



MARCH, 2012 BCAM MONTHLY REPORT

Tom Hursey – Executive Director

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Tournament time is here. A new season begins. March Madness is a great time of the year. Some of you are hoping to maintain the great play that your team has displayed lately. Others are hoping for a late season turn-around and a few more wins. Good luck to everyone.

BCAM continues to offer many benefits to coaches. It is too bad that some coaches missed the membership deadline and therefore missed possible awards for their players. The BCAM office has contacted coaches throughout the school year to remind them that they need to join. It is difficult to understand why coaches wait for the last minute to join. One of the biggest problems we hear is "I thought my AD signed me up." If you don't receive Monthly Reports, that is a good indication that you are not a member. Our 2012-13 membership drive will start in May. Don't wait. Sign up ASAP.

I am listing many of the upcoming events. Please take note.

MR and MISS BASKETBALL: The Miss Basketball ballots were emailed Tuesday to all "actively coaching" BCAM members. Voting ends 3/6. If you did not get a ballot and you think you should have, let Amy know. amy@bcam.org The Mr. Basketball ballots will go out on 3/7.

NOMINATIONS: It is that time of year to submit your nominations. You have received an email from Amy about nominations. It is now time to follow up. Your team or players might be eligible for the many awards that BCAM (underwritten by Meijer) hands out each year. Academic awards, Top Shooter awards, BCAM's Best and All Star teams are available BUT ONLY IF YOU NOMINATE! Go to www.bcam.org for more information. The nomination forms are all available under "FORMS" after logging in.



HOSPITALITY ROOM AT BRESLIN: BCAM, along with the help of the MHSAA, will be hosting our annual Hospitality Room at the Breslin Center for BCAM members during the Boy's State Finals. Bring your membership card to the BCAM table in the concourse to get your pass to the Hospitality Room. Members are allowed to bring in two guests. Please do not try to bring a group of players to this event. Officials are also welcome if they bring their MHSAA registration card.

MEMBERSHIP: BCAM continues to be one of the top two basketball coaches associations in the country. Our membership for this year is at 4288. This is down a little from our record setting number last year. We hope to get the Detroit area to become more involved next year.

LOW MEMBERSHIP FEES: BCAM might have one of the lowest, if not the lowest, membership fee structures in the country. How is this possible? The answer is simple – SPONSORS. Our great line-up of sponsors allows BCAM to use the sponsor money for our many projects and not ask coaches to pay for them with higher membership fees. So when you are deciding on products or equipment for next year, please give our sponsors a chance. Our sponsors' websites are just a click away from our website. Who are the sponsors? Meijer, Rawlings, the Army National Guard, Gatorade, Pistons, Team Sports, Johnny Mac's, NOAH and **our newest sponsor: NIKE**. NIKE has joined our impressive list of sponsors. When ordering your NIKE merchandise, your best bet is through Team Sports and Johnny Mac's. These two sporting good stores are authorized dealers of NIKE. Take advantage of competitive prices offered by these two companies.

NATIONAL GUARD TOP 100 SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD: With the regular season ending, the MHSAA will be able to tabulate the results of input from game officials. I will try to get the results out to the membership sometime in April. The banners for the top 100 schools (girls' teams and boys' teams) will be presented at the beginning of next year's season. *Our first year of this project did not go very smooth for a number of reasons. Those reasons have been corrected and distribution of banners for this season should go much better early next season. IF ANY SCHOOL DID NOT RECEIVE THEIR BANNER FROM THE NATIONAL GUARD THIS SEASON,*



PLEASE CONTACT: Deidre Piechocki at deidre.piechocki@us.army.mil or call 517-481-7003.

THE BCAM ALL-STAR FESTIVAL WILL BE AT THE PALACE OF AUBURN HILLS: Coaches, make sure to nominate your top seniors for the All-Star Festival. This year the games are being played at the Palace of Auburn Hills on Saturday, August 11. It will be a great day of basketball played on the same floor as the Detroit Pistons. We expect all the top seniors to participate in either the A/B Games or the C/D Games. More information will follow this spring. But only those players nominated by their coach will be eligible to play. Nomination forms are available at www.bcam.org. First login, then click on FORMS and then PLAYER/TEAM AWARDS. Be sure to note the dead line: (Girls 3/9, Boys 3/16).

3-POINT AND FREETHROW CHAMPIONSHIP AT THE STATE FINALS: Plans are being finalized for the 3-point and free throw championships ("Top Shooters Challenge") during Hoopfest at the Girls' and Boys' State Finals. For your varsity players to be eligible you need to nominate them for the Top Shooters award. Go to www.bcam.org, login, and click on FORMS to find the Top Shooters nomination form. If you don't make the early deadline (girls 3/7, boys 3/14), your players can still be eligible for the Top Shooters' AWARDS, BUT NOT for the contest at the Breslin Arena during the state finals.

COACHES VS CANCER GOLF SCRAMBLE: Save Monday, August 6 on your calendar. This is the date for the 3rd Annual Coaches vs Cancer Golf Scramble at beautiful Walnut Hills Golf Club in East Lansing. You will be receiving a separate email later this spring with all the details including how to register. BCAM members will have the opportunity to sign up early. Then registration will open to the public. So if you are interested, get a foursome and sign up early. Individuals can sign up also.

KEVIN RICHARDS (GROSSE POINTE SOUTH HS – Girls Varsity) IS THE NEW PRESIDENT-ELECT: BCAM is happy to announce that Kevin Richards has been elected to the President-Elect position on the BCAM Board of Directors. Kevin won the election with 56% of the votes over Mary Cicerone (Marian HS). Kevin's resume shows a long term involvement in high school basketball and will be a valuable asset to the board.

Kevin Richards (Grosse Pointe South – Girls Varsity)



- 1997-1999 St. Clair County Community College – player
- 1999-2002 Central Michigan University - Physical Education/Health
- 11 year head Varsity Girls Coach (Coleman, L'Anse Creuse North, Grosse Pointe South) -1 district (LCN 2003), MAC league Championships (2008-2011)
- 4 year Junior Varsity Boys (Coleman, L'Anse Creuse North)
- Director of Blue Water Perimeter/Post Camp, St. Clair, MI (2001-present)
- BCAM Regional Director- 2 years
- Director of Junior Hooper Fundamental Program- ages 3-10, Roseville, MI (2009-present)
- NOAH Shooting Academy Camp, Grosse Pointe, MI (2009-present)

BOCCC Communication Article

By Dan Christner, BCAM Board Member and Member of the BOCCC Committee

(Ed. Note: This is the second in a series of BOCCC articles)

As an ongoing part of the Basketball Officials and Coaches Communication Committee (BOCCC), we offer articles designed to foster thought and discussion. Mindful of the idea that referees and coaches bear an equal responsibility in making basketball a great learning experience for the players, we offer the following forms of communication that detract from the game-day experience.

It is our sincere desire that this article serves to encourage thought and discussion among coaches and game officials for the betterment of our great game.

What follows is a list of things that referees would rather not see or hear from coaches during a game.

They are presented in no particular order.

3. Taking liberties with the coaches box

Whatever your opinion is concerning the coaches box, it is here to stay. It is a rule just like goaltending. Officials are not allowed to pick and choose the rules that they will enforce.

When officials are forced to divert some of their attention to enforcement of the coach's box, it detracts from their ability to referee the game itself.

Point to Consider: We, as coaches, aren't supposed to be the center of attention. The focal point of the event should be on the players.



4. Gesturing with officiating signals, i.e. traveling, carrying, double dribble, fouls, etc

Like the two hand wave-off, these gestures just incite the crowd and by rule are grounds for an unsporting Technical Foul.

Point to Consider: At the next free throw opportunity, talk with the referee about your concerns.

5. Announcing: "We have eight fouls and they only have two."

In essence you are questioning the integrity of the referee. You are assuming that the official cares about the disparity in fouls and are implying that they are trying to affect the outcome of the game. This is a serious and threatening charge. You may view this comment as a mere statement of the obvious; we have several more fouls than our opponent. The official takes it as a threat to their fundamental role as arbiter of the contest.

It is not up to the official to maintain parity of fouls any more than they are supposed to maintain parity of the score.

Point to Consider: Analyze why your team has committed more fouls and adjust your defensive strategy accordingly. Some coaches keep scouting report files on officials to better help them prepare for games. If you have determined that a certain referee crew doesn't call the "over the back" on rebounds, prepare your team for that possibility. Officials strive for uniformity, but they come from different experience levels and have different thresholds for contact.

**This is a listing of things that coaches would prefer not to see or hear from officials.
They are presented in no particular order.**

3. "We will be here all night if I call all the fouls."

So be it. Players will adapt to whatever the officials allow. One of the beautiful parts of basketball is that upon commission of the fifth foul, you are disqualified from the game. The message intended by this rule is that players should limit their reckless play. Coaches utilize this rule in preparing game plans.

Another of basketball's beauty lies in the skill required to play the game. Admittedly, younger players possess less skill. This does not mean that they get to play with an altered rule book which somehow takes into account their lack of ability. If a player runs with the ball, then call the violation. Failing to do so will not improve his capacity to play.

Officials also need to understand that the coach of the team has had to watch that player run with the ball during practice. Undoubtedly the player has been told about the rule and coached on how to correct the problem. If, during the game, the official ignores the violation, the player gets the wrong message.

Point to Consider: Call the game as required by the National Federation Rulebook, irrespective of time of year or the ability of the players.

4. Refs coaching i.e. "Don't reach." "Clear the lane." "Don't push."

Coaches work to develop their players on the skills of stealing the dribble. When the referee "coaches" a player by telling them "don't reach," this sends a confusing message to the player. How is the player supposed to steal the ball from their opponent without reaching for it?

Similarly, coaches spend time acquainting their players with the basic rules of the game. This includes the three second rule. When the baseline referee warns the offensive player to "clear the lane," then they are no longer just officiating, they are coaching. Such coaching from an official gives an unfair advantage to the offense in the form of the reminder to avoid a violation and subsequent turn-over.

The same type of coaching occurs in the post where players are told not to push. The referee who coaches players in this way is providing an unfair advantage for the offending team. Just call the foul.

Point to Consider: Reminders to players can be issued during the pre-game meeting. Thereafter: Coaches coach, players play, officials officiate.

PAT KNIGHT TELLS IT LIKE IT IS: A chip off the old block...

<http://sports.yahoo.com/blogs/ncaab-the-dagger/pat-knight-rant-may-press-conference-155511578.html>

TOP STUDENT CHEERING SECTIONS: <http://ow.ly/8y9s3>

"If you do not have the time to do it right, when will you have time to do it over?" *John Wooden*

Johnny Mac's
SPORTING GOODS
YOUR "HOME TEAM" STORE

Coach Wooden believed that enthusiasm was the igniter that turned hard work into industriousness.

"Hard work without enthusiasm leads to tedium. Enthusiasm without industriousness leads to unrealized potential. When combined, they cement a solid foundation."

Coach

It's not about the whistle or the uniform you wear.

It's more about the sportsmanship and values that you share.

It's stressing skills and teamwork over victory and fame.

Why coach? It's for the players -- and because you love the game.

-- seen on back of Hallmark Keepsake ornament box

TEN COMMANDMENTS OF HUMAN RELATIONS

1. Speak to people. There is nothing as nice as a cheerful word of greeting.
2. Smile at people. It takes 72 muscles to frown and only 14 to smile.
3. Call people by name. The sweetest music to anyone is the sound of his own name.
4. Be friendly and helpful. If you would have friends, be friendly.
5. Be genuinely interested in people. You can like anybody if you try.
6. Be cordial. Speak and act as if everything you do is a real pleasure.
7. Be generous with praise and cautious with criticism.
8. Be considerate with the feelings of others. It will be appreciated.
9. Be thoughtful of the opinion of others. There are three sides to controversy: yours; the other persons; and the right one.
10. Be alert to give service. What counts most in life is what you do for others.



Year End Player Self-Evaluation

1. Your 3 top strengths as a player –.
2. Your 3 weaknesses/major areas need to improve as a player
3. Grade yourself A-F how much of a gym rat you are and how hard do you work in the off-season?
4. Grade yourself as a competitor from A-F, how competitive are you?
5. Grade yourself in toughness—how tough are you A-F
6. Grade yourself in quickness—how quick are you A-F
7. Grade yourself in athleticism—how athletic are you A-F
8. Grade yourself in basketball IQ/feel for the game A-F
9. Grade yourself as a man to man defender A-F
10. Grade yourself as a help defender A-F
11. Grade your overall skill level A-F
12. Grade your shooting ability A-F
13. Grade your passing ability A-F
14. Grade yourself as a press defender A-F
15. Grade your strength level A-F
16. Grade your overall commitment to the basketball program in terms of off-season preparation, skill development work, strength and conditioning and agility work, showing up for optional team workouts and off-season games to this point in your career A-F.
17. How often do you make time to come in and talk to Coach about basketball, school or other issues—
 - a. almost never
 - b. once in a while
 - c. regularly
 - d. almost daily
 - e. I am afraid or not comfortable "kicking it" with Coach.
18. What do you see as your role on our team next year?



Find the Success Fork in the Road by Orrin Woodward (www.livingforexcellence.com)

It's before 7 AM, on a foggy Saturday morning, and my mind is mulling over the personal development habits that produce champions. Every person reading this blog, everyone, without exception, can become a champion by changing his daily habits. One of the problems in life, probably due to the Biblical fall of man, is that bad habits are easy to develop, while good habits are hard to develop. Think about it, no one ever creates a plan to get out of shape, but many have performed the task admirably, myself included. On the other hand, there have been seasons in my life, where through discipline, I have been in great shape. I know that I can do both, but one takes constant discipline, the other doesn't. How many things in life is this true of? Do you pick whatever habits feel good at the moment, accepting whatever long term results that come with it, or contrarily, do you choose the habits that are inconvenient in the moment, but produce the long term results that you desire in life. Today, as you read this, you stand at a fork in the road. If you haven't produced the results that you yearn for, look no further than your daily habits. Look at your road. Can you see the long term results developing from your habits? Are you happy with these results in your life? If you are, then forge ahead, but if you aren't, then perhaps today is the day, in which you take a different road.



The champions road is available to all, and nearly all would love the results of a championship life, not just the monetary rewards, although that doesn't hurt :), as much as the feeling of satisfaction created by a life well lived. One may be thinking, if that is true, then why don't more people choose the success path? Simply put, the path is uninviting, having briars, thorns, and burrs scattered over the trail. In fact, it's hard to even recognize the fork in the roads, since the success road is loaded with painful reminders that it's off the beaten trail. Even the people who truly want to change, will suffer greatly from walking down the "road less traveled", wondering if they made the right choice as they are poked again and again by the burrs, thorns and pickers. This is the moment of truth in one's life. Do you turn back, yielding to the pain of the moment by surrendering your dreams for the comfort of the well traveled road to mediocrity? Most people who start on the success road will not finish, turning back when the going gets tough, but that doesn't have to be your destiny, because you don't have to be like "most people".

I have walked down both roads at different seasons in my life, learning many lesson along the way. I learned that the success road in life is hard, don't let anyone mislead you on this point, requiring a pain tolerance beyond what most people are willing to endure in our pampered age, but, over time, the road will get progressively easier. Conversely, the road to mediocrity is easy, requiring little upfront pain, with plenty of company to encourage you on your road to mediocrity, but, over time, the road will get progressively harder. With each mile, the mediocrity path becomes more of a burden, drinking to its dregs from the 'purposeless life' cup. The road to mediocrity becomes littered with hurting people, dealing with the pain of their self centered lives. By focusing only on their own challenges, having no time to serve the hurting people around them, suffering from the regret filled pain of a purposeless life, the road to mediocrity becomes a long walk of quiet desperation. Don't let the fabled ease and comfort of the road to mediocrity fool you as life has its price that must be paid in full, either a life full of discipline or full of regret, the choice is yours.

Winners choose the success road, enduring the hardships, knowing that success lies on the other side of the pain, while others choose the mediocrity road, seeing only the perceived comfort, believing the lie, that life can be lived successfully without paying a price. Sadly, it's only after many wasted years, that people realize, that from listening to the wrong people (the masses living in mediocrity), that they have sold God's purpose filled plan for self's pampered filled pretensions. The good news is that it doesn't have to end this way. At any moment in time, one can get off the road of mediocrity and find the straight and narrow path, leading to success.

By finding a mentor, one who has walked further down the road of success, one finds, not only a friend, but a model, an example of someone who endured the pain to live a life of significance. I learned from my mentors, that if they can journey down the success road, then I can too, leaving behind my habits of mediocrity and replacing with the habits of success. Where are you on life's journey? What road are you traveling on? Are you living with discipline or with regret? Perhaps you are you ready to find a different road, discovering the fork that leads to purpose filled success? It's your life, it's your choice, and it's your pain, either discipline or regret. Choose wisely.

noah