

The Hard Court Herald
Volume 21, Issue 2
November, 2005

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MBCA Board

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WEB-MASTER: Bill Gunn-Northwest H.S.
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Shane Matzen-Marquette H.S.

Contact us at:

hardcourtherald@hotmail.com

Dear fellow MBCA members,

The season will begin and end, but relationships will last forever. The most rewarding things that coaches can enjoy are those wedding invitations, calls to say hello, invitations to play golf, or maybe just a smile and small talk from the former players that have played for him or her.

This season is an opportunity to make a difference in the life of a child. I know we at times lose focus of the fact that we are dealing with children, but it is the truth. Coaches, as we all know, will have an influence – it will be positive or it will be negative. The impact of coaching with character and teaching lifelong lessons is what we all strive for and can be achieved.

Coaches and players have to stay focused on why we do what we do. Players need to play for the right reasons and coaches need to coach for the right reasons. Coaches don't want players to be selfish, so we need to not be selfish. The games are not about us or them it is about WE. I encourage all coaches at all levels to have a season filled with teachable moments and relationship-building experiences. Keep the big picture in focus and have your sub off the bench call you in six years when he is getting married.

Best Wishes,

Sean Williamson
MBCA President

2005-2006 MBCA DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES & OFFICERS

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Contact information provided by representatives. If you have trouble contacting your respective representative, please reach them at their home high school. Also, if you need to know which district you are in, go to the MBCA web-site to locate your home district (www.mobca.org).

MISSOURI BASKETBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION
Report of October 16, 2005 Board Meeting

1. President Williamson called the meeting to order at 1:15 PM.
2. Secretary Filbert commented on the March 12 & 19, 2005 Board Meeting Reports.
 - A. Ken Ash has agreed to fund the 2006 Show-Me State Games Scholarships.
 - B. The John Lenox Memorial Basketball Exhibit fund is now at near \$42,000.00.
 - C. Reminded the Board that the late membership fees were set at \$25.00 for and individual and \$75.00 for a staff. Shane will include in the next Hard Court Herald.
 - D. Bill Gunn made a motion to accept the reports. Ryan Shaw

Seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

3. Secretary Filbert commented on the Treasurer's Report.
 - A. Payment of the Show-Me State Games Basketball Officials is run through the MBCA checking account. This is a service that gets the checks to the Officials faster.
 - B. Denny Hunt made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Craig Parrack seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.
4. Committee Reports
 - A. Clinic – David Fox presented information on a proposed Basketball Coaching Clinic to be put on by the Association in the fall of 2006. Much of the information was taken from the Iowa Basketball Coaches Association Clinic.
 - 1) The basic concepts were: date-location-speakers-teams-exhibitors-give a ways-hospitality-meals-finances
 - 2) Jay Blossom has done most of the research on the project and reported to the Board on the Iowa Model.
 - a) 1300 to 1400 attend the clinic
 - b) Division I teams in Iowa rotate in bringing their teams in to workout, both women and men programs
 - c) Bring in 3 or 4 Division II and III teams.
 - d) Have 1 or 2 A Speakers (NCAA Champions etc)
 - e) Have 5 or 6 B Speakers.
 - f) Freebie s include: reception-chicken dinner-Tshirts-other give a ways particularly from exhibitors.
 - g) Charge is \$65.00 for Members and more for others.
 - h) Have exchange with Texas State Champion Coach as clinic speaker.
 - i) State Tournament winners are a panel with specific questions to discuss.
 - j) Start Friday at 4:00 PM and go to late. Saturday start at 8:00 AM and go to 6:00 PM
 - 3) Secretary Filbert commented on the fact that the Columbia Convention and Visitors Bureau may be establishing a Sports Fund to bring in events of this type. If that does not happen we could apply for a grant from the Bed Tax program. The limit is \$15,000.00.
 - 4) Bob Burchard indicated that Columbia College could provide facilities and food service if the Board was interested.
 - 5) David Fox made the motion to move forward with plans to host such a clinic at Columbia College in October of 2006. Ryan Shaw seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.
 - 6) President Williamson appointed David Fox to chair the clinic planning committee. David indicated that there would be five committees to handle the planning. Board members will have to be very involved in these committees.

- 7) Bill Gunn indicated that we might want to use a Telephone Conference Call instead of having to drive in for meetings.
- 8) Bob Kernell encouraged the planners to emphasize female speakers and teams.
(Board Members toured the Columbia College facilities after the meeting)
- B) Hall of Fame Games – Denny Hunt & Ryan Shaw reported that the Hall of Fame was in favor of moving the games to early June in 2006. After some discussion Denny made the motion to support the move. Gail Jones seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.
- C) Academic All State Banquet – Secretary Filbert mentioned that he had received some criticism about the meal at last years banquet. It was decided to continue with the same format in 2006.
- D) MBCA All State Selections – The members in attendance were reminded that selecting competent committee representatives was extremely important. Secretary Filbert will send the Bill Gunn information on the duties to all the Board.
- E) Web Site – Bill Gunn commented on the need to supply him with information and E-mail addresses.
- F) Election of Board Members – Secretary Filbert suggested that the Board waive the election for this year and continue with the present Board until such time as an election could be held at a General Meeting. Bill Gunn so moved. Jay Blossom seconded the Motion. Passed unanimously.
- G) Hard Court Herald – Shane Matzen commented that he needed input on Coaches who would be good prospect to do a Q & A with. In the next issue he is presenting a Q & A with Rich Grawer. He also stated that he and Bill Gunn are working on having a password for members to use to access the last two issues of the Herald. Secretary Filbert encouraged those in attendance to let Coaches know about the Herald being on the internet.

5. New Business

- A. President Williamson ask the Board to recommend a Basketball Coach who would represent Missouri in Scholastic Coach Magazine for the last seventy-five years of the 1900's. Three were nominated Bud Lathrop, Floyd Irons & Ronnie Cookson. The Board chose Bud Lathrop.
- B. Stephanie Phillips had represented MBCA at a meeting called by MSHSAA to discuss an All Sport Coaches Association. President Williamson made the following comments from her report.
 - 1) They proposed a three day conference of all Coaches.
 - 2) Charge of \$30.00, \$12.00 to the National Federation and \$18.00 to the specific Association.
 - 3) Select Coaches of the Year.
 - 4) 1600 Non teaching Coaches in Missouri Schools
 - 5) No action taken

Meeting adjourned.

Attendees: Sean Williamson-Glendale, Jay Blossom-Webster Groves, Bob Burchard-Columbia College, Denny Hunt-Kickapoo, Ryan Shaw-Hillcrest, David Fox-Jefferson City, Bill Gunn-Northwest, Shane Matzen-Marquette, Craig Parrack-Climax Springs, Mike Arnold-Montrose, Neal Hook-St. Joseph Central, Brett Goodwin-St. Joseph Benton, Gail Jones-Jefferson City, Courtney Haskell-Hickman, Bob Kernell-North Kansas City.

Q&A with the Difference-Makers

This is the first in what we hope will become a regular series here in our newsletter. Each issue we will try to look at issues affecting our membership through the eyes of a figure who has been important to Missouri basketball.

This issue we had a chance to pick the brain of one of the most successful high school coaches in Missouri basketball history: **Rich Grawer**. Coach Grawer won consecutive state titles at DeSmet High back in the late 70s and was a guiding influence in the development of Steve Stipanovich who later went on to have his jersey retired at the University of Missouri and enter the NBA. College experience is also part of Coach Grawer's resume, including having served as an assistant to Norm Stewart at Mizzou and taking the Billikens of Saint Louis University to a couple of NIT Final Fours as head coach.

Coach Grawer now acts as athletic director of Clayton High School in the St. Louis area and was kind enough to answer our questions here in this forum...

Hard Court Herald: You had great talent in your days at DeSmet including such outstanding players as Mark Dressler and Steve Stipanovich. How were you able to balance bringing out the talent in each player and maintaining the obvious sense of "team" that your squads displayed and/or give us an example of this?

Rich Grawer: When I had great players, like Stipanovich, Dressler, Kennedy, etc, I would make sure that when I talked to the media (print, TV, radio), I talked a lot about the "other" players and their contributions to our squad. The "stars" were getting enough publicity without my help. They did not need me reinforcing their accomplishments. But the other guys really needed a pat on the back, some intrinsic rewards (by the way of media praise and praise from the coaching staff). Also, in my offensive strategy, I made sure that there was a "set play" that would get every starter a shot, thereby increasing the feeling on the part of that player that he was being valued highly by the coaching staff and made to feel that he was a huge part of the team. Every player could feel that he "had his own play" that could be called at any time.

Finally, since ---in those days--- recruiting was different than it is today (coaches could have limitless contacts at practice) I constantly talked to the entire team about playing hard in practice at all times so that the recruiters (who were coming to recruit the "stars") would see you and then perhaps give your name to another school for recruitment purposes.

HCH: Most outside the profession of coaching would probably think the answer to the following question would be..."the championships". I'm suspecting though your answer will be different. Can you give some of your favorite memories of being a high school coach?

RG: My favorite memories in coaching at the high school level ---other than the state championships --- were:

a) A 63 game consecutive winning streak and the fact that we took everyone's best shot each night as they tried to stop that streak

b) Almost every Friday night, there was a post game party after the game at one of the parents' house; my wife and I tried to attend, even after a loss. What I remember most is that there was different atmosphere between coaches and parents back in the 60's and 70's than there is now...less confrontational, less adversarial. In fact, it was fun to go and listen to the gentle ribbing and also compliments that took place. My assistant coaches also attended. These are fun to remember.

c) The old recruiting rules, as I mentioned above, gave the high school coach more opportunities to meet college coaches. This was fun. I also tried to "pick their brains" --- asking to give me their best in bound plays; their best zone press attack; their best last second shot play, etc. My coaching notebook was built up largely from what these college coaches gave to me.

HCH: As a successful coach and recruiter at Saint Louis University, you had the opportunity to look at the high school player from the talent evaluation standpoint. What things did you look for your recruits to have obtained from their high school coach's tutelage?

RG: When I recruited high school kids for St. Louis University, I generally asked my assistants to look for the following:

- a) Technical skills --- can the player dribble, pass, shoot, defend, etc
- b) Ability to make your teammates better ---this was crucial to my way of thinking
- c) Athletic ability ---- being a good athlete; could always find a role for the good athlete to play
- d) Ability to make an impact on the game in some way, shape, or form
- e) Coachability -- kids who want to learn and could take correction and criticism
- f) Character -- academics, sportsmanship, trust, use alcohol, tobacco, drugs, etc
- g) Have you proven you could do it --- have you had success in the past

In general, in my early college coaching years, I would sacrifice talent and ability for a good kid who had character and skills and was eager to learn and would fit into my system. As the pressure mounted to win more games, I began to waver on this and took kids with MORE ability and talent (and less character) in order to try to win more. Bottom line --- that didn't work out. I should have stuck with my original philosophy. Having kids you enjoyed coaching is much better than having more talented kids who are a real pain.

I always felt that it was harder to teach college kids offensive skills than defensive skills. If the kid did not have offensive skills when he came to us, it was really hard to break some old, bad habits. So, I constantly reminded my assistants to look at offensive ability above defensive. Don't rule out a kid for our program because he was not playing good defense at the high school level. BUT DO RULE HIM OUT if he could not dribble or shoot (of course, unless he was 7'0 tall) ; it was our job to teach defense.

HCH: What are your thoughts on the way recruiting is dealt with nowadays? More specifically, what do you think about our situation where the emphasis on evaluation is in the summer AAU national tournaments where talent is gathered in a few major locations rather than the old system of seeing high school players with their high school teams only?

RG: I do not like the recruiting rules of today. As I mentioned, as a high school coach it was really fun and helpful to visit often with college coaches, particularly in person. I learned a lot from them. But by the same token, I thoroughly enjoyed when I went on the road to recruit and I had a chance to visit with high school coaches. I found that high school coaches are amongst the most "resourceful", creative, and innovative coaches in the game ---BECAUSE THEY DO NOT RECRUIT THEIR TALENT AND HAVE TO MAKE DO WITH WHAT THEY HAVE. I learned a lot as a college coach by going to watch high school teams practice. THE NEW RECRUITING RULES AND GUIDELINES have taken all of this away from the HIGH SCHOOL COACH and from the COLLEGE COACH.

HCH: As an athletic director now at Clayton High School, what are qualities you look for in your coaching staff whether in hiring new coaches and/or helping your current coaches in their career development?

RG: As a high school athletic director, I look for the following qualities in the coaches that I try to hire:

- 1) do they understand the philosophy of our school district in regards to athletes, especially in regards to winning? (we are NOT a "win at all costs" district). THIS IS MOST IMPORTANT.
- 2) Does the coach have a good image : makes a good appearance; uses appropriate language; is enthusiastic and positive; stresses values and sportsmanship
- 3) Does the coach know the game? Is he/she organized, willing to work at it and be a good motivator?
- 4) Does the coach interact with members of our community in a positive manner; does he interact with the students outside of the athletic setting

HCH: Finally...a lot of coaches in the association are going through or will experience their own children playing high school sports. As a coach who had sons who excelled at the high school and college levels, what is some advice you can give for those of us who are/or will perform a balancing act between coaching and parenting?

RG: My advice for coaches who are coaching their own children:

* If you child is a great player.....FINE! If you child is a very poor player, FINE. But the problem comes when the kid is "in between"---where it is not obvious to everyone that the kid is a STAR or a DUD!

* There is probably more pressure on the child than on the coach. Kids are cruel and say a lot of things in the locker room, around the school, and the community that are really mean and harmful to young people. I remember that when my son played for me one year at SLU, I had to keep him up in the gym after practice for about 20 minutes after we ended so that the rest of the team could go into the locker room and "do what they do"---- that is, bitch and make fun the coach, trash talk, tell crude stories, etc. I did not want to deprive my players of that and felt that the presence of my son in the locker room would prevent them from doing that. Thus, I kept him in the gym while they went to shower and dress. **THIS IS NOT IDEAL FOR THE PLAYERS OR THE SON OF A COACH.** So, I would advise coaches to be real careful in coaching your own children. Take into consideration the needs of your own child and also the needs of the rest of the team.



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THE HARD COURT HERALD

the official publication of the Missouri Basketball Coaches Association

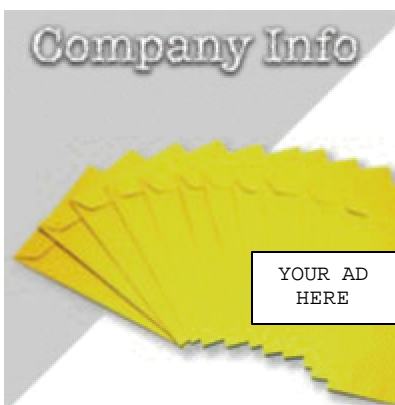
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We Interrupt This Marriage To Bring You the Basketball Season

By Shane Matzen

Hard Court Herald editor

I'm sure I'm not alone in Missouri with this, but every fall a small wooden sign with the title of this article painted on it goes up in our kitchen to remind all that enter that the Matzen household is now vastly different than it has been the past eight months. I feel like I do too much in the off-season to feed my obsession with our profession and I know there are others who do more than me. But when November (or Halloween this year) arrives, the intensity gets taken up about ten notches. The question becomes for all of you in the same boat as me: How can we achieve the balance that our families (and we) need?

As coaching gets more and more competitive, we are all desperately looking for an edge for our programs. As an example, we purchased a SportsCode Gamebreaker video editing system last season to evaluate ourselves and our opponents in a way I never thought possible at the high school level. I was extremely happy with the results as I thought it was a big part of why we were more successful on the court than we had been in several seasons. However, I also know there were a lot of two and three hour sleep nights that followed those late-night sessions with the laptop. It begs asking in this situation: How to repay a wife and family that carries on with the normal everyday household routine and provides a husband and father with a warm meal when he gets home and the understanding of how fatigued he is after doing all the extra work with it takes to carry on as a coach?

The first thing I think we have to understand is that the greatest gift we can give back to our families is our presence and our time. I know one of my favorite memories from last season with my family involved a night that one might check off as a forgettable evening. It seems like a hollow offer, but sometimes my schedule gets so hectic I actually invite my family with me to go scouting. It was a January evening and we were in the homeland of mosports.com in Cedar Hill at a Northwest High School game for me to film. Afterwards, we went out for a "gourmet meal" at one of nearby House Spring's fabulous fast-food dining establishments. My wife and I were tired, the boys had run around the gym several times evading our watchful eyes and to top it off the meal was memorable for all the wrong reasons. In fact, it was so bad all we could do was laugh out of exhaustion. A 'major moment'? No, but I know I got to spend some time with my wife and boys that night and we got to enjoy a funny moment together when I usually would've picked up something from the drive-through on the way home to arrive to kiss two sleeping boys and a wife good night that I would've been deprived of seeing for the entire day.

Can we read a book to our children when we get home? Can we listen to our wives tell us the story of their day before we look at film or go to bed? Can we set up a schedule whereby the entire coaching staff splits up duties to allow some home time? Can we realize what is most important? You're reading the writings of a normal guy. That is, I'm like everyone else it seems in this matter: I learn by doing things the wrong way.

Losses used to drive me crazy and I didn't want to be bothered when I got home from one because I HAD TO FIX IT RIGHT THEN AND THERE. A caring wife convinced me that wasn't a direction that I or we needed. I still spend probably too much time on this sport than would be considered normal by the general public. But I love it. I also love my family. There has to be balance. I'm still working on it and probably will until the day I quit walking out of the locker rooms on Tuesday and Friday nights into brightly-lit, electricity-filled high school gymnasiums.

A few terms from this article I hope will stay with you: balance, time and love. We can care about our families and our players and be happy doing it if we understand where to properly place the priorities of our lives.

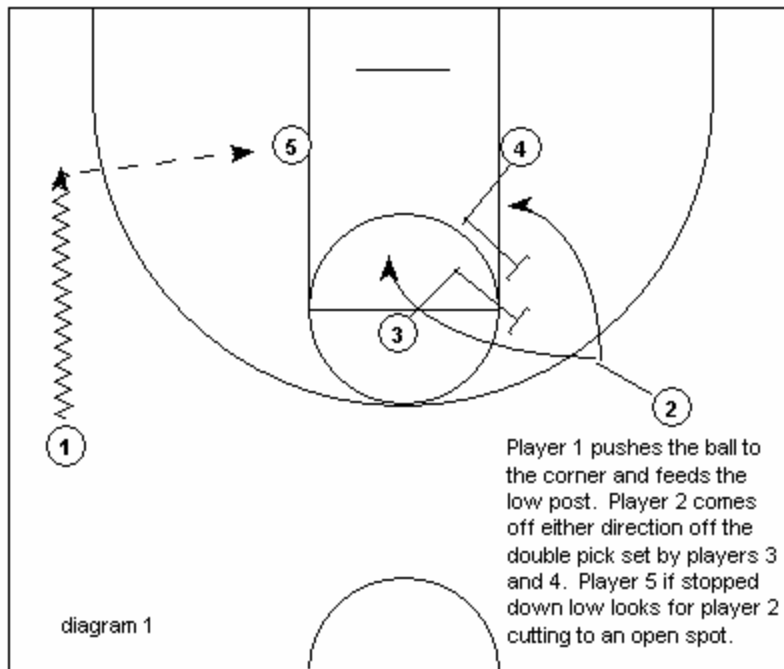
Parting Shots:

- There's a term I go back to that put a bug in my head to write this article: "Date your wife". That term came to me from Duane Silver who I've written about before in this newsletter. Duane is a retired basketball coach (coached in Missouri) who now resides in Texas. If you don't belong to Duane's almost-daily e-mail newsletter, you're missing out. It's easy to join and it's free. Send Duane an e-mail requesting to join and he will add you to his group. His address is at: Rslvr514@cs.com
- It was suggested to me at our MBCA board meeting to remind our membership that if you don't join our association, you miss out on a lot of great things (including the last two issues of the online "Hard Court Herald"!). Most important of those things though are the opportunities to honor those people who have been important to you and the lives of others in Missouri basketball. You can't nominate a player for Academic All-State, you can't nominate a coach for the Hall of Fame and you can't nominate a worthy candidate for the "Cub Martin Assistant Coach of the Year" award. A measly \$15 will cover you for one year and \$50 could cover your entire staff (boys AND girls) for a year (though if you wait, those prices will increase to \$25 and \$75 respectively). It is too important to others for you NOT to join.



COACHES' CLIPBOARD

Play of the month
"Feed the Cat" (quick hitter)



This edition's "Play of the Month" courtesy of the Playanizer CD. The CD and other useful coaching aides can be purchased through their web-site at: <http://www.teamanizer.com/>

Suggested Reading: **3 Nights in August by Buzz Bissinger with Tony LaRussa**

Yes, this is a baseball book, but coaching and relating to people is the same across sports. A very worthwhile read for all of us associated with basketball.

Web-Site of the Month: **ScoutingHoops (www.scoutinghoops.com)**

This is a subscription site with a few free features. The subscription portion though is a VAST collection of some of the best stuff being done by college basketball programs across the country.

To contribute to the Coaches' Clipboard (plays, drills, books, quotes, web-sites, etc.) or to submit any other item for "The Hardcourt Herald (article, article idea, etc.), contact Shane Matzen at hardcourtherald@hotmail.com



— See Tomorrow's Stars Today

11am Troy Buchanan v Winter Park

12:30pm Belleville East v Edwardsville

2:15pm Lee's Summit North v La Costa Canyon

3:45pm Nashville v Borgia

5:30pm Champaign Central v Houston Bellaire

7:00pm Webster Groves v Birmingham Huffman

8:30pm Vashon v Memphis Mitchell

www.stlshoot.com



2005-2006 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please fill out and return \$15 per single membership (Take note of "All-School" rate and late fees below).

Make your check payable to:
"Missouri Basketball Coaches Association"

NAME: _____

HOME ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

SCHOOL AFFILIATION: _____

CLASS: 1__ 2__ 3__ 4__ 5__

JR HI__ HS__ JUCO__ COLLEGE__ OTHER__

DISTRICT: NW__ NE__ SE__ SW__

SC__ NC__ KC__ STL__

Total Wins as Head Coach _____

Number of years coaching at each level:

COLLEGE: ASST__ HEAD COACH__ TOTAL__

HIGH SCHOOL: JR HI__ HS ASST__ VAR__ TOTAL__

MAIL TO:

Missouri Basketball Coaches Association
906 Wayne Road
Columbia, MO 65203

(Please note: single Membership is \$15 per year)

*****SPECIAL "ALL-SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP"*****

INDIVIDUAL Schools may enroll ALL of their coaches (boys AND girls) for a school membership fee of only \$50. Each coach on the staff though will have to fill out an individual membership form along with the check for \$50. After February 1, 2006, the prices will go up to \$25 per individual and \$75 for the entire school staff.

I would like to become more involved in the MBCA and its activities. I will volunteer my services if needed with the following:

Nominating__ Legislative__ Hall of Fame Games__

Academic All-State__ Newsletter__

Suggestions for the MBCA Board to consider:
