

# DECEMBER 2009 – BCAM MONTHLY REPORT

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Tom Hursey*

First I want to thank all those members who replied to our survey concerning our fall BCAM Coaching Clinic. We are looking over the responses to see what can be done to improve our clinic. Hopefully we will have some changes that will enable more coaches to attend.

Our membership has surpassed last year's numbers and is approaching an all-time record. Hopefully we will add more members before the end of 2009 and reach 4000 members. One reason for the increase has been the \$80 School Special. This has really helped schools and individuals save some money in this tough economic climate. BCAM will continue to do all it can to keep costs down.

This Monthly Report is dedicated to John Wooden, former UCLA coach, who influenced many coaches during the 60's through the 80's. Coach Wooden recently celebrated his 99<sup>th</sup> birthday. His influence is still being felt by a new generation of coaches. If you are looking for a "mentor", read his books (Practical Modern Basketball and They Call Me Coach). He has been and will continue to be a great role model.

I can't emphasize enough the importance of our website ([www.bcam.org](http://www.bcam.org)). Please take the time to familiarize yourself with this communication tool. It has become BCAM's number one method of communication.

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. May this basketball season be one of satisfaction because you and your team put forth maximum effort and good sportsmanship, and that you were a credit to the coaching profession (read the BOCCC article that follows).

## BOCCC ARTICLE FOR DECEMBER

*Joe Ricard – Chairman, BOCCC*

Since communication is the main focus of the Basketball Officials and Coaches Communication Committee, this story seems most appropriate.

As I was talking to a friend of mine, a retired teacher/coach/principal – and very successful in all positions – he stated that any problem he ever had with a student was his fault. HIS fault, not the student's fault!

So I began thinking, what would our game be like if every coach said "Any problem I have ever had with an official was MY fault" and if every official said "Any problem I have ever had with a coach was MY fault"? Think about that. Now think about the word communicate, the meaning of it, and how often we teach our students and children about the importance of that word. Think about how during a game how noticed we are, whether a coach or an official.

Now think about any "problems" between coaches and officials. Yes, you know the answer: if both had communicated better, there would have been no problems!

Before you jump all over an official this season, ask yourself if you will be "communicating" or "yelling". If you can't communicate, why bother yelling?

Great luck on an enjoyable season. Set the bar high, not only for yourself but for your team and your staff.

## Hey Ref I have a question?

Send comments / questions to Bob Williams via email: [Robert.Williams@uofdjcsuit.org](mailto:Robert.Williams@uofdjcsuit.org) .

Are there any rule changes this season?

The actual rule changes for 2009-10 were very minimal resulting in two changes. However there are a few Points of Emphasis that Coaches and Officials are reminded:

1. A state association may permit game or replay officials to use a replay monitor during state championship series contest to determine if a try for goal at the expiration of time in the fourth quarter or any overtime period (0:00 on the game clock) should be counted, and if so, determine if it is a two or a three-point goal.

2. When a red light behind the backboard or an LED light on the backboard IS PRESENT, IT IS PERMITTED TO SIGNAL THE EXPIRATION OF TIME IN THE QUARTER/EXTRA PERIOD. If no red/LED light is present, the audible timer's signal will continue to signal the expiration of time.

Points of Emphasis:

1. Traveling: Go back to basics, find the pivot foot, know when the ball is released in regards to the foot being picked up, know what a jump stop is, identify the extra hop before the shot.
2. Closely Guarded: Be consistent with the enforcement of the rule. The guarding distance is 6 feet. As a reference point that is the distance between the top of the circle and the free throw line.
3. Three-Seconds: Know when 3 seconds occurs, penalize the advantage situation, realize that a player having the ball in the 3 second area can be in there longer than 3 seconds provided he is in the act of scoring a basket. Example; Player A is at the top of the 3 second area at the free throw line. The official is counting, 1001, 1002 the player now receives a pass, the player immediately turns and drives the basket, the official is still counting, 1003, 1004, the player shoots the ball, NO PENALTY, however if the player were to pass off, the 3 second violation would be called.
4. Block/Charge: Know when a legal blocking position has been achieved, officials are instructed to referee the defense.
5. Free-Throw Administration: Make sure that all players remain in their lane spaces until the ball hits the rim. A player occupying a marked lane space must have one foot positioned near the outer edge of the free-throw lane line with the foot positioned anywhere within the designated 36 inch lane space.

## REACHING HIGHER SHOWCASE

Preparation for the 2nd Reaching Higher Showcase Event is in full swing. The girls' showcase will take place on Sunday, April 18th @ South Lyon High School. The boys' event will take place on July 31st ALSO at South Lyon High School. Coaches may nominate top underclass players beginning in December. The nomination deadline is January 29, 2010. A detailed letter will be sent out by the MHSAA in early December detailing the nomination process. Nominating coaches are encouraged to contact the Reaching Higher Regional Representative from their area. Reaching Higher Selection Committee Members may be found at [www.bcam.org](http://www.bcam.org) (click on Reaching Higher) or at <http://www.mhsaa.com/Sports/BoysBasketball/ReachingHigher.aspx>.

120 players and 40 alternates will be selected on Sunday, February 7th, @ the MHSAA Office by the Reaching Higher Selection Committee.

Additional information may be found at [www.bcam.org](http://www.bcam.org) (Click on Reaching Higher), or <http://www.mhsaa.com/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=TjUQTnefUNQ%3d&tabid=120>. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Coach Moffit [Grayling HS] or Coach Conley [Heritage HS] at [reachinghighershowcase@gmail.com](mailto:reachinghighershowcase@gmail.com).

**BCAM would like to honor Coach John Wooden (UCLA) on his 99<sup>th</sup> birthday. The following are some of his thoughts, courtesy of Character Counts. Go to <http://www.CharacterCounts.org> for more information.**

### HIS PHILOSOPHY:

Henry David Thoreau said a philosopher is a person who seeks to understand and solve the most serious problems of life – not only theoretically but practically. A true philosopher, Thoreau added, is so committed to wisdom that he seeks to live wisely and so lives a life of simplicity, independence, magnanimity, and trust.

By this definition, John Wooden is every inch a great American philosopher. Here are some of his insights from *Wooden: A Lifetime of Observations and Reflections On and Off the Court* with Steve Jamison:

**On learning:** "Learn as if you were going to live forever, and live as if you were going to die tomorrow."

**On success:** "You must be interested in finding the best way, not in having your own way."

**On role-modeling:** "Superstars who don't want the responsibility that comes with public acclaim don't have that choice. They are role models whether they like it or not. They cannot simply announce that they

intend to shirk their responsibility. They are role models, either good or bad. So are you. So am I. I believe we have an obligation to make that model a positive one."

**On trust:** "It has been said that you will be hurt occasionally if you trust too much. This may be true, but you will live in torment if you do not trust enough."

**On perfection:** "Perfection is an impossibility, but striving for perfection is not. Do the best you can. That is what counts."

**On management:** "You'll get better cooperation and results if you are sincerely interested in people's families and interests, not simply how they do their job."

**On joy:** "Mix idealism with realism and add hard work. This will often bring much more than you could ever hope for."

**On winning:** "If you prepare properly, you may be outscored, but you will never lose. You always win when you make the full effort to do the best of which you're capable."

Obviously, these lessons for life go well beyond basketball. If we're open to adjust our attitudes and change our behavior, we will live better lives. And as Wooden expected from all his players, we will become better people.

– *Michael Josephson*

### **Non-basketball accomplishments by Michael Josephson.**

The first time I was in Coach Wooden's home, a small condominium in the San Fernando Valley, it struck me how well it suited this very special person.

Like the Coach, it was unpretentious, even understated. Too small, I thought, for such a great man. It was very clean, but cluttered with pictures of his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren as well as books and scores of awards and inscribed gifts.

I asked him whether any had special meaning. He said he specially treasures recognition for things other than the performance of his basketball teams. Those, he humbly said, were earned by the talent of his players, not him.

Thus, he had special pride in a Big Ten Medal he won in 1932 for his athletics and, more importantly, scholarship. He then showed me a medal he was awarded for humanitarianism the year after one of his heroes, Mother Teresa, received the same award.

Finally, he pointed out and read me this poem written to him by Sven Nater, a former player. –

*Michael Josephson*

*I saw love once.*

*I saw it clear.*

*It had no leash.*

*It had no fear.*

*It gave itself*

*Without a thought.*

*No reservation*

*Had it bought.*

*It seemed so free*

*to demonstrate.*

*It seemed obsessed*

*To orchestrate.*

*A symphony,*

*Designed to feed,*

*Composed to lift,*

*The one in need.*

*Concern for others  
Was its goal.  
No matter what  
Would be the toll.*

*It's strange just how  
Much care it stores  
To recognize  
Its neighbor's sores.*

*And doesn't rest  
Until the day  
It's helped to take  
The sores away.*

*Its joy retains  
And does not run  
Until the blessing's  
Job is done.*

*I saw love once,  
'Twas not pretend.  
He was my coach.  
He is my friend.*



### **Principle Nine: Loving Competition More Than Winning**

Named "Coach of the Century" by ESPN and "Greatest Coach of All Time" by *Sporting News*, John Wooden knows how to win. In a winning-obsessed world, his observations are valuable.

"I wanted to win every single game I ever played in or coached," he once said. "But I understood that ultimately the winning or losing may not be under my control. What was under my control was how I prepared myself and our team.

"I judged my success, my winning, on that. Winning games, titles, and championships isn't all it's cracked up to be. Getting there, the journey, is a lot more than it's cracked up to be."

Instead of the win-at-any-cost perspective of so many athletes, coaches, and parents, Wooden's way teaches us that there can and should be real joy in the passionate pursuit of victory, in the competition itself.

If you teach kids to love, not fear, competition and to prize effort and improvement, they will enjoy sports whether or not they outscore their opponents.

The Coach is fond of quoting this poem by legendary sportswriter Grantland Rice:

#### **The Great Competitor**

*Beyond the winning and the goal,  
beyond the glory and the flame,  
He feels the flame within his soul*



*born of the spirit of the game.*

*And where the barriers may wait,  
built up by the opposing Gods,  
He finds a thrill in bucking fate  
and riding down the endless odds.*

*Where others wither in the fire  
or fall below some raw mishap,  
Where others lag behind  
or tire and break beneath the handicap,*

*He finds a new and deeper thrill  
to take him on the uphill spin,  
Because the test is greater still,  
and something he can revel in.*

Principle Nine of the Arizona Sports Summit Accord states that sports programs "must assure that character-development responsibilities are not compromised to achieve sports performance goals and that the academic, emotional, physical, and moral well-being of athletes is always placed above desires and pressures to win."

### **THE FOLLOWING QUOTES ARE ALL CREDITED TO COACH WOODEN:**

**Be more concerned with your character than your reputation because your character is what you really are while your reputation is merely what others think you are.**

**Failure is not fatal, but failure to change might be.**

**Young people need models, not critics.**

**Discipline yourself, and other won't need to.**

**Material possessions, winning scores, and great reputations are meaningless in the eyes of the Lord because He knows what we really are, and that is all that matters.**

**Adversity is the state in which man most easily becomes acquainted with himself.**

**What you are as a person is far more important than what you are as a basketball player.**

**Never mistake activity for achievement.**

**It's the little details that are vital. Little things make big things happen.**

**If you don't have time to do it right, when will you have time to do it over?**

**The main ingredient of stardom is the rest of the team.**

**Do not let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do.**

**It's not so important who starts the game but who finishes it.**

**Things turn out best for people who make the best of the way things turn out.**

**Success is never final. Failure is never fatal. It's courage that counts.**

**You can't let praise or criticism get to you. It's a weakness to get caught up in either.**

**Consider the rights of others before your own feelings, and the feelings of others before your own rights.**

**Ability is a poor man's wealth.**

**If you're not making mistakes, you're not doing anything.**

**A coach is someone who can give correction without causing resentment.**

**Our team depended on two factors:  
how hard they worked during practice and how well they behaved between practices.**

**Winning takes talent. To repeat takes character.**

**Talent is God-given. Be humble.  
Fame is man-given. Be grateful.  
Conceit is self-given. Be careful.**

**THANKS COACH WOODEN FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO BASKETBALL.**

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