



ILLINOIS BASKETBALL
Coaches Association

IBCA Newsletter

November, 2019



Serving Illinois Basketball Coaches Since 1971



Message from our President

Greeting to the coaches, athletic directors, game management personnel, officials, administrators, student-athletes, friends, and supporters of Illinois basketball. My name is Eugene S. Henry Jr. and I am honored and humbled to serve as the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association president for the next two years. Our thanks and appreciation to Neil Alexander of Lincoln Community High School for his service as president over the past two years. He has done an excellent job as our president and will continue to serve as a Division Leader in Division six.

I am a graduate of Chicago DuSable High School, Roosevelt University, and Chicago State University where I played basketball and captained under hall of fame coach Isadore 'Spin' Salario who won two state basketball titles while at Chicago Marshall. I served in the Chicago Public School system as a teacher, coach, administrator, and consultant for over 46 years. I was honored to serve as Fenger High School boys basketball assistant under hall of fame coach Richard Billish for 15 years before taking the reins of varsity boys basketball coach. I have been a member of the IBCA Board of Directors for over 15 years having been encouraged to join by hall of fame coach Luther Bedford of Chicago Marshall High School. Coach Bedford's encouragement for me to join the IBCA as a board member while yet an officer of the Chicago Public League Basketball Coaches Association, has allowed me to not only serve coaches and student athletes in the Chicago Public League but to other coaches and student athletes state-wide.

It's gratifying working with the current and honorary IBCA board members who are continuing founder Chuck Rolinski's vision to 'serve coaches and all they influence to make basketball better in Illinois'. The IBCA's Executive Board, Division Directors, Division Leaders, and coaches throughout the state who serve on various committees are committed, dedicated, and hard-working individuals who truly want what is best to make coaching and serving our student-athletes the best it can be.

As a former Chicago Public League basketball coach and officer of the CPLBCA my mission is also to get the Chicago Public League coaches and others in Chicago and throughout the state to take advantage of the many benefits and resources available as an IBCA member, including access to state-wide clinic, satellite clinics, basketball assist app, 'Coaches Assist' mentoring program, and more to be found or presented in our various newsletters and website (www.ibcaillinois.org)

My adopted motto from the late Luther Bedford has been 'It's all about the kids'. In serving the coaches in Illinois the IBCA continues striving to make things better for our coaches and for our kids, our student-athletes. As such, I am proud to continue that service as president of the IBCA. To my wife Deborah of 45 years, my daughter Janet, and to you, our Illinois Basketball Family, be blessed and safe.

Eugene S. Henry, President



Message from our Executive Director

It's hard to believe that the 2019-2020 basketball season is almost here! It is such an exciting time of the year. We wish all our teams – at all levels – across our great state all the best for this upcoming season!

The IBCA continues to work for the benefit of all so that our student/athletes will achieve their goals and be recognized for their efforts. This will be the second year that our High School All-State teams will be divided into four classes to better recognize our best and most deserving players. Our All-State representatives will attempt to contact all coaches after the first of the year for nominations which must be done by each player's coach. If you are not contacted and believe that you have a player worthy of All State consideration, please check our list for your district voting rep(s) on our website and share your nominations that way.

Our IBCA membership will always be the life blood of our organization. Last year's membership of 1700+ coaches was a huge step in the direction of our achieving our goal of getting the IBCA to a 2000+ membership level. If head coaches have not renewed membership and also wish to sign-up your school's entire staff, please do so at our website: www.ibcaillinois.org. Again, our membership is what continues to support and drive our organization. Please think about signing up you and your staff if you have not done so already. With some additional membership benefits that have been added this year, it is our goal to better serve each of you as you strive to become a coach of excellence in all you do.

Our new benefits are:

- ***Free access to our State-Wide Clinic (there has been an additional charge previously)***
- ***Access to the NHSBCA Coaching Resources Library (available in early November)***
- ***Access to the Playbook by NHSBCA App (available in early November)***
- ***Free enrollment in our Coach Assist Program (available in later November)***
- ***Recognition of All State Academic Teams by IBCA/IHSA Division (Nominations in early January)***

Again, we hope that your season will be memorable and rewarding for all. If there is any way that we can be of help with anything in support of that, please contact us any time via the IBCA website.

Yours in Basketball,



Jim Tracy – St. Laurence High School

IBCA – Executive Director





New Media Concepts

With the decline in newspaper readership, the downsizing of newspaper staff, and more attention to national stories on television, basketball coaches must find new ways to promote their school teams and players. Every situation is different and sometimes it is difficult to send information out to local sports fans.

Gone are the times when gyms are full and the local school teams were the “Only Game in Town”. But empty seats do not mean that enthusiasm and support are not there for our school teams. It just means that we need to use various avenues to gain and hold the attention of our fans. Communication can be accomplished in a variety of ways. More than ever, it is our responsibility to “Spread the Word”.

1. **Continue to use local news outlets.** That includes newspapers, radio and TV. They are probably understaffed, but send them consistent information to make their job easier. Don’t wait for them to ask you for information! The larger newspapers will not send reporters to all of your games, but you can send box scores, interesting team or individual facts, and even photos. Always keep in touch throughout the year by sending pre-season information, schedules, college signings, photos, and other interesting news. No sports writer or sportscaster will be upset that you send them too much information. The hometown newspapers will be your best friend for promoting your program. Make their job easier so it makes your program more visible. Assign an assistant coach to this duty as another way to get your coaches involved. **Remember: You are a promoter – short term and long term.**



2. **Social media is here to stay.** I've seen some tremendous pre-game and post-game tweets that many people rely on to keep up with your team. You have access to tech people at your school – USE THEM! Facebook and Instagram can be used as well. You can control content. Those who don't go to every game will still want your info. There will be people talking about your team in the local coffee shops, beauty shops, grocery stores, etc. Give them something positive and factual to talk about. The following examples were created on canva.com (a free and user friendly resource to make decorative posters, signs, pictures, etc.)
3. **A webpage is a must.** If you can't make your own, then place it on the school's website. I've seen many schools with the il8to18.com page not have rosters, photos, or current news. I will advocate that entire conferences should have a website to promote their sports. I see some great websites dedicated to boys basketball – none for girls basketball. Standings are important for girls basketball as much as boys basketball. Again, there are tech people in your building – USE THEM!
4. **School communications.** Daily announcements are still good to remind students and teachers that you have an important conference match-up this week. Most schools will allow you to promote your teams by decorating the hallways, putting up fliers, dress up on game days, and even having your players "talk up" the games. Student sections are sometimes a burden to administrators, but they are fun for the students and will boost turnout.

If your school is fortunate to have television, radio, or streaming services, it's fun for students to be the broadcasters. Another group of fans will emerge just to experience the new Bob Costas and Doris Burke.

5. **Promotions are a must.** Remember that you are entertainment for many. Not only will "Little Cheerleaders" or honoring students from other activities bring more fans to the game, but those events will showcase your great team and hard-working players to new group of fans. Make Senior Night, "Pink Out" games, Coaches vs. Cancer, and other special events memorable. Even for a few games, get your Pep Band to perform. They provide an electric atmosphere and will also bring another group of fans that do not typically attend games. The crowd that attends will certainly tell others about the great



experience. Don't be afraid to invite people to your games through various promotions. Keep your community informed!

6. **Finally, make a great game program.** 2-sided Xerox copies are trashy. Make at least a 4 page fold-over with pictures, stats, schedules, player bios, program history. Educate your fans with information. It makes your school and teams look classy. Your players and their parents will love it. Opposing fans will be impressed. This is another task that can be assigned to an assistant coach. Perhaps a graphics design class can get involved as well.

2019 IBCA Clinics

The State Wide Clinic held on Sunday-Monday September 8 & 9 was another great success! Over 400 coaches attended with some of the best college coaches speaking at the two day event – capped by a great social on Sunday evening. The free clinic at Illinois Wesleyan University proves that learning never stops. Look for another great event next season with September 13 & 14 as possible dates.

- **Waverly Clinic Powered by Eastbay:** The former Mt. Zion Clinic moved to Waverly High School with 35 coaches in attendance. Another great line-up of speakers with a social afterwards made for a successful day. Kramer Soderburg of Millikin University, Rich McBride of Moberly Area CC, Chip Wilde of Eureka College, Matt Brock, new UIS Men's Coach, and Karrie Redeker of Illinois Central College filled the agenda. Next year's clinic is tentatively scheduled for the University of Illinois Springfield during the weekend of September 26-27.
- **Pinckneyville Clinic:** Friday, September, 20. For the first time, the annual Pinckneyville Clinic was held at the Banterra Center on the campus of Southern Illinois University – Carbondale with well over 90 coaches in attendance. SIU-C Men's Coach Bryan Mullins and Women's Coach Cindy Stein, along with Southeastern CC Coach Kyle Smithpeters presented an excellent morning of learning. Expect more next year!
- **Highland Park Clinic:** 50 coaches attended the Friday, October 11 clinic. Naperville North Boys Coach Gene Nolan, Jill Pizzotti, DePaul University Women's Associate Head



Coach, and Marquette University Men's Special Assistant Coach Rob Judson were speakers.

- **Hinsdale South Clinic:** Speakers included: St. Ignatius Girls Coach Cara Doyle, Lincoln Park Boys Coach Pat Gordon, and former St. Francis University Men's Coach Pat Sullivan. The Saturday, October 19 event continues to grow each year.
- **Lane Tech Clinic:** The first ever Chicago Area clinic was cancelled due to the Chicago Teachers Strike. Plans for a spring clinic or roundtable are pending. This looks to be a marquee event for the Chicago area coaches.

2020 IBCA Organizations of the Year

This year we honor three tournaments that have lasted the test of time – 100 years of historical basketball each. Imagine that your Great-Great-Grandfather battled for the same title that you fight for today. Each year, the IBCA honors three organizations that have served the Illinois basketball community for many years. We will make a presentation at the school site and also during our annual Hall of Fame Banquet in May. Congratulations to these organizations and all of their organizers and volunteers.

The Little Ten Conference

Organized during the 1919-1920 school year, charter schools included: Earlville, Hinckley, Leland, Paw Paw, Plano, Rollo, Sandwich, Shabbona, Somonauk and Waterman. All ten charter member schools continued their membership until June of 1954, when Rollo High School closed its doors. Today the conference includes original members Earlville, Hinckley (which included Big Rock High School in 1957), Leland, Somonauk, and Shabbona (which added Waterman in 1993 and Paw Paw in 2019 to form Indian Creek High School). Serena High School was added in 1937-38, Newark in 1967-68, LaMoille in 1996-97, and Kirkland Hiawatha during the 2006-07 season. The Little Ten Conference Boys Basketball Tournament is the oldest conference tournament which celebrates its 101th edition this season. The Little Ten Conference Girls Basketball Tournament is held in January with eight schools competing in the 39th edition which began in 1982.

The Hancock County Invitational

The Hancock County Tournament, as it was known then, started in 1921 as a showcase at the teacher conference at Carthage College. LaHarpe was the first tournament champion



with Elvaston as the runner up the first two years in 1921 and 1922. Elvaston finished first in 1923, second in 1924 and were crowned champs again in 1925. La Harpe is now part of Illini West High school and Elvaston is now part of the Hamilton School district.

The Hancock County Tournament was also the regional Tournament in 1937 thru 1948.

Elvaston, Hamilton, Warsaw, Burnside, Colusa, Nauvoo, Bowen, Augusta, Dallas City, Plymouth, Carthage and even Carthage Academy have fielded teams in the early years.

Today, 100 years later, the tournament features high schools named Illini West, West Hancock, Southeastern, Mendon Unity and Keokuk, Iowa - far cry from the original small school towns that began the tourney. The 100th edition will be played January 11 thru 18, 2020 at Southeastern High school in Augusta.

The Macoupin County Tournament

The 102nd edition of the Macoupin County Tournament will include 3 of the original 5 schools that began in 1919. Gillespie, Carlinville, and Mt. Olive have survived through the years, although Girard has consolidated with Virden (who eventually entered the tournament) to form current participant North Mac High School. 1919 Champion Benld High is now part of the Gillespie school district. Sixteen schools played in the tourney at one time or another with only seven remaining today: North Mac, Staunton, Piasa Southwestern, Gillespie, Mt. Olive, Carlinville, and Bunker Hill.

The Macoupin County Girls Tournament turns 41 this year and includes the same schools as the boys with the exception of Mt. Olive which co-ops with Staunton. Eight schools debuted in 1980 and all are still involved including the North Mac consolidation of Virden and Girard. Carlinville was the 1980 Champ with Southwestern leading the field with seventeen tourney titles.

2019-2020 School Victory Presentations

Throughout the 2019-20 season, the IBCA will honor these schools for surpassing the boys (1500) and girls (1000) victory totals. Check out the IBCA website for the complete list or to add your school with your victory totals.

Carbondale	Friday, Dec. 6
Marion	Friday, Dec. 6
Hamilton Cty	Friday, Dec. 13
Augustana College	Sunday Dec. 15



Chicago DeLaSalle	TBA
Flora	TBA
DuQuoin	TBA
Lawrenceville	Tuesday, Jan. 7
Chrisman	Friday, Jan. 10
Moline	Friday, Jan. 31
Joliet Central	TBA
Edwardsville	TBA
Jacksonville	Friday, Feb. 21
Hillsboro	TBA
QND	TBA
Waukegan	TBA
Aurora East	TBA
Danville	TBA
Canton	TBA
Carthage/Illini West Girls	TBA

Jay Harrington Reaches 900 Victory Milestone



Southwestern Illinois College Jay Harrington won collegiate victory #900 on Friday, Nov. 1 in Belleville. Coach Harrington is in his 40th season as the head of the men's basketball program and is second in Illinois collegiate victories only to McKendree University Harry Satham who totaled 1122 wins before retiring in 2018.



Coach Harrington started his collegiate career at Wabash Valley College in 1976 before taking the helm of the Blue Storm in 1979. He is a member of the IBCA Hall of Fame (1999) as well as the NJCAA Hall of Fame (2002). Jay has won several District 24 and District 4 Championships and has nearly 200 players to 4 year colleges to continue their basketball careers.

The IBCA was on hand for career win #900 with Hall of Fame Coaches Dave Shannahan (1990) - a former coach at SWIC, and current Belleville Althoff boys coach Greg Leib (2019) helping present a Golden Whistle to Coach Harrington to honor the accomplishment. Hall of Fame Friends of Basketball Dennis Schickedanz (2005) and Buddy Wolke (2017), along with BOD Steve Allen, were part of the IBCA contingent celebrating with Coach Harrington, the Blue Storm players, and cheerleaders.

A huge thank you to AD Mike Juenger and Administrative Assistant Vicki Channer for their part in the proceedings.

Consider this...

"You'll never find a better sparring partner than adversity." - Golda Meir

"The only disability in life is a bad attitude." - David Saville

"Hard work is not punishment. Hard work is the price of admission for the opportunity to reach sustained excellence." - Jay Bilas

Excellence happens when you try, each day, to both do and be a little better than you were yesterday. – Pat Riley

As a leader your job is to serve, not be served. Your team needs to know you care. Serve their heart. Your team needs to improve. Serve their talent. Your team struggles with doubt. Serve their mind and spirit. Your team has potential. Serve their growth.

"If you love them, you're going to discipline them. If you don't love them, you're going to let them do whatever they want." - Mark Richt

Tweet!

Any game, anytime, anywhere –
use Twitter to let us know!

@ibcacoaches and send us a cool
crowd pic, event info, photo of
your school mascot.



Basketball Museum of Illinois Twitter

Check out the daily items about the
great history of Illinois Basketball

Follow us @BBallMuseumIL

2020 Hall of Fame Selections

Please watch our web site on Dec. 2 for our announcement of the Hall of Fame Class of 2020."

Jr. High Coaches

When you pass a century milestone for career victories – let us know!

Steve Allen – allens@gcctv.com

