

BCAM Monthly Report



Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan

From the Executive Director:

What a busy time of the year for everyone involved in basketball. The NCAA's are always exciting. Planning end of the year banquets and awards are time consuming. Filling out BCAM nomination forms take time. State tournament games are special events. But these are things that we find time to do and, for the most part, enjoy. I want to thank each of you for another great season. Hopefully you can look back with pride in the fact that you did all you could to make this an enjoyable season for your players.

I am going to highlight items that I think are important for BCAM members. Please read and heed.

NOMINATIONS: There is still time to get in nomination forms for the Top Shooters awards. Go to the homepage of the BCAM website and click on FORMS. So far nominations for BCAM awards have increased since we have them on the website. Also, voting has increased due to the ease of the process through our online voting.

WEBSITE: Our website is our main line of communication with members. You need to check it out weekly to make sure you are not missing anything. We send out reminders via email but accessing the website will keep you abreast of all current news. In the words of Dick Vitale: "The BCAM Website is AWESOME, BABY!"

BCAM WEEK AT SHANTY CREEK: Here is a chance for you to enjoy family time at a first-class golf resort in northern Michigan at a reasonable price. Mark August 3-7 on your calendar. Bring your family, bring your buddies, spend 5 nights or spend one night, play golf on great courses for low rates or just enjoy the pools and relax. There will be a Coaches vs Cancer Golf Scramble and a BCAM Flight Championship (guests can compete). More details will be sent to you this spring.

REACHING HIGHER SHOWCASE: The first annual "Showcases" will take place this month. This joint venture between the MHSAA and BCAM will bring the top 100 underclassmen and underclasswomen together to showcase their talent to college coaches. Countless hours have been spent putting together this first-time event. Our thanks to Rich Moffit (Grayling HS) and Tim Conley (Saginaw Heritage HS) for their effort in putting on a first-class program. We anticipate that this endeavor will continue to grow and improve each year. Eighty BCAM members are volunteering their time to make this first year a success.

HALL OF FAME / HALL OF HONOR: BCAM is always looking for members to nominate people worthy of being in the Hall of Fame and the Hall of Honor. Go to the website's homepage and click on AWARDS to find the nomination forms and more information.

APRIL**CALENDAR:**

1- Officials' Ratings Due Date

1-BCAM Team & Indiv. Academic Nominations Due

6- Boy's Regional Coach of the Year online voting ends

10- Top Shooters Nominations Due

19- Girl's Reaching Higher Showcase at South Lyon

26-Boy's Reaching Higher Showcase at Brighton

SCHOLARSHIPS: Do you have a son or daughter who will graduate this spring? Have you been a BCAM member for the last 5 years? If yes, then you can apply for a Piston/Shock/BCAM Scholarship. Go to the website's homepage and click on SCHOLARSHIPS and then click on Piston/Shock Scholarship to get a nomination form. Follow directions and send in by the due date. More than \$100,000 has been given out in scholarships to BCAM member's children.

SPONSORS: I am constantly reminding members to support the companies that support BCAM. Rawlings, Meijer (new sponsor), Gatorade, Pistons/Shock, NOAH, and DC Sports are allowing BCAM to keep membership costs down and helping to fund many of our projects. Our sponsor's ad banners are along the borders of the BCAM Website. Click on any banner to learn more about our sponsors and how to order products. **Note: I reported earlier that New Balance had broken its contract with BCAM; however they have now decided to honor their contract and will STILL be a sponsor of BCAM.**

RAWLINGS – BALL OF BCAM AND BALL OF THE ENTIRE STATE TOURNEY: As previously announced, Rawlings will be the ball of the entire state tourney (districts through finals). You now have the best reason to buy Rawlings basketballs. Besides being a quality product at a competitive price, BCAM receives \$1 for every ball sold in Michigan. It is a Win-Win for you and BCAM.

AWARDS: Once final results are tabulated we will post award winners on our AWARDS page on the BCAM Website.

Finally, we have survived another season of boys' and girls' basketball in the same season. Some leagues and regions are still working out which are the best nights for teams to play. I am sure this tweaking will continue until we have the best scenario for those involved. My hat is off to all coaches for helping make this transition go as smooth as possible.

As you put one season behind you and start planning for next season, remember that you and your players deserve some down time. Don't let your love for the game consume you. Find other avenues of recreation and relaxation. Take it from someone who has been through the coaching wars: there is life after basketball. Make sure you develop other hobbies once coaching is behind you.

MISS BASKETBALL AND MR. BASKETBALL

Congratulations to Jenny Ryan (Saginaw Nouvel Catholic), 2009 Miss Basketball and Derrick Nix (Detroit Pershing), 2009 Mr. Basketball. Results and Free Press articles are available at:
<http://www.freep.com/article/20090316/HSS/90316030>
<http://www.freep.com/article/20090323/HSS/90323034/1238/Pershing+s+Derrick+Nix+named+Mr.+Basketball>

MIDDLE SCHOOL NOTES

by Kris Stanton, Concord Middle School

It goes without saying that this is a magical time of year for us basketball junkies. Fresh in our minds is March Madness, from the bracket busting college ranks, to our MHSAA state tournament and the conclusions for our high schoolers. Memories are abundant. Make no mistake, our middle school students are tuned in, even if their seasons are far into the rear view mirror. While they are too young to recall Christian Laettner's buzzer beater against Kentucky or Richard Hamilton during his UConn days downing Washington, they are collecting a plethora of new memories all their own.

For those of us who have the luxury of seeing our players in the classroom, we can have a hand in the memory creating process. We can talk up the significance of this time of the year and keep basketball on their minds. Classroom teacher or not, we can do things now to make memories for our players. Perhaps we might have recorded some of the NCAA games to show examples of great help defense or offensive execution. If not, the NCAA keeps the games saved on their site for fans and coaches to view anytime they wish.

Spring is a perfect time to start gathering resources for next season. Any tech savvy coach knows the internet is full of valuable information. Other times, coaches can be lucky enough to have things fall in their lap (or mailbox) as I did earlier last month. Thanks to retired coach Bill Ullenbruch for sending me a variety of teaching tools and motivational pieces. Whether or not you receive pleasant surprises like I did, this can be a perfect time to connect with fellow coaches: both colleagues within your district and opponents between the lines who become our friends outside of them. Great teachers live by the credo of "beg, borrow, and steal." Sooner or later, you are bound to find something that will make your next team better prepared, come closer together, and quite possibly make their season with you memorable.

I am interested in receiving your feedback on this or any other topic related to middle school basketball. Feel free to email me at stantonk@ccs.k12.mi.us and I will do my best to incorporate your voice into this column.

HOSPITALITY ROOM VERY POPULAR

Approximately 500 BCAM members, officials and guests spent some time at the BCAM Hospitality Room on Saturday of the boys' finals. Soft drinks, snacks and sandwiches were served throughout the day with TVs set up for NCAA and State Finals ball games. Our thanks to the MHSAA for their financial support. Also, Rawlings had a table to show off the ball of the entire MHSAA tourney next year. Shanty Creek had a table to promote our new endeavor: BCAM Week at Shanty Creek. And last but not least, NOAH had their shooting evaluation device on display and many coaches and kids had their shots evaluated.

FIRST ANNUAL HOOPFEST A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS

Over 10,000 basketball fans visited the first-ever March Magic Hoopfest held at Jenison Field House in conjunction with the MHSAA Basketball Finals. Hoopfest offered a number of basketball-oriented games for kids and adults of all ages. Favorites included the three-point and free

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throw challenges, as well as the rainbow shot which allowed participants to shoot shots from beyond half court. Saturday morning, over 150 kids participated in the Learning from the Legends basketball clinic, with BCAM coaches leading all of the skill stations. A Hall of Fame area was also a hit with visitors who have attended the high school finals for many years. Hoopfest will be back again next year when the Breslin Center hosts the girls' and boys' championships on back-to-back weekends in 2010.

GATORADE AND WOMEN'S SPORTS FOUNDATION ARE TEAMING UP

The Women's Sports Foundation's GoGirlGo! Program was created to give girls access to physical activity. GoGirlGo! Ambassador Team Awards reward high school girls for taking the lead by inspiring other girls to participate in sports and physical activity. Twenty (20) teams who display leadership in their schools and communities will be awarded a \$2,500 grant for uniforms, travel, equipment and more, as well as a Gatorade Hydration Package for your team. What can you do to get involved? Here are a few ideas:

- Host a sports "skills" clinic
- Lead an after-school fitness group
- Help coach a young girls' sports team

For project ideas, program details and the enter, go to:

www.GoGirlWorld.org/Ambassador .

DEFINING TOUGHNESS IN HOOPS - By Jay Bilas – ESPN

I often wonder: Do people really understand what coaches and experienced players mean when they emphasize "toughness" in basketball? Or is it just some buzzword that is thrown around haphazardly without clear definition or understanding? I thought it was the latter, and I wrote a short blog item about it a couple weeks ago. The response I received was overwhelming. Dozens of college basketball coaches called to tell me that they had put the article up in the locker room, put it in each player's locker, or had gone over it in detail with their teams.

Memphis coach John Calipari called to say that he had his players post the definition of toughness over their beds because he believed that true "toughness" was the one thing that his team needed to develop to reach its potential. I received messages from high school coaches who wanted to relay the definition of toughness to their players and wanted to talk about it further. Well, I got the message that I should expound upon what I consider toughness to be. It may not be what you think.

For complete article by Jay Bilas click:

<http://photos.digitalsports.com/1924269/JayBilasArticle.doc>

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