



BCAM May 2013 Monthly Report

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - *Tom Hursey*

• BCAM has finalized all the awards that our varsity players, coaches and teams receive each year. Our thanks to MEIJER for their support in this project. Our website has the results of these awards and they will be mailed to the schools shortly. I am happy to see the number of outstanding student/athletes winning our academic awards. I also am proud of the top-quality coaches that work in the trenches throughout the season and do such a great job. It is too bad that a few bad apples get all the headlines. Hopefully you will take some time off and refuel your batteries. Make sure your family time is a top priority this spring and summer. If your priorities place your basketball coaching ahead of your family, you need to change your priorities. Click on this link for an important message: [Lost Generation](#)



- **Hats off to Region 6.** They have the highest percentage of varsity coaches as BCAM members. The boys (Regional Director - Scott Soodsma) had 90.2% of their coaches signed up. The girls (Regional Director - Andy Barr) were also tops with 87.8% of their coaches being BCAM members. Way to go Scott and Andy.
- **Mattawan High School** has lost a good man in long-time coach Dan Hoff. The administration listened to a few parents and 27 years of positive influence on hundreds of former players has disappeared from the Mattawan sports scene. Dan has received a great deal of support from former players and community members but a superintendent listens to second hand comments and makes a decision to remove a career coach. Coach Hoff has kept his positive attitude throughout this ordeal and will hopefully look back on all the positives that have taken place in his career with pride.

The above situation takes place all too often in the high school coaching ranks. Sometimes a removal of a coach is the right decision because of the circumstances (*See NABC article below*). But many times it is one or two parents that have the ear of an administrator and the path of least resistance is to get rid of the coach. I wish I had an answer to this problem.

- It is not too soon to make plans to play in our **4th Annual BCAM Coaches vs Cancer Golf Outing** (Sponsored by Two Men and a Truck). The date is August 5. The place is Walnut Hills Golf Club in East Lansing. Go to www.cvcgolf.org for information and registration.



- This question always comes up this time of year: *Do officials see their ratings from coaches?*

The following answer is from Mark Uyl (MHSAA Assistant Director):

“Officials see the following: 1. Final rating average for the season; 2. A table that shows the number of 1's, 2's, 3's, 4's and 5's; and 3. An alphabetized list of the schools that submitted a rating for them. There is no way, however, for an official to know what school gave them what rating. The list simply looks like this: Allendale Byron Center Caledonia Dexter Flint Beecher Marysville Saginaw Zeeland East Zeeland West.”

Have you passed a "Wins" Milestone and NOT received your Century Club Award?

BCAM's Century Club and Varsity Century Club awards coaches with certificates and plaques each time they pass a milestone win (100, 200, 300 etc). Awards are given for two categories: Varsity and Non-Varsity.

To qualify for the **Varsity Century Club**, you must have been the HEAD VARSITY coach of a high school or college basketball team. Wins received while you were the assistant coach of a winning team do NOT count. Wins must also come from coaching in the state of Michigan. If part of your wins have come from out-of-state, a majority of your wins must have occurred in Michigan.

To qualify for the **Century Club**, you must have been the HEAD coach of any Non-Varsity school team (JV, Frosh, Jr High, etc). Wins received as an assistant coach do NOT count. You must be the HEAD coach of the team. Again, wins must be from coaching Michigan school teams.

If you feel you qualify for either of these awards and have not received it from BCAM, let us know the details via email (Marybeth@bcam.org). Certificates for 100 and 200 wins will be mailed to you. Plaques for 300 wins and higher will be given at our Hall of Fame Banquet on October 5, 2013 in Lansing.

BCAM SCHOLARSHIP

BCAM will award twelve \$500 scholarships to deserving **children of BCAM members**. The parent must have been a BCAM member for 5 consecutive years, including this year, for their child to be eligible. The child must be a high school senior who is graduating this year. The scholarship is based on academic success and activities other than athletics. A college counselor will make the final decisions on the registrants based on the information supplied on the application. LOGIN to the BCAM website, print the application form located under "Scholarships", fill it out completely and mail it to the address listed on the form. **Forms are accepted May 15 through June 20 only.**



COACHING JOBS/SUMMER EVENTS

If you are not yet familiar with the BCAM website, go check out our advertisement boards exclusively for BCAM members. Find a new coaching job, a summer league, shootout, team camp and more. LOGIN, then go to JOBS, CAMPS/CLINICS, or COMPETITIVE EVENTS. You can make your own posting too if you have something you want to advertise.

NABC BOARD OF DIRECTORS' STATEMENT ON RUTGERS BASKETBALL

ATLANTA, Ga. (April 4, 2013) – The board of directors of the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) has reviewed the taped excerpt of Outside the Lines released Tuesday, April 2, involving the Rutgers men's basketball program.

The NABC board of directors does not condone these actions nor does it believe it is reflective in any form or fashion of the conduct of men's basketball coaches as they coach their teams.

There should be no doubt physical, verbal and/or emotional abuse by a coach is unacceptable regardless of circumstance and those responsible should be held accountable.

In no uncertain terms, the first obligation of any coach is the personal safety and well-being of his/her athletes. As coaches, we understand this maxim just as it was instilled in us by our coaches when we were young. As parents, we embrace and recognize the important trust we place in a coach to care for our children at all times.

The NABC stands ready to participate in constructive dialogue regarding how best to address any such circumstances and to hold our membership responsible as Guardians of the Game."

COACHES STICK TOGETHER - *By Dan Young - Assistant Executive Director - BCAM*

Coaches, you need to stick together when you're in the middle of a student/athlete transferring to or from your school. You will be surprised that eventually all of us will be in this situation on one end or the



other. Most of us don't worry about it until one of our players suddenly leaves our program. I am suggesting that we all do a better job of communicating with one another and the MHSAA. We have to police our local communities and turn in violators; otherwise recruiting will continue to go on. Coaches or others "directly or indirectly associated with a team" should have no role in "encouraging or securing the enrollment of a player at their school." These are the words from the anti-recruiting rule (Undue Influence).

BCAM suggests the following and looks forward to a new MHSAA proposal called the "Athletic Related Transfer Rule" which will be voted on by the Representative Council in May 2013 and would become effective Aug 1, 2014. The Athletic Related Transfer Proposal would impose new stricter penalties on both the coach and the athlete if the coach is linked at all to a recruiting violation with that athlete.

1) When a student or family approaches you about the possibility of transferring to your school, don't get involved and call their current coach or athletic director. This immediate action will take you out of it and clear you of any wrongdoing. The coach on the other line will appreciate the heads up and both parties will gain insight on the family and player involved.

2) Know and follow the rules. High School coaches coach, they don't recruit or encourage others to do so. Under the rules, high school coaches are not to attend grade-school age games to scout or impress prospects.

The MHSAA will be looking into some rule changes concerning recruiting at the May Representative Council Meeting. We will update you with any changes that are made.



BCAM is well aware that this is becoming more and more of a problem nationwide. We, as members of the best basketball coaches association in the country, must stick together, pick up the phone and talk to each other. Make it clear you have nothing to do with this nonsense and work TOGETHER on solving the problem! Educate the parents on possible sanctions. Recruiting in high school sports is against the rules and risks the eligibility of both adults and students. Most importantly contact the MHSAA with any wrongdoing!

NOTE: Just because a school receives transfers doesn't mean that the coach of that school recruited them. Some student/athletes look around and see a good program that is successful year after year and decide on his/her own to transfer. This is legal and nothing can prevent a transfer done under these circumstances.

BOCCC REPORT (Basketball Officials and Coaches Communication Committee)

By Bruce Keeling (BOCCC Member and Official - Reading, MI)

I recently spent some time reflecting on my time as a young coach. I was absolutely convinced that there were four absolute principles to winning basketball and their order was set in stone. 1. Defense 2. Rebounding 3. Ball Handling 4. Shot Selection. As you might expect we probably lost some games because Ball Handling and Shot Selection did not receive enough attention. As you know there needs to be a balance of principles for winning basketball and one needs to check the list often to ensure that we are being effective as a coach. As I have gotten older my principles have changed. Now I try to live by 1. God 2. Family 3. Job 4. Officiating.

Realizing that Coaching would replace the word Officiating for most of you I wonder how often we stop to check our list. I know that during the season "Coaching" would sneak up the list and put a strain on the other important areas in my life. Had I stopped to check my list from time to time perhaps I would have been more effective as a coach and a person.

Recently I have had the opportunity to spend some time with my father who has been diagnosed with terminal cancer and we both realize that we didn't take enough time throughout our lives to enjoy our family. It is only now that we are able to just sit and talk about what is important to each of us.

I applaud the job that coaches do impacting the lives of young men and women. In many cases you are able to reach athletes on a level that is more effective than their own parents. As the pressures on young people increase, it is important that they develop a set of principles to live by. Thank you to so many of you that teach life lessons beyond basketball. The greatest reward that coaches can have is to see their players grow into wonderful productive adults. Please continue to do the great job that you do and we will see you on a court sometime soon.



MEIJER STATE GAMES:

The Meijer State Games of Michigan is a multi-sport, Olympic-style event that welcomes athletes regardless of age or ability. The Games embody the values of participation, sportsmanship and healthy living among residents of the state of Michigan. Get your basketball team some competitive playing time while allowing your players to experience something that they will never forget. To register or for more information, please visit www.StateGamesofMichigan.com/basketball

NORTHERN MICHIGAN SHOWCASE

We're excited to announce that the 2013 Michigan Prep Basketball Showcase will be held on Sunday, June 23rd, 2013, in Traverse City, MI! The event will give high school student-athletes an opportunity to showcase their skills in front of college coaches from Division II, III, and NAIA schools! This year's Showcase features drill work and testing, competitive 5-on-5 games with sanctioned referees, and an NCAA recruiting education workshop for parents and student-athletes. The event will also feature a special guest speaker. Last year's featured speaker was former Detroit Piston and MSU Basketball legend Greg Kelsner. Please see the link below for complete details & registration information:

<http://childressports.com/basketballshowcase/> (*Note: This showcase is not affiliated with our Reaching Higher Program*)

THOUGHTS FOR THE SUMMER: <http://www.basketballclassroom.com/coaches-library>

For many high school programs across the country, the summer is usually filled with team camps, summer games and individual workouts. Since it is generally viewed as the ideal time to work on your weaknesses and turn them into strengths, most coaches and trainers put individual development as a top priority. With so much emphasis and concentration on developing top-notch athletes, some coaches often neglect the importance of strengthening the overall team chemistry.

The summer can often make or break a high school team and while I agree that individual development is extremely important, I'm convinced that coaches should also give equal attention to the meshing and bonding of their team.

One common myth is that team chemistry is best built during the spring because it allows the kids to interact everyday with each other at school. I would argue this is not true. Here are two reasons why the summer may be the best time of the year to develop team chemistry:

First - Because school is out, many of the everyday distractions such as homework, teenage social drama and "non-teammate" friends will be out of sight and out of mind.

Second - Summer is also a time when it is easier for your athletes to view you and your staff as being coaches and friends who have their best interest at heart rather than teachers and authority figures. In other words, kids seem to bond better and quicker in more relaxed atmospheres.

Because of the current economy, many coaches are hesitant to promote team bonding with the use of expensive activities may prevent some athletes from participation. Here are several inexpensive yet fun and effective activities that you and your team can do this summer.

- Overnight camping trip
- Team hike
- Day on the river or lake
- Pizza Party and watch the big game (NBA playoffs, Major League baseball, World Cup soccer, WNBA)
- Video game competition
- Conduct a clinic or summer camp for younger kids
- Play city league softball or soccer
- Movies
- Frisbee Golf
- Service project for boosters (yard work, painting, hauling debris)



The possibilities here are endless. The important thing is to spend some time together and to have fun. Guaranteed it will pay off next winter!

-Coach Stricklin

P.S. Do you need more ideas and tips on building team unity? Could you benefit from dozens of (video) training drills, meticulously diagrammed plays and charts? See what you've been missing! Click the link below to start right now:

---> <http://www.basketballclassroom.com/coaches-library>

LISTEN IF YOU WANT TO BE HEARD: www.woodencourse.com

This maxim of Coach Wooden's describes a quality that Coach felt was essential to be an effective leader.

A key element in the art of listening is to not be thinking about what you're going to say while the other person is talking. The art of quieting your thoughts and really hearing the other person with an open mind sometimes requires a conscious effort.

In the book *How to Be like Coach Wooden* by Pat Williams Coach describes the importance of effective listening:

In my opinion, being an effective leader requires being an effective listener. Success is more often attained by asking 'how?' than by saying 'no.'

Listen to those under your supervision. Really listen. Don't act as though you're listening and let it go in one ear and out the other. Faking it is worse than not doing it at all.

It's difficult to listen when you're talking

In his book *Wooden on Leadership* with Steve Jamison Coach comments on consistent listening leading to consistent improvement:

It is very easy to get comfortable in a position of leadership, to believe that you've got all the answers, especially when you begin to enjoy some success.

One of the reasons it's extremely difficult to stay at the top is because once you get there, it is so easy to stop listening and learning.

Progress is difficult when you won't listen.

Former UCLA Head Coach Gary Cunningham and an assistant to Coach on eight national championship teams gives a great example of *Listening Leadership*:

Coach Wooden was strongly opposed, in principle, to the 3–2 zone defense—a half-court defensive system. Nevertheless, Denny Crum and I, assistant coaches, thought it could be very effective for the Bruins to install it. We recommended that he make the change. Keep in mind, at this point Coach Wooden’s teams had just won five national championships in six years. He could easily have taken the position that if it’s not broke don’t fix it. However, Coach was always willing to listen, to evaluate new ideas, to seek ways to improve our team. He was never satisfied—never satisfied. So, despite the fact that UCLA was undefeated at that point in the season, 20–0, Denny and I convinced him to install the 3–2 zone defense for a series up at Oregon. UCLA won the first game against the University of Oregon, 75–58, but the next night, using the same 3–2 zone against Oregon State, we were beaten, 78–65. It was apparent the new system wasn’t all we thought it might be. That was the last time we brought up the 3–2 zone defense. But Coach Wooden had listened and given it—and us—a chance. He wasn’t afraid to make a change. And when it didn’t work, there were no recriminations. He moved on without making us feel we had led him down the wrong path.

Coach’s advice is simple and direct: *If you wish to be heard, listen. Always seek to find the best way rather than insisting on your own way.*

Here is more advice from Coach Wooden: *If we allow the fear of failure to keep us from acting, we will never reach our full potential.*

15 Fundamentals of Basketball Practice Planning

- When players walk through the gym doors it is time to work. All socializing is done outside.
- Start practice with individual drills and end with team drills.
- Use different drills each day to teach the exact same things. Avoid boredom and monotony.
- When putting in drills explain the “Why” as well as the “How.”
- No more than 5 minutes for an individual drill and 10 minutes for a team drill. **If you need more time do the drill again later in practice.**
- If something is just not working stop and move on. Don’t beat a dead horse as you ruin the mood and energy for the rest of practice.
- Alternate easy drills with hard ones. This applies to drills that are mentally taxing as well as those that are tough physically.
- Teach new concepts near the beginning of practice when everyone’s concentration level is a little higher.
- Shoot every day.
- Shooting drills need to be game like and should be done in pairs or groups of three instead of alone.
- Find ways to keep everyone busy and working all the time. Eliminate standing around and watching others get better.
- Utilize every assistant coach and manager at your disposal. If they are not working they shouldn’t be in the gym.
- Use more 5 on 5 work early to get you ready for the season quicker. Use more breakdown drill later to refine everything.
- Because the ball needs to be handled, offense takes longer to perfect than defense. Adjust your practices accordingly.
- While defense does win championships, your offense must be able to score more points than your defense allows in order to win. Unless your defense is consistently shutting out your opponents don’t neglect the offensive side of the ball in practice.

--From Hoop Skills