXcFkomWCg&index=1&feature=plpp\\_video](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_019GcX-lyc&list=FLkOY9k5-m1veUXcFkomWCg&index=1&feature=plpp_video)

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zpYLWxo9c-4&list=FLkOY9k5-m1-veUXcFkomWCg&index=2&feature=plpp\\_video](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zpYLWxo9c-4&list=FLkOY9k5-m1-veUXcFkomWCg&index=2&feature=plpp_video)

## **WHEN YOU DIE....**

The following conversation took place at Timothy's funeral. His memorial service affected people deeply. Mourner after mourner shared powerful stories about the way the 45-year-old man had touched their lives.

"That was wonderful," one man exclaimed. "When I die, I want the exact same service. The same music, the same Bible readings, the same words."

Another man put a hand on his shoulder. "Our church doesn't do cookie-cutter funerals," he said. "If you want a funeral like this one, then you are going to have to live a life like Timothy between now and when you die." (Condensed from "*GET REAL: A Spiritual Journey For Men*" - 2007)

We sincerely hope that each and every All Pro Dad lives a long and prosperous life. But when you do pass away, have you thought about what you'd like to be said at your funeral? At All Pro Dad, our hope is that you will live your life in such a way that, one day, the people who attend your memorial service will be inspired to live their lives in a better way. Here are 5 things you want said about you at your funeral:

### **1. "This world is a better place because he lived!"**

Everything we do, every day of our lives, holds the possibility to make a positive difference. Additionally, as we raise our children to be loving and generous, people of grace and integrity, the positive effect of our lives can bless generations to come.

### **2. "He knew what was important in life!"**

Few people are going to waste words lauding our net worth when we die. Instead, wouldn't it be great to be remembered as a man who had his priorities in order. Family. Family first. That's something worth crowing about.

### **3. “This was one faithful man.”**

We’ve all heard tell of professional athletes and musicians who brag about the number of women they’ve slept with during their lives. How about a big shout out for faithfulness and commitment? When a man is remembered as “faithful,” that man is remembered with respect.

### **4. “His family is going to miss him...but he left them equipped to thrive.”**

It’s tough to imagine how your family will cope once you’re gone. But there’s one great gift we can leave behind, and that’s provision. Provision not only in terms of that insurance policy and a paid-off house, but a lifetime of training in responsibility, integrity, personal accountability, and thrift.

### **5. “He lived to the full, and he didn’t waste the gift of life!”**

We were all created for the purpose of enjoying this life, and of celebrating TODAY! We want to leave ample reason for folks to cheer, to celebrate the fact that they knew us, to remember that we understood how to have fun, and to make no mistake that we were not the kind of men who let those opportunities to have a good time slip us by.

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## **WORDS OF WISDOM FROM COACH JOHN WOODEN:**

*We cannot allow difficulties to discourage us. Roadblocks may cause us to alter our course a bit, but we cannot let them deter us from our destination. I have often said that we grow stronger through adversity. We become stronger physically through a weight-lifting program. Our muscles work against heavy objects. That's adversity. We get stronger mentally through the progressive difficulty of education. We don't start with calculus; we start with arithmetic. After we learn the basics, we move on to algebra, then to geometry and so on. We work our way up to calculus. In the same way, we grow stronger spiritually through the tests of life. Losing my beloved wife, Nellie, was the hardest event in my life. For a couple of years, it slowed me down; but it didn't stop me. In the end even her loss has made me stronger. In every way—physically, morally, emotionally and spiritually—we increase our strength when life is hard; therefore, we must not dread adversity, nor can we allow it to stop us from becoming the best we can be through the steadfast pursuit of our goals. In fact, as we become stronger we can and should expand our goals. Extending our capabilities to their limits requires us to realistically reevaluate our potential.*

In 1962 Coach’s UCLA team was defeated in the semi finals of the final four. In Coach’s book *Wooden on Leadership* with Steve Jamison Fred Slaughter, a member of that team, described the experience.

*We lost to Cincinnati in the semifinals of the national championship because of a bad charging call on us during the last minute of the game. It was a phantom call, and it cost UCLA the game and maybe the national championship. Coach’s reaction in the locker room was the same as if we’d won—cool. No complaining; he told us to keep our heads up: “Adversity makes us stronger.” And then he said, “Remember, you’ve still got one another.”*

Sometimes it was years before Coach Wooden's players benefited from his life lessons. Bill Walton once described it this way:

*Twenty-nine years have passed since I left UCLA and it amazes me how smart Coach Wooden has become in those 29 years. I'm 50 years old now. I thought he was nuts. He was a walking antique. It wasn't until adversity hit me that I realized he was right.*

Dealing with adversity in a positive way requires the two top mortar pieces of coach’s Pyramid of Success: Faith and Patience and remembering as Coach put it: *Adversity is the state in which man most easily becomes acquainted with himself, being especially free of admirers then.*

**For more from Coach John Wooden go to: [www.WoodenCourse.com](http://www.WoodenCourse.com)**



**CHARACTER COUNTS with Michael Josephson:  
IT'S NOT EASY**

Let's be honest. Ethics is not for wimps.

It's not easy being a good person.

It's not easy to be honest when it might be costly, to play fair when others cheat, or to keep inconvenient promises.

It's not easy to stand up for our beliefs and still respect differing viewpoints.

It's not easy to control powerful impulses, to be accountable for our attitudes and actions, to tackle unpleasant tasks, or to sacrifice the now for later.

It's not easy to bear criticism and learn from it without getting angry, to take advice, or to admit error.

It's not easy to feel genuine remorse and apologize sincerely or to accept apologies graciously and truly forgive.

It's not easy to stop feeling like a victim, to resist cynicism, or to make the best of every situation.

It's not easy to be consistently kind, to think of others first, to judge generously, or to give the benefit of the doubt.

It's not easy to be grateful or to give without concern for reward or gratitude.

It's not easy to fail and still keep trying, to learn from failure, to risk failing again, to start over, to lose with grace, or to be glad of another's success.

It's not easy to look at ourselves honestly and be accountable, to avoid excuses and rationalizations, or to resist temptations.

No, being a person of character isn't easy. That's why it's such a lofty goal and an admirable achievement.

*This is Michael Josephson reminding you that character counts.*