



BCAM December 2013 Monthly Report

Tom Hursey – Executive Director

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: I have been enlightened over the past couple of years during meetings with representatives from the AAU. The bottom line is: The AAU is not the enemy. This organization has become a synonym for all club teams. This is why I am including articles from AAU administrators in the Monthly Reports. I am not saying that every AAU team follows all the rules of their organization, but there are rules to follow and consequences for not following these rules. Club or travel teams not affiliated with the AAU do not have these rules. Please read the following article carefully. Many of you are involved in AAU basketball. By being certified and following the rules you minimize the problems that accompany club or travel teams.

The start of the season is just around the corner. Enjoy the season by being a credit to your profession. Put sportsmanship at the top of your priority list. If you are a coach who spends too much time harassing officials, give yourself, your team and your fans a break by backing off. Talk with officials, don't yell at them. You might be amazed how much better they hear you.

I am writing this report during the Thanksgiving weekend. It reminds me that I have many things to be thankful for:

- A great family and a wife who has supported me for 47 years.
- Two sons who have followed in my footsteps and are teaching and coaching and making me proud.
- 5 grandkids who are healthy, happy and very involved in positive activities (and supported by their parents).
- A teaching and coaching career that had a lot of ups and downs but the ups far outweighed the downs.
- Putting away enough money so my retirement years are financially sound. (NOTE: Make sure you are planning for the future. It will be here sooner than you think.)
- The feeling of accomplishment with the BCAM. We have grown bigger and stronger over the last 37 years. We have also stayed relevant as an association.

I could go on but you get the idea. Have a great season and thanks for your support of BCAM!



MICHIGAN AAU BASKETBALL (Rod Seaford - AAU Basketball Executive Committee member)

The Michigan District of the Amateur Athletic Union has vibrant programs in both boys and girls basketball. During the 2013 competition year, 4354 Michigan citizens participated in AAU basketball events. Leagues, invitational tournaments and state championships were conducted in Lansing, Flint, Detroit, Kalamazoo, and Auburn Hills.

AAU basketball programs, for grades 2 through 12 are available in most AAU districts. District competition allows teams to qualify for national championship tournaments at Division I, Division II, and Division III competition levels.

Michigan teams have a rich history of success at national tournaments. The Michigan district has served as host to several national tournaments as well as the AAU Jr. Olympic Games.

District (state) championships are conducted in the spring, after the competition of the high school season. National championships are held in July at various locations, including Florida, Kentucky, North Carolina, Virginia, California, etc.

Michigan AAU Basketball is led by David LaGrande, Girls Director, and Ron Hall, Boys Director. Both are long time AAU volunteers who give time and effort to insure that AAU competitions observe the rules and standards set by the national program. All participants in AAU licensed events must be AAU members, and are thereby insured against injury.



All coaches must successfully complete a criminal background check, and must pass the Positive Coaching Alliance course before being granted membership.

Of course, there are many groups and teams holding “travel team” tournaments that have no affiliation with the AAU. As the nation’s largest and oldest youth sports organization, the Amateur Athletic Union has seen “AAU” become an almost generic term for non-scholastic basketball. While that status is flattering, it is also problematic when parents, athletes, and coaches are unable to distinguish which events are the “real AAU”.

For an organization or event to be a part of the AAU, it must obtain a club membership and event license from the national AAU office, and comply with the standards set for rules, venues, insurance, and eligibility.

Coaches and parents who want to check whether an event or team is licensed by the AAU can examine the website or contact the national office or District Basketball Directors shown below.

The AAU is a member of USA Basketball, and a cooperating partner with the National High School Basketball Coaches Association. The goal of the program is to provide high quality, safe, and fun basketball competitions for youth athletes at a level suited to their skills and ambitions. Michigan AAU is committed to the AAU motto – Sports for All Forever and Play AAU!

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GOT A MINUTE? ARE YOU A TEACHER AND/OR COACH? READ THE FOLLOWING: “Why Tough Teachers Get Good Results”

http://m.us.wsj.com/article_email/SB10001424052702304213904579095303368899132-1MyQjAxMTAzMDEwNDExNDQyWj

A SPECIAL PLACE (BOCCC Report, Joe Ricard – Chairman of BOCCC)

At the recent Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame induction banquet, I had the pleasure of hearing Jim Jones’ acceptance speech. Jim Jones was a terrific athlete at Saginaw Arthur Hill High School in the early 1970’s who then went on to play football at Central Michigan University. The part of his speech which caught my attention was the part where he gave thanks to his junior high football coach. It got me thinking, what has happened to those influential junior high coaches? It used to be every school had a teacher who stayed after school and coached AND did that for years. Now, few places have teachers who coach and even fewer have those junior high teachers who coach with a passion for their entire career.

So, would our game of basketball become even better if all of us, coaches and officials, looked differently at junior high and middle school coaches?



First of all, what if officials actually took the time to visit before the junior high game with that coach? Get to know his/her name, ask about the season, and, most importantly – encourage that junior high coach! Share a story about our own junior high coaches, how we remember what they did for us at such an important growing part of our lives, let that coach know the players are at their most formative years and he/she has a special calling, much more special than just teaching the game of basketball.

Also, could we as high school coaches do more to groom and prepare our junior high coaches? Instead of thinking of how we can squeeze more out of our own players, how about if we spent more time thinking about how we can improve the life of a junior high coach? What if each high school player sent a text to her/his junior high coach? What if the junior high coach talked to your team one day during the season? Could we make that junior high coach feel so special that pretty soon he or she wants to not only coach junior high, but also get a teaching degree to dedicate a life to junior high players?

If you ever coached junior high hoops, be thankful. If you never did, you missed out. Refs, if you ever get another chance to work a junior high doubleheader, take it – it will be well worth it.

RECOMMENDED VIEWING: Watch this short presentation by Brett Ledbetter. “What Drives Winning?”

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QdjgETsCVI8>

NCAA NEW REQUIREMENTS: Make sure you are aware of these new requirements. Go to:

[NCAAEligibilityRulesRegulations.pptx](#)



SUBJECT: The National Anthem

With the start of the basketball season, perhaps all schools should be sent the following:

From a Marine Corps Colonel in Afghanistan. "So with all the kindness I can muster, I give this one piece of advice to the next pop star who is asked to sing the national anthem at a sporting event:

Save the vocal gymnastics and the physical gyrations for your concerts.

Just sing this song the way you were taught to sing it in kindergarten –straight up, no styling. "Sing it with the constant awareness that there are soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines watching you from bases and outposts all over the world.

Don't make them cringe with your self-centered ego gratification. Sing it as if you are standing before a row of 86-year-old WW II vets wearing their Purple Hearts, Silver Stars and flag pins on their cardigans and you want them to be proud of you for honoring them and the country they love – not because you want them to think you are a superstar musician. They could see that from your costume, makeup and your entourage. Sing 'The Star Spangled Banner' with the courtesy and humility that tells the audience that it is about America, not you.

And please remember, not everything has to be sung as a Negro spiritual. We're getting a little weary of that. Francis Scott Key does not need any help."

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“Listen carefully to how a person speaks about other people to you. This his how they will speak about you to other people.” – Unknown

“When you come to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on.”– Franklin D. Roosevelt

“It's not the load that breaks you down. It is the way you carry it.” – Lou Holtz

“Identify your problems but give your power and energy to solutions.” – Tony Robbins

CHARACTER COUNTS with Michael Josephson:

R -- E -- S -- P -- E -- C -- T

R - E - S - P - E - C - T. Aretha Franklin reminded us how it's spelled, but a lot of us need coaching on how to show it. In both personal and political relationships the failure to treat each other with respect is generating incivility, contempt and violence.

There's an important distinction between respecting a person in the sense that we admire and hold that person in especially high esteem and treating others with respect. While respecting others is desirable, respectfulness is morally mandatory. Thus, people of character treat everyone with respect, even those who are not personally respectable.

The way we behave toward others is an expression of our values and character. Thus, we should treat others with respect, not because they have a right, but because we have a moral duty to do unto others the way we want them to do unto us. Again, it's not because they deserve it, but because doing less would diminish our own character.

That's the message in an old story about a politician who found himself being drawn into mudslinging and name-calling. Once he realized he was lowering himself to his opponent's level, he stopped and said, Sir, I will treat you as a gentleman, not because you are one, but because I am one.

It can take a lot of self-control to be respectful to people who are nasty, dishonorable, or disrespectful to us. Still, our inner sense of integrity should help us resist temptations to fight fire with fire. As Lily Tomlin said, "The problem with the rat race is that, even if you win, you're still a rat."

This is Michael Josephson reminding you that character counts.



FROM COACH JOHN WOODEN: *In my opinion, our team's ability to perform consistently near its highest level of competency in tight situations came in large part from my philosophy—that is, my definition-of success. Of the many things I taught, it was perhaps at the top of my list: "Success is peace of mind attained only through self-satisfaction in knowing you made the effort to do the best of which you're capable."*

Every member of our team understood this was my highest grading standard. Not the score, not titles, not winning a championship. Rather, "Be able to hold your head high because you made the effort to do your best."

MORE FROM COACH WOODEN: With regards to learning and leadership Coach John Wooden put it this way:

A leader who is through learning is through. And so is the team such a leader leads.

Great leadership requires a strong will, humility and an open mind; a diverse but powerful combination.

Coach Wooden continually learned by listening, asking others for input and advice, being a voracious reader, constantly documenting his successes and failures and reevaluating his processes to see what he could improve; all done with humility and an open mind.

It wasn't until his 15th year at UCLA (1961-62) that Coach Wooden had a team that got to the Final Four of the national championship.

After that season Coach revamped some basic procedures. In his book *Wooden on Leadership* with Steve Jamison coach describes it this way:

Starting in 1962–1963, my new policy was to go primarily with seven main players—virtually, seven starters—in both practice and games. My previous goal of doling out playing time in a democratic manner was discarded. I changed a fundamental policy for how I did things.

An extensive review of my notebook also revealed that when UCLA qualified for the NCAA postseason tournament, I intensified our already grueling practices, working players even harder—so hard, in fact, that by tournament time they were physically and mentally spent. Once I saw evidence of this fact in my notes, I became very prudent in conserving players' energy prior to the playoffs.

Additionally, my notes showed that in preparation for the NCAA tournament, I added new plays and piled on more information. Instead of staying with what had worked during the regular season—a clear and uncomplicated strategy—I unintentionally made things complicated. I resolved that in the future I would keep it simple going into postseason play just as I did during the regular season.

These changes came about from my personal observations and reflections following the revelation of the 1962 season, the fateful year that almost produced a surprise national championship for UCLA.

The changes I have described came about because I had stopped giving myself an excuse for accepting the status quo, for staying at the same level.

Coach Wooden never thought he knew it all so he never stopped learning.

www.woodencourse.com

