# TIME OUT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
WISCONSIN BASKETBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION
WISBCA.ORG

Proud Partner of MACC FUND Hope for Kids

August 2022

## WBCA CORPORATE SPONSORS

## Fast Break Notes

**All-Star Games**
The games were a big success. We set a record for attendance with over 7,000 people attending the two days of games. The WBCA was able to give $20,000 to each of the following charities: Garding Against Cancer, MACC Fund, Hometown Heroes, Ronald McDonald House of Eastern Wisconsin, and Camp Waubeek of Easter Seals.

**Awards / Hall of Fame Banquet – Sept. 24**
The following award winners can be found in this newsletter. They are: 300-400-500-600 wins, 25-Year Watch, 35-Year Plaque, Golden Whistle Award (Officials), Athletic Director of the Year, Media Person of the Year, Assistant Coach of the Year, Achievement Award, Tribute Award, Steve Randall Award, Eli & Karen Crogan Humanitarian Award, Coaches of the Year, College Players of the Year, Legacy Award Winner, and State Champions. These awards, with the exception of College Players and Student Legacy Award winners, can be picked up at the Hall of Fame Banquet. If you can't make the HOF Banquet, the award will be available at the Fall Clinic for you. If you cannot make the clinic, make sure that someone picks up your award for you.

# Fast Break Notes cont.

**Awards / Fall Clinic – October 6 & 7**
The following award winners can be found in this newsletter. Conference Champs and 100 and 200 wins awards can be picked up at the Fall Clinic. If you cannot make the Fall Clinic, make sure to have someone pick up your award for you. Note: We have around 60 conferences in the state, so in theory we have around 120 conference champs (boys and girls). As of now we have ten coaches who have sent in their information for this award. Coaches, you still have time to sign up and receive your awards, be it conference, wins, etc. A form is on the next page of this newsletter, you can also find it by clicking here. You will regret it if you don't send it in. The deadline is August 14.

**Fall Clinic – October 6 & 7**
How do you top Coach K at last year's clinic?!? Well, you bring in National Championship Coach Bill Self with his team, the Kansas Jayhawks. Then add a shooting exhibition and tips on shooting by two of the best shooters in Wisconsin history, Travis Diener and Steve Novak. Plus we will have some great high school and college coaches to round out making it a great coaches clinic. A form is in this newsletter on how to sign up.

**Showcase – Boys, September 17 – Girls, September 18**
Coaches, get the word out to your players about the WBCA Showcase. At both the boys and girls sessions, your players will be coached by college coaches. That is a huge plus and that's why this showcase event will be special. Congratulations to Lee Rabas for putting this together. A form for this showcase is in the newsletter.

**Membership**
We finished 2021-22 with 4,895 members. Is the upcoming year the year we go over 5,000? You can make it happen by signing up your staff. It is because of you, yes you, that the WBCA is the number one basketball coaches association in the nation. Thank you!
Contact Information: Jerry Petitgoue, 218 S. Lincoln St., Cuba City WI. 53807, 608-778-1986 or jerrypetitgoue@icloud.com

**Shot Clock**
Yes, I was disappointed that we won't be able to experiment with the shot clock this year in the state of Wisconsin. I thought it was the perfect time to use the shot clock in non-conference games such as holiday tournaments, etc. However, I know that the leaders of the WIAA are all committed to make basketball the best possible experience for boys and girls. The WBCA will continue to work with the WIAA to make this happen.

**Passing of a Legend**
Eli Crogan (WBCA Hall of Fame, WBCA Executive Board, High School Coach, College Coach, Outstanding Athlete, Mentor, Great Father, Great Person) passed away on July 16. I knew Eli for over 50 years. He was the heart and soul of the WBCA! I loved him like a brother. I spoke with him on the phone usually at least once a week. I will miss him dearly. Rest in peace. I love you! There are tributes about Eli in this newsletter.

**Jeff Boos and Chris Zwettler**
Two legends in our game retired recently. Jeff of Sun Prairie and Chris of Edgewood were both great leaders, great teachers, and builders of character. I am happy for them, but sad to see them go.

– Jerry Petitgoue, WBCA Executive Director

WISCONSIN BASKETBALL
WBCA
COACHES ASSOCIATION

# ANNUAL COACHING AWARDS FORM

## CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

**Conferernce Championship Awards Can be picked up at The Fall Clinic**

Name: _____

School: _____

Conference: _____

*Remember to enclose one wallet sized photo.*

*Please include home home & email address.*

## CAREER WINS

(100-200-300-400-500 Plateau) If you received an award for 100 wins, you do not qualify for another award until you reach 200 wins, etc.

**100 & 200 Win awards can be picked up at the Fall Clinic. Everything above 200 wins is given at the Hall of Fame Banquet**

Name: _____

School: _____

Total # of Wins: _____

*Remember to enclose one wallet sized photo.*

*Please include home home & email address.*

## 25-YEAR WATCH

You must be a WBCA Member for the last 5 consecutive years.

**25-Year Watch Can be picked up at The Hall of Fame Banquet**

Name: _____

School: _____

Total # of Years: _____

~~*Remember to enclose one wallet sized photo.*~~

~~*Please include home home & email address.*~~

## 35-YEAR AWARD

You must be a WBCA Member for the last 5 consecutive years.

**35-Year Award Can be picked up at The Hall of Fame Banquet**

Name: _____

School: _____

Total # of Years: _____

*Remember to enclose one wallet sized photo.*

*Please include home home & email address.*

**NOTES:** 1) Conference Championship awards will be handed out at the fall clinic. You must be there to pick up the award, if you cannot make the clinic please have someone pick up the award for you. No awards will be mailed.

**RETURN FORM BY AUGUST 14th TO JERRY PETITIGUE**
**218 SOUTH LINCOLN ST., CUBA CITY, WI 53807**
**OR VIA EMAIL: JERRYPETITGOUE@ICLOUD.COM**

**Coaches Who Have Sent in for Awards for the 2022 Fall Clinic / 2022 Hall of Fame Banquet**

Conference Winners:
Rick Storlie, Fall Creek; Brett Brooks, Wild Rose; Jim Reuter, Pewaukee; Jerry Petitgoue, Cuba City; Dan Burreson, Mineral Point; Matt Lindsey, Mosinee; Brandon Siska, Lake Mills; Adam Jacobson, Marathon; Luke Showen, Westfield; Curt Lamb, Almond-Bancroft; Andrew Harrison, Wabeno/Laona

100 Wins:
Brandon Siska, Lake Mills
Chad Kaufman, Randolph
Duke Copp, Bonduel
Tim Struck, Rio
Andrew Harrison, Wabeno/Laona

200 Wins:
Troy Wink, Somerset
Adam Jacobson, Marathon
Brad Fischer, UW-Oshkosh
Alina Cunningham, Milwaukee School of Languages

300 Wins:
Chad Schmidt, Shiocton
Ron Kluth, Franklin
David Nordeng, Clintonville
Bill Gibbs, UWSP-Wausau
Angie Maternowsky, St. Croix Falls
Jason Schultz, Northwood

400 Wins:
Michael T. Powers, Parkview

500 Wins:
Doug Pickarts, Marshall

25 Year Watch:
Chad Schmidt, Shiocton

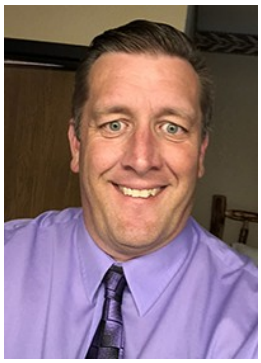
25 Year “Golden Whistle” (Officials):
Mark Zwart, Monona
Kent Holmquist, Madison

Athletic Director of the Year:
Glen Falkenthal, Hustisford

Media Person of the Year:
Craig Coshun, Bally Sports Wisconsin

WISCONSIN BASKETBALL
WBCA
COACHES ASSOCIATION

## President's Message



With summer vacation rapidly coming to an end and the start of school right around the corner, I hope everyone has recharged their batteries after last season and relaxed the past couple of months with friends and family, and enjoyed all Wisconsin has to offer in the summer.

Looking ahead, we are now just over three months away from another basketball season starting! Summer leagues, youth camps and morning workouts are past us and pretty soon we will be having open gyms and then preparing practice plans and ordering travel suits.

One big highlight this summer were the All-Star Games in June that showcased the top senior boys and girls from across the state all while raising money for charity, including the MACC Fund and Garding Against Cancer. Congrats to all the players and coaches who made this event another huge success.

A big reminder to sign up to be a WBCA member before the season starts. The benefits include being able to nominate your player for all-state and the all-star game. Also, state banners to state qualifiers that lost the first game of the state tournament, be eligible for conference championship plaques, head coach and assistant coach of the year awards, and many more!

Also, be sure to attend the WBCA Fall Clinic on October 6 and 7 at JustAgame Fieldhouse in Wisconsin Dells. There are many excellent speakers to pickup a thing or two to take back to your practices. The clinic is highlighted by reigning National Champion head coach Bill Self of Kansas. You don't want to miss this convention.

Thank you for all you do for the student athletes in our state and for being leaders in our schools!
If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me at hansent@ksmd.edu.

Yours in Hoops, Todd Hansen

# WBCA Fall Clinic October 6 & 7

The Convention is highlighted by Kansas National Champion Coach Bill Self. We are also fortunate to have numerous state champion coaches, highly successful in-state college coaches, and also legendary Marquette/NBA veterans Steve Novak and Travis Diener.

The Convention is Thursday and Friday October 6-7 starting at 4:30pm on Thursday and continuing until noon on Friday. The Convention/Clinic is at JustAgame Fieldhouse in Wisconsin Dells, WI. The clinic not only has great speakers, numerous vendors, free breakfast, lunch/soda, raffles, door prizes, but a huge hospitality night on Thursday at Buffalo Phils.

## To register for WBCA Membership and Fall Clinic, click here.

Hotel Information:
Great Wolf Lodge, 1400 Great Wolf Drive Wisconsin Dells, WI
Special WBCA room rate available for only $94.99. Just state the code: WBCA Fall 2022
Contact them at 800-559-9653 before September 5 to get the special rate.
Free Parking during Clinic Days by JustAgame Fieldhouse

# 2022 WBCA Fall Clinic Speaker Schedule

**Thursday, October 6**

| Time | Court 1 (Main) | Court 2 | Court 3 | Court 4 | Court 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4:30 pm | Shoot-A-Way Demo | | | | |
| 5 pm | Will Ryan | Mark Simon | Steve Showalter | Tyler Podoll | Dave Donarski |
| 5:45-6 pm | Vendor Break | | | | |
| 6 pm | Bart Lundy | Jake Erbentraut | Chad Kaufman & Tyler Fischer | Steve Klass | Jen Wellnitz |
| 6:45-7 pm | Vendor Break | | | | |
| 7 pm | John Tharp | Kyle Rechlicz | Todd Hansen | Curtrel Robinson | Holly Spoo |
| 7:45 pm | Dean Oliver | | | | |
| 8:30 pm | Steve Novak & Travis Diener | | | | |
| 10p-1am | Coaches Social At Buffalo Phils | | | | |

**Friday, October 7**

| Time | Court 1 | Court 2 | Court 3 | Court 4 | Court 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 am | Dr Dish Demo | | | | |
| 8:30 am | Courtney Boyd & Clarke Womens Team | Barney Hall | Matt Hockett | Jeff Gard | Coaches Court – Best plays |
| 9:20-10:30 am | Bill Self & Team on Zoom | | | | |
| 10:30 10:50 am | WBCA Meeting: 50/50 Raffle or Final Four | | | | |
| 10:50-11:05 am | Vendor Break | | | | |
| 11:05-11:50 am | Lee Rabas | Kate Abiad | Will Rey | Dick Luther | Mark Newman |
| 11:50 pm | Lunch | | | | |

**Coaches & Topics:**

**Thursday at 5 pm**

Will Ryan (UW-Green Bay Men's HC) - Green Bay Basketball

Mark Simon (Reedsburg Girls HC - State Runner-Up 2021) - Ideas for Building a Program

Steve Showalter Whitefish Bay Dominican) - Structured Fast Break

Tyler Podoll (Franklin Boys HC) - Swing Attack: Transforming your traditional swing into dribble attack motion

Dave Donarski (Aquinas Girls HC - State Champ) - Aquinas Basketball

**Thursday at 6 pm**

Bart Lundy (UW-Milwaukee Men's HC) - Motion Offense

Jake Erbentraut (Wilmot Boys HC) - Attacking the 1-3-1 Zone

Chad Kaufman/Tyler Fischer (Randolph Girls/Boys HC) (State Champs 2022) - Post Drills & Man to Man Defense

Jen Wellnitz (Former UW-Green Bay Player) - Green Bay Defense

Steve Klass (Hall of Fame Coach) - Drills to Build the 1-3-1 Zone

**Thursday at 7 pm**

John Tharp (Hillsdale Men's HC - NCAA Elite Eight 2022) - Zone Quick Hitters

Kyle Rechlicz (UW-Milwaukee Women's HC) - Quick Hitters and End of Game Situations

Todd Hansen (Kettle Moraine Girls HC - State Champ 2022) - Competitive Drills & FT Drills

Curtrel Robinson (La Follette Boys HC) - Transition Offense

Holly Spoo (St Croix Central Girls HC) - Mental Toughness through Intentional Practice: Plans & Drills

**Thursday at 7 pm**

Dean Oliver (Wisconsin Men's Assistant Coach) - Defending Ball Screens & Point Guard Play

**Thursday at 8:30 pm**

Steve Novak & Travis Diener (Former Marquette & Professional Players) - Breakdown Shooting Skills

**Friday at 8 am**

Dr Dish Demo – Game Warmups/Cuts/& Shooting

**Friday at 8:30 am**

Courtney Boyd (Clarke Women's HC) - Transition Offense

Barney Hall – You Make the Call (Inside a Refs Decision Making)

Matt Hockett (UW-Stevens Point Women's HC) - Better Ball Handling for Your Program

Jeff Gard (UW-Platteville Men's HC) - Core Defense Drills: Emphasizing Ball Screens, Doubles, Specific Situations

Coaches Court – Bring your best plays to show – 5 minutes per coach – demonstrators available

**Friday at 9:20 am**

Bill Self (Kansas Men's HC - National Champions 2022) - Kansas Basketball

**Friday at 11:05 am**

Lee Rabas (Neenah Boys HC - State Champ 2022) - Thoughts on Coaching HS Basketball

Kate Abiad (Wisconsin Glo HC) - BLOBS & SLOBS vs MTM and Quick Hitters

Will Rey (Hall of Fame Coach - Northridge IL) - Zone Defensive Variations

Dick Luther (UW-Whitewater Men's AC) - Zone Offense for any zone

Mark Newman (Lake Country Lutheran Boys HC - State Champ 2022) - LCL Basketball

# 2022 WBCA Executive Board Election Information

This year's election will again be held online. The positions are listed below with the current board member who holds that position. Any head coach who fits into any of these positions and would like to run for them is encouraged to do so. The only other requirement is that they are a WBCA member. There will be more information provided at the Fall Clinic concerning voting.

Positions

| | |
|---|---|
| College Women's Rep | Kyle Rechlicz, UW-Milwaukee – incumbent |
| College Men's Rep | Greg Gard, Wisconsin – incumbent |
| Milwaukee City Rep | Pat Bell, Milwaukee Hamilton – new candidate |
| Madison Area Rep | Kevin Bavery, Middleton – new candidate |
| A D Rep | Chris Zwettle, Edgewood – incumbent |
| Green Bay Rep | Mark Meerstein, Green Bay NEW Lutheran – incumbent |

If you would like to be placed on the ballot contact me at 608-778-9101 or email me at dcuppena@gmail.com.

– Dennis Uppena, Elections Co-Chair

# 2021-22 Coaching Achievement Awards

BOYS

Division 1 – Chad Brieske, Eau Claire Memorial
Division 2 – Ryan Walz, Wisconsin Lutheran
Division 3 – Hunter Price, Big Foot
Division 4 – Sam Bertsch, Iola-Scandinavia
Division 5 – Clint Nemitz, Southwestern

GIRLS

Division 1 – Celeste Ratka, Hortonville
Division 2 – Darla Olson, Rice Lake
Division 3 – Jeff Capelle, Brillion
Division 4 – Mike Eggebrecht, Phillips
Division 5 – Jason Schultz, Northwood

# Other Awards

Legacy Award: Ken Barrett, La Crosse
Stephen Randall Award: Steve Collins, Madison Memorial
Eli and Karen Crogan Humanitarian Award: Mike Novak and Wife
Tribute Awards: Thom McDonald, Ames, IA and Chuck Ekena, Monroe

# Election results for the 2022 WBCA Coaches/Players of the Year

High School Boys: Lee Rabas, Neenah
High School Girls: Todd Hansen, Kettle Moraine
College D-1 Men: Greg Gard, UW-Madison
College D-1 Women: Megan Duffy, Marquette
College D2-3 Men (Public): Matt Lewis, UW-Oshkosh
College D2-3 Men (Private): Wayne Wagner, Viterbo
College D2-3 Women (Public): Keri Carollo, UW-Whitewater
College D2-3 Women (Private): Lindsay Schultz, Carroll College and Lauren Busalacchi, Ripon
College Player D1-Men: Johnny Davis, UW-Madison
College Player D1-Women: Hailey Oskey, UW-Green Bay
College Player D2-Men: Patrick Cartier, Hillsdale
College Player D2-Women: No one nominated
College Player D3-Men (Public): Levi Borchert, UW-Oshkosh
College Player D3-Men (Private): Jordan Johnson, Concordia
College Player D3-Women (Public): Aleah Grundahl, UW-Whitewater
College Player D3-Women (Private): Allison Leslie, Ripon

The college players received their awards at the All-State/Academic All-State Banquet in April or had them mailed to them.

The high school and college coaches will receive their awards at the Hall of Fame Banquet in September.

# 2022 WIAA State Champions

Girls:
D1: Todd Hansen, Kettle Moraine
D2: Sara Rohde, Notre Dame
D3: Tim Aalsma, Waupun
D4: Michael Keyes, Mineral Point
D5: Chad Kaufman, Randolph

Boys:
D1: Lee Rabas, Neenah
D2: David Burkemper, Pewaukee
D3: Mark Newman, Lake Country Lutheran
D4: Joe Garceau, Manitowoc Roncalli
D5: Tyler Fischer, Randolph

These coaches will receive their state championship ring at the Hall of Fame Banquet in September. This is one of the few times that all 10 coaches are members of the WBCA.

# 2022 Hall of Fame Inductees

**“Friends”**
Nicholas Kartos, Monona
Keith Noll, Colfax

**“Referees”**
Bernie Barribeau, Oshkosh
Dean Oscar, Reedsburg

**“Players-Girls”**
Mistie Bass, Janesville Parker
Nicki (Taggart) Collen, Platteville
Kristine Hey-Wilde, Wauwatosa East
Stephanie (Schmitz) Janke, Winnebago Lutheran Academy
Molly O’Brien, Columbus
Arneda Yarbrough, Racine Horlick

**“Players-Boys”**
James Kimble, Milwaukee North Division
Tom Mitchell, Monroe
Troy Rudoll, Sheboygan North
Shannon Smith, Whitefish Bay Dominican
Bob Steif, Wausau
Mike Wilkinson, Wisconsin Heights

**“Assistant Coaches”**
Steve Kaiser, Cuba City
Tom Neuenschwander, Milton

**“College Coaches”**
Lisa Stone, St. Louis University
Ted Van Dellen, UW-Oshkosh

**“High School Coaches”**
Jim Benesh, Sturgeon Bay
Tim Chase, Beaver Dam
Steve Collins, Madison Memorial
Phil Jones, Milwaukee Bay View
Gary Kuehl, North Fond du Lac
Tim Matthies, Lakeside Lutheran
John Miron, Freedom
Blane Senn, Birchwood
Lora Staveness, Madison Edgewood
Dan Witter, Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln

# 2022 WBCA Boys Fall Showcase

## Saturday September 17, 2022
## JustAGame Fieldhouse
## Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin

**<u>New This Year</u> - College Coaches will be coaching our teams; your Player(s) will be working directly with college coaches from Wisconsin and the Midwest throughout the entire day.**

**Boys Showcase - Saturday September 17, 2022**

| | |
|---|---|
| 9:15am | Registration and Open Shooting |
| 10:00am | Welcome, Introductions, and Overview of the Day |
| 10:15am | Dynamic Warm-Up |
| 10:25am | Skill Stations and Testing (Height, Wing Span, Vertical Reach, Hand Span, Jumping) |
| 11:15am | Guest Speaker - (TBD) |
| 11:30am | Team Organization |
| 11:50am | 5x5 Competitive Play |
| | 1) Full-Court Games |
| | 2) Half-Court Games |
| | 3) Overtime Games - exciting way to end the day! |
| 3:30pm | Wrap Up and Closure |

**Find Sign-Up Link on the JustAGame Fieldhouse or WBCA Websites:**

**<u>www.justagamefieldhouse.com</u> (under Events tab)**

**https://www.justagamefieldhouse.com/event.php?EventForm&e=724&s=1781921**

**<u>www.wisbca.com</u> (under Events tab)**

- Short evaluations and testing information shared online and with colleges throughout the Midwest.
- Compete against other top players from around Wisconsin and the Midwest.

# 2022 WBCA Girls Fall Showcase

## Sunday September 18, 2022
## Community First Champions Center
## Grand Chute, Wisconsin

**<u>New This Year</u> - College Coaches will be coaching our teams; your Player(s) will be working directly with college coaches from Wisconsin and the Midwest throughout the entire day.**

**Girls Showcase - Saturday September 18, 2022**

| | |
|---|---|
| 9:15am | Registration and Open Shooting |
| 10:00am | Welcome, Introductions, and Overview of the Day |
| 10:15am | Dynamic Warm-Up |
| 10:25am | Skill Stations and Testing (Height, Wing Span, Vertical Reach, Hand Span, Jumping) |
| 11:15am | Guest Speaker - (TBD) |
| 11:30am | Team Organization |
| 11:50am | 5x5 Competitive Play |
| | 1) Full-Court Games |
| | 2) Half-Court Games |
| | 3) Overtime Games - exciting way to end the day! |
| 3:30pm | Wrap Up and Closure |

**Find Sign-Up Link on the Champions Center or WBCA Websites:**

**<u>www.championcenterwi.com</u> (under Upcoming Events tab)**

**<u>www.wisbca.com</u> (under Events tab)**

- Short evaluations and testing information shared online and with colleges throughout the Midwest.
- Compete against other top players from around Wisconsin and the Midwest.

# Preparing for the 2022-2023 Season

By Terry Erickson
WBCA Executive Board
Assignor Basketball Officials Emmaus Bible College
Assignor Basketball Officials Viterbo University
Assignor Basketball Officials Western Technical College
August 2022

As we all know, during competition the decision-making of officials is always subject to public opinion. As a result, referees find that they are often criticized and questioned on their decisions and game management skills. Good referees can make sporting events flow well with the ability to create a positive environment that is focused on sportsmanship and competition. Poor officiating, with games constantly being interrupted by unnecessary fouls and penalties can spoil the enjoyment of the game for players, coaches and fans.

To be a successful official, it is important to be proficient in the following areas: game knowledge, decision-making skills, psychological skills, strategic skills, communication skills, and physical fitness.

- Game knowledge includes knowing the rules, understanding proper officiating mechanics, and understanding the basic strategy of the game.
- Decision-making skills are defined as how quickly and accurately a referee is able to make decisions that require the accuracy of judgement calls, and being firm in those decisions.
- Psychological skills are defined as focusing attention and concentration, staying cool under pressure, and recovering quickly from a difficult or wrong call. These are almost identical to the skills that athletes need to possess. Sports psychology is an important component which we all need to master.
- Strategic skills tend to focus on making the right interpretation of the game and its rules. Strategic skills include being able to stay up with the play, getting in the proper angle for correct decisions, and anticipating game actions.
- Communication skills means having the ability to professionally discuss situations with players, coaches and other members of your crew.
- Physical fitness is an absolute requirement to be an effective official. If you have a level of pride in your work, officials need to be as committed to fitness as athletes are as they prepare for their season.

Even if officials are well versed in these six categories, challenges faced during competition can interfere with performance. Obstacles may occur such as working with an uncooperative officiating partner(s), inclement weather, intense coaches and athletes, and unruly fans. Do your best to anticipate these issues and others as you prepare for the 22-22 season.

Finally, a note of appreciation from the WBCA Executive Board for your efforts as a Basketball Official. You are an extremely important component in this great game of Basketball played by thousands of student-athletes each year. Make it a great experience for everyone involved.

# Honoring the Game

**by Tom Andres**

Like many of the members of the Executive Board of the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association I have grown more concerned about the incidents we have witnessed surrounding high school basketball and activities in general. This year the behavior of fans and some players has demonstrated a lack of respect and civility toward opponents and officials. My question is: Should the WBCA step into this area of concern with a clear public statement and provide some resources for schools and coaches in confronting the challenge?

In my opinion our sport (as well as others) is getting caught up in the caustic attitude reflected by our adult citizens regarding how to handle emotional disagreements. The sportsmanship statement read before games seems to be losing impact on our crowds. Historically, as coaches, players and fans we have disagreed with calls or lack of calls but we were able to move forward without creating an incident that became violent or unsafe. If basketball is going to survive as a spectator sport and as an extension of the classroom, we need to address the dysfunctional direction before we have more uncivil situations. In my five decades of coaching, I seldom if ever doubted the positive impact that our sport had on our players. I saw positives within the school and community as a result of the players involvement in basketball. I realize society has been changing, however, the basic positive qualities that athletes get from being involved in athletics provide a foundation for their future success in life. Some of those qualities are being able to handle tough situations, stressful issues, celebrating success in a mature manner and dealing with failure as an opportunity to reflect on what they need to do to improve.

It's a bit uncomfortable to bring politics into our discussion but it has created a climate that seems to support caustic disagreement. Politicians continue to make an attempt to hijack local education in an effort to get talking points for their political futures. I have heard politicians weigh in on athletics and the discussion even goes to the youth sports level. I think it is important for us to make a clear statement about our sport and how it can continue to be mainstay to developing responsible citizens. As coaches we have much on our plate but in unison and cooperation with the entire school community I think we are responsible to make sure our athletes grasp the essence of sportsmanship and respect for our opponents. We understand high level of competition and we know it brings out the best in our athletes and at times the worst. Our guidance in those tough times is important. The problem, of course, is often outside of the teams and outside of our control. Those situations need to be confronted directly by those responsible for game management, but we can all work at making the climate of a game positive. I have included a few ideas and some can be used if appropriate:

1. Prior to game officials and coaches can greet each other in the middle of the gym so fans see the respect individuals have for each other.
2. An athlete from each team together can share a welcome and encouragement for the student fans and adults to support their team and respect the other team.
3. Pre-season parent meeting with athletes and coaches sharing the expectations at events.
4. Booster club member or parent can address crowd when teams go in before game.
5. Principal and respected staff member can share with students in smaller groups or assembly the expectation of respectful behavior at all events.

The members of our Board are successful coaches with a great deal of experience. I am sure they have done things that work. I share these thoughts in hopes of beginning a discussion to address the climate that we are all dealing with.

# Tributes to the late Eli Crogan

Eli Crogan was an institution in Watertown and in the state of Wisconsin as a whole. He was a legend with a big heart and a kind soul. His impact went so much further than the sport of basketball or as a great coach. I will personally treasure the time we have spent together these past 17 years, spending time with him on a regular basis. Eli would never consider it a sacrifice to take care of Karen the way he did for six years. His son, Craig, did the same for him for the past few years and it shows the family bond that was present through the generations. Eli had a great sense of humor, a positive/uplifting personality and a calm demeanor to go along with being so caring of others. We will all miss Eli and I will personally treasure the lessons he taught me, the friendship that we shared and the connection of being former basketball coaches at Watertown.

Jamie Koepp
Friend of Eli
Current Watertown High School Athletic Director
Former Watertown Head Boys' Basketball Coach

Coach Eli Crogan founded the "Eli Crogan Humanitarian & Service Award " for the WBCA. I was honored to receive this service award from Coach Crogan in 2012. He inspired coaches and had many friends as we watched him live his life as a man of integrity, loyalty, and servanthood and he shared so much with the WBCA. "Rest in Peace Coach Crogan"

Jeff Boos
Former Head Boys Basketball Coach
Sun Prairie East High School

Eli Crogan will always be a beloved icon in Wisconsin High School basketball! He set a standard during his time in coaching that will endure for as long as there is high school basketball. More importantly, he set a standard as a man in the loving care he gave to his wife as she battled health issues. I have so much respect for him! We need more Eli's in this world. It would be very deserving if he could be remembered even more by the WBCA--he was a leader there as well. Rest in peace my friend!

John Miron, Executive Board