

# stripes



## President's Message



*Perry Stothart*

It is my privilege to welcome everyone back to another season! We really got things going with the ABOA clinic at Mount Royal September 12 & 13. I want to acknowledge again the efforts of the ABOA executive in the preparation leading up to the clinic. By all accounts the clinic was well received by those in attendance, and I definitely enjoyed not only the presenters, but the opportunity to celebrate the social aspect of the weekend. I can honestly say that if you chose not to attend you truly missed out! The Saturday night awards presentation and 'fireside' was one of the many highlights for me. **Tommy Nunez**, 30 year veteran NBA official was outstanding. He is a very entertaining presenter, and more importantly a genuine person. We were lucky enough to have a surprise guest on the Saturday morning as **Ronnie Nunn**, the NBA Director of Officials' development who happened to be

in Calgary, dropped by the clinic and shared a few thoughts with us as well. **Jim Cervo**, CABO's education chair kicked things off on the Friday night with a special session for various board representatives to introduce the National Certification Program for Officials. We were able to take advantage of CABO's commitment to dedicate some funds to the roll out of this program and have Jim spend some quality time with us. **Warren Poncsak**, veteran CIS official joined us from Regina and delivered some very entertaining sessions (don't ask me to re-tell the 'grape' joke). **Bill Carr**, **Dick Vanderstam**, and **Matt Kallio** all added to a very satisfying weekend. Again thank you to all who attended, it was a great way to hit the ground running at the start of this season.

With games right around the corner the challenge is now to take some of that book learning in the clinic setting and continue to work on our personal development, both in how we call the game and how we develop as partners and ultimately as leaders. I made reference to the *continued on page 2*

### In This Issue

President's Message	1
Evaluator's Report	2 - 4
Interpreter's Report	5
Treasurer's Report	6
ABOA Awards	6
Wink Willox Award	7
Vice Presidents Report	8
ABOA Builder Award	9
Don't Let the B*stards...	10
What to Watch For	11



# Evaluator's Report

## PreGame Conference

**“The goal is to make the whole greater than the sum of its parts.** Each individual official is responsible for making the crew, their team and the partnership better. Even though it is still a choice, it is not an option, rather it's a requirement!” Dawna Townsend – from 2008 ABOA Clinic. (see [ABOA website](#))

**A. Our Purpose As Basketball Referees** – We are stewards of the game and therefore are called upon to....

1. Keep the game safe for the players – this requires officials to have courage (**See article...“The Bridge Builder”**)
2. Make it fair for both teams – game awareness & consistency
3. Reinforce responsibility for own actions – effort & hard work
4. Accountability to the game & opponents- preparation & focus
5. Maintain ethical values & develop or reveal character so there is honour in victory, eliminate cheating, boastfulness, whining, intimidation & gamesmanship – requires integrity (**See.... “Don't Let the Barbarians Set the Standards for Sports” and “Coaching For Character”**)

**Here are some tongue in cheek examples, only of late, of values that have gone in the toilet.**

“Louisville basketball coach Rick Pitino admitted he [did it] with an assistant coach's wife on a restaurant table. No one knows how this will all play out, but the restaurant just took its Grand Slam, Thank You Ma'am breakfast off the menu.”

“If you are thinking you would like to get him a gift, by gosh, you can't go wrong with clean urine.”– **David Letterman on A-Rod's 34th birthday**

“The national group, 'People Shocked By That', will be meeting tonight in a Volkswagen Beetle. Front seat.”– **Miami Herald columnist Greg Cote on LeBron James admitting he smoked marijuana in high school**

**B. Preparation** – we need to be ready **before we step onto the court**

1. Complete our day, eliminate “loose ends”, quiet our minds & shift to a new focus
2. Individual prep – No! Should be done already at these levels, common terminology. Go to [ABOA Website](#) 'Like Minded Officiating'
3. For the game – Yes! It's expected and obvious when we're not
4. For the crew – Yes! See opening quote by Dawna /also 'Some Thoughts at Mid Season' at [ABOA website](#)
5. Have our head on straight – develop an attitude that is able

to recognize, anticipate and respond to critical situations and not let fear of failure or risk stand in the way



**How do we prepare and what are the priorities? See further down.**

**C. Increase Our Influence** – we can't do this if we don't get to know our partners, their personality, communication style, strengths, weaknesses, presence, their readiness to referee.

**“The true measure of leadership is influence – nothing more – nothing less.”** – John Maxwell

- I. Fundamental Principles to Establish Influence
  - a. Don't be afraid of nor judge another human being. They are perfect and imperfect just like me. They are wise and clueless just like me.
  - b. Believe in yourself / self-confidence is the first requisite to great undertakings – begin by knowing yourself, your strengths and weaknesses, your gifts, your values & likes, the special people, your personal triumphs. Be willing to dig up the past and put it behind you. Then stop dwelling on the negative for two hours.
  - c. Give honest and sincere appreciation to your partners *continued on page 2*

**President's Message** continued

Honorary Life Members and how names may be presented at the ABOA AGM in April. Here is one more plug for local boards to consider names who may be considered for this honour so that we take the opportunity to recognize those deserving individuals.

It has been an especially exciting year for our members as a result of many outstanding performances at every level. I am proud of the

efforts we as a province continue to make in the development of officials, and we all benefit from the positive culture of learning that has been cultivated throughout the province.

With new ACAC and ASAA contracts we kick off this year with the administration nuts and bolts out of the way, and the energy of a new season laid out before us. Good luck to all, and take the time to enjoy your basketball opportunities, and may you

**Jake's PreGame Conference** continued

so they become aware of their role and value to the crew. Influence is not a position, it's a choice. **"To do nothing in the middle is to create more weight for the top leader to move."** - **David Branker**

- d. Heighten your senses, be enthusiastic, show an eager desire for a great effort tonight. Be an optimist - **"Pessimist says the world will end in 30 days, optimist says nah, it's not going take that long."**
2. Six Ways To Begin Positive Influence **"When opportunity comes, it's too late to prepare."** - John Wooden
  - a. Become genuinely interested in other people
  - b. Smile and crack a joke once in awhile
  - c. To every person their name is the sweetest and most important sound

- d. Be a good listener & encourage others to talk about themselves by asking the right questions
- e. Talk in terms of the other person's interests
- f. Make the other person feel important by repeating the important things they have said
3. Influence Towards A Positive Way of Thinking & Outcome
 

**"I love the man who can smile in trouble, can gather strength from distress, and grow brave by reflection. 'Tis the business of little minds to shrink, but he whose heart is firm, and whose conscience approves his conduct, will pursue his principles unto death."** - **Thomas Paine**

- a. The only way to get the best of an argument is to not have your buttons pushed
- b. Show respect for the other person's opinions. Don't say, "You're wrong or I

disagree." Instead you can say, "That's a point of view perhaps I can learn to appreciate".

- c. If you are wrong, admit it quickly and emphatically
- d. Begin in a friendly way with a tone of voice that is low in pitch
- e. Get the other person saying "yes" immediately, start by asking questions
- f. Let the other person do a great deal of the talking
- g. Let the other person feel that the idea is theirs
- h. Try genuinely to see things from the other person's point of view
- i. Be sympathetic with the other person's ideas and desires
- j. When appropriate, "throw out" the challenge that will establish the crew's shared goals

**D. Be A Leader** – Basically create a team that's ready to work towards shared goals. The good thing is **leaders are rarely born, they become one** through *continued on page 3*

a little more **PreGame Conference**

circumstances and persistence.

1. Establish trust & credibility through your actions - initiate communication, follow through on your promises like being on time, back up what you say, solve problems, demonstrate loyalty, reach out and think collaboratively, consider others and add value unselfishly, create synergy, be better tomorrow than today
2. Create an environment of openness & inclusion, comfort, teamwork, humility and fun – make everyone “feel” like an equal partner
3. Instill and exude confidence – ready for the challenge without feeling defensive, see problems as opportunities, remove distractions and remain focused, build a foundation on facts, see things realistically, consider the past as a place to gain perspective
4. Be accountable to the game, the players, coaches, your partners – be a 360 degree leader regardless of your position on a particular game (CC, U1, U2)

**How?**

**Write your own pregame – “We teach what we most need to learn.” - Unknown**

**As CC say to your crew, “Follow me, I’ll add value to you.” Transfer the vision and let people operate from their strengths.**

**As U1 lift up your CC and U2 equally, don't be envious of one and condescending to the other. “Follow me, I’ll walk with you.”**

**As U2 earn your crews' trust by taking care of everything in your control. Do your job well first, then get ready to be the “go to guy” by lifting the load when needed. “Follow me, I’m right behind you.”**

**To avoid “leaving the building” wear a rubber band, snap it and ask yourself what you're thinking in order to stay focused and positive. Research shows we can't “will” negative thoughts away. Rather they must be replaced by positive ones.**

**E. Honest Reflection, Self Evaluation and Mentoring**

1. In order to grow there must be meaningful lessons to draw on. In the postgame ask the questions.....What went well and what didn't?.....What did I do to make things better or worse and how can I improve?..... Were my attitudes and reactions in this game up to par? If not, why not?
2. It's been said the essence of leadership is getting two workers to dig a ditch out in a field when no one is looking. Do you practice in front of a mirror?....Do you keep up your effort and work on refining your game in the 9am Saturday toilet bowl or Monday 9:00pm Senior Mens slug fest?
3. Do you talk shop with your peers, compare notes, mentor each other away from the court?....Go for drinks, review video?.... This is the value of a peer group where there's no judgment because your colleagues also know it's tough. But in the sharing of stories and experiences comes insight, wisdom & confidence.

(Google the '**Arizona Sports Summit Accord**' developed by the likes of John Wooden, Bob Costas, Bob Bradley, Bill Dwyer, Mike Montgomery, Barry Mano )

<http://josephsoninstitute.org/sports/resources/accord/accord-intercollegiate.html>

## Interpreter's Report

### Mechanics

Along with my comments you will find a power point developed by CABO national interpreter **Paul Deshaies**. (see [ABOA website](#)) Please note on slide 2 are Paul's comments about the qualities of a successful official. He identifies the need to make **correct decisions** and **manage a game efficiently as the most important attributes of successful officials**. I couldn't agree more. As he points out proper mechanics are the means by which some of these positive outcomes occur.

Morgan Munroe



Therefore I am reminding officials that they should always strive to use proper FIBA signals and mechanics. Provincial and national evaluators expect to see these and the only way to develop good signals and mechanics is by their by consistent use throughout the regular season. Local educators and evaluators play a major role in reinforcing these areas so I am making a direct plea to those charged with these responsibilities to politely and professionally remind officials to adhere to the FIBA manuals in these areas. **Remember successful officials make correct decisions and efficiently manage games.**

A note to our ACAC officials; you are the elite officials in this province. Six of you will be selected to work at the CCAA men's nationals at SAIT in March of 2010. Our up and coming officials look to you as role models in areas such as **call selection, game management and call consistency** as well as proper signals and mechanics. With the nationals in our province this season it is a great opportunity to show the country the depth of our officiating talent and the strength of our evaluation and development program. Use this season to work on all aspects of your game in preparation for this unique opportunity.

### Rule Reminders

There are no rule changes nor are there new rule interpretations. However a few were emphasized at the recent CABO meetings and this means they likely will make it to this year's national exam.

#### Ball striking the rim

If a player is standing within the playing surface (i.e. is not out of bounds) and causes the ball to touch the rim a shot clock reset must occur.

#### Example 1

A1 intends to pass the ball to A2 who is running ahead on a fast break. The pass misses A2 but strikes the rim. Team A then recovers the ball. Should Team A have a new shot clock cycle? - **Yes**

#### Example 2

A1 intends to pass to A2 but the ball is deflected by B1. The ball strikes the rim but is recovered by A1. Should Team A have a new shot clock cycle? - **Yes**

### Ball Entering the Front Court

#### Example 1

A1 is dribbling the ball near centre and has both feet in the frontcourt but the ball is still touching the backcourt when it is bounced. On the next dribble A1 has the ball bounce off his/her foot and go into the backcourt without touching the frontcourt. A1 then returns and touches the ball. Has Team A committed a backcourt violation? - **No**  
The ball has not attained frontcourt status until both of the dribbler's feet touch the frontcourt and the ball touches the floor. The ball is deemed to have touched the floor when it obviously touches the floor or touches someone other than the dribbler in the frontcourt.

### Unsportsmanlike fouls

Please review the rule sections on fouls committed against a player who is dribbling to the basket on an uncontested breakaway and is fouled from behind or from the side. Regardless of the nature of the contact the foul will be judged unsporting and the proper enforcement must occur.

If the foul occurs while a shot is being attempted then the foul can only be called an unsporting foul if the contact is severe enough to be judged as excessive contact or if the defender makes no attempt to play the ball. Also please review the section that deals with throw ins and unsporting fouls. On a throw in if the ball is still in the hands of the inbounder and Team B commits a foul the official will judge the contact to be unsporting and penalize accordingly.

However if an official fails to correctly administer the foul i.e. fails to report the foul as an unsporting foul once the ball has become live no additional penalties can be

*continued on page 6*

**Interpreter's Report** continued

enforced.

*Example 1*

On a throw in B2 holds A3 well the ball is still in the hands of inbounder A1. The official calls a personal foul on B2. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> foul of the quarter. On the ensuing throw in A1 commits a 5 second violation. Coach A then asks the officials why the foul on B2 was not shot as an unsportsmanlike fouls. Shall the officials award A3 two shots and possession for Team A? – **No** This is not a correctable error. The officials cannot go back and change the type of foul once the ball has become live after the foul was called.

**CABO Interpretation –**

Player receiving 2 unsportsmanlike

fouls during a game.

36.2.3 A player shall be disqualified when he is charged with two (2) unsportsmanlike fouls.

36.2.4 If a player is disqualified under Art. 36.2.3, that unsportsmanlike foul shall be the only foul to be penalized and no additional penalty for the disqualification shall be administered.

This interpretation allows the player to remain on the bench even though he/she has been disqualified from further participation.

If the 2 unsporting fouls are the result of excessive contact (hard fouls) the player should leave the bench area and go to the dressing room and remain there.

## Treasurer's Report



Paul Rocca

Hello and welcome to another basketball season. As we move forward this season,

here is some information on FAQ's that I receive:

Q. What are our fees this year?

A. Fees are \$80 broken down as follows: Basketball Alberta \$ 8.00 , CABO \$25.00, Basketball Canada \$ 5.00, ABOA \$42.00

Q. What is our Game fee at ASAA Provincials?

A. New contract has been finalized with ASAA that has

games fees of \$40.00 , \$41.50, \$43.00 for the next 3 years.

Q. What is our ACAC Game Fee?

A. The contract is presently being finalized and amounts will be advised shortly. We are expecting rates of \$70.00 Regular Season and \$80.00 Playoffs this season.

Q. How many officials do we have in Alberta?

A. 530 Officials were registered with ABOA in 2009. Unfortunately we have noticed a negative trend in the number of officials from a high of 586 in 2006, 567 in 2007, 554 in 2008.

## ABOA Awards

Presented at the Fall Clinic

### Provincial Award of Excellence

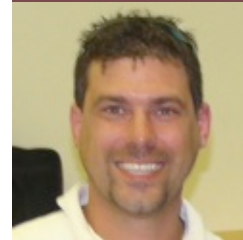


Kelsey Kisilevich

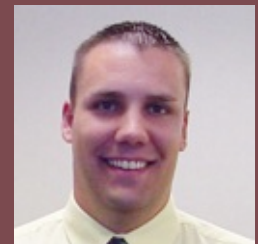


Trevor Viney

### National Award of Excellence



Troy Eagar



Stephane Labonne

**Alberta's 2009 WINK WILLOX AWARD WINNER - DARYL PAUSTIAN**

Alberta's nominee for the prestigious Wink Willox Award of Merit for 2009 is an Honorary Life Member of the Edmonton Board (EBOA). He was active for most of his career in both able bodied and wheel chair basketball officiating. He began officiating in Edmonton in the mid 70's and became actively involved with wheelchair officiating and coaching a few years later.

This official worked at the ACAC (CCAA) level from 1977 - 2001 and at the Canada West (CIS) level from 1979 - 2000. During his 30+ year career as an active member of the ABOA, this official was a consistent high performer locally at the high school level and participated in many ASAA Provincial Championships including three 4A Boys Finals in Lethbridge, Grand Prairie and Calgary (1998). This official also participated in several national tournaments including:

- 1987 - Junior Men's (U19) National Championships in Lethbridge
- 1989 - CCAA Women's Nationals in Grand Prairie

With respect to his wheelchair officiating, this individual has participated in numerous Canadian championships, too many to mention here. On the international scene, some of his highlights include:

- 1995 - Received his International Certification (Saskatoon)
- 1996 - America's Qualifications Tournaments for the ParaOlympics (Argentina)
- 1997 - World Junior Championships (Toronto)
- 1998 - America's Zone Qualifications for the World Championships (Winnipeg)
- 1999 - America's Qualifications Tournament for the ParaOlympics (Mexico)



Daryl also travelled to Macao where he conducted FIBA and wheelchair clinics for Chinese officials. This educational trip was facilitated as a result of a very strong relationship between the Chinese community in Edmonton and Macao.

In addition, this official also found time to work in various Executive and volunteer capacities, both locally in Edmonton as well as with the ABOA.

He served as EBOA President from 1985 - 1987

He served as EBOA Past President from 1987 - 1989

He served as EBOA Vice President from 1998 - 2000

He also served as a Member of the ABOA Evaluation Committee for the last 12 years.

I feel that I would be remiss by not mentioning how much of a giver this year's recipient was in all aspects of his daily life. Notably, he was actively involved with the Alberta Northern Lights Basketball Organization, serving as their President from 2004 - 2008. In addition to his presidential duties, our nominee volunteered in a number of other capacities where needed, and was a great asset in recently seeing their organization through some very difficult financial times.

This year's Wink Willox Award Winner for the Province of Alberta is Daryl Paustian.

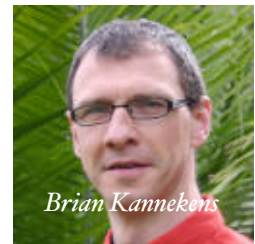
To the best of my knowledge, this is the first time that this award has been given to an individual posthumously. For those who are not aware, Daryl succumbed to cancer on August 15th at the age of 56 and he will be greatly missed by the countless people whose lives he touched.

*(this presentation was made by ABOA Supervisor Bill Carr)*

## Vice President's Report

It is an exciting time of year as ACAC officials are preparing for the preseason following a very successful ABOA Fall Clinic. I know that the ACAC teams have been preparing for the past three weeks, and I hope that all officials will also be prepared, both physically and mentally for the upcoming season.

As the new season approaches, I just want to remind everyone of a few ACAC items that will help ensure a smooth season for all of us. First, when you arrive one hour prior to your ACAC game, please make sure to contact the Game Day Coordinator. I am currently working with the ACAC to prepare a Game Day Coordinators list in case you need to contact them. The Game Day Coordinator is the person you will need to contact in case of any unforeseen circumstances surrounding your games. I recommend getting to know the Coordinators so they are comfortable with you and are able to respond to any concerns that you might have. Second, please remember that post-game reports must be filled out for any technical or unsportsmanlike fouls. This is ACAC policy and must be carried out following each game. You do not need to submit a report to me for every technical or unsportsmanlike foul, but you will need to send me a report if it involves a more serious offence. One example would be a player or coach who has been ejected or asked to leave the gym, but continues to make comments while leaving the gym. If you are unsure about whether or not to submit a report, you can contact me with the details and I can work from there. Please be sure to take some time following the game to submit your report. This will give you some time to clarify your thoughts and allow you to submit a non-emotional, fact based report that I can then use to report to the ACAC. We are working hard to continue to strengthen our relationship with the ACAC, and effective game incident reporting is part of that process as it gives our members credibility when they submit a strong game report.



Here is a breakdown of the pregame routine for ACAC games:

20:00	Teams begin warm up
15:00	This is the latest officials should be on court. Earlier is better.
12:00	Captains meeting – shake hands, introductions
10:00	Referee to check scoresheet and ensure coaches have signed it. Make contact with all table staff to learn their names. Answer any questions table staff have.
3:30	Officials go to shake coaches hands
3:00	Horn to clear court, then player intro's, O Canada (clock will run to :30) This is the coaches time to have a final meeting with their team so try to shake hands before this.
:30	Horn to bring teams out. Officials should assume jump ball positions at this time. At :00, once clock is reset, jump ball. Teams should be on the floor ready to go when horn sounds at :00.

Finally, I want to say a huge Thank You to everyone who made the ABOA Fall Clinic a great success. As we have been reminded in the past, the basketball season isn't November to March, but starts on during the summer. The [ABOA website](#) will be adding information from the fall clinic for all officials to check out and use in preparation for the upcoming season. If you are not an ACAC official yet, this is the time of year to start preparing for your season by attending ACAC games and being part of the pre and post game meetings and getting yourself in shape and reviewing the rulebook. We should all be striving to be the best we can each and every game.

Have a great season.

## 2009 ABOA BUILDER'S AWARD JAKE STEINBRENNER

We have one more award to give out this evening before we commence with our fireside chat. And I hope we have been able to keep this as a surprise. We'll see.

This individual is certainly no stranger to basketball in Alberta and I would suggest he is regarded as one of Alberta's true leaders in basketball officiating in our Province.

He began his officiating career in Lethbridge right out of high school in 1975 - 1976. In 1981, he joined Keith Jorgensen, Steve Devcic, and Vlad Eshenko on a road trip to San Diego where he attended an Irv Brown Camp. It must have been quite the road trip as Vlad claims the camp was in San Jose and Keith claims the camp was in San Diego. Whatever! There he met a number of officials including Dave Libbey and Freddy Carbonne. To this day, our Award Winner and Dave Libbey remain very good friends. He joined the Basketball Alberta's Staff in the capacity of ABOA Program Co-ordinator in the mid 80's (I believe 1985) during Don Warren's tenure as Executive Director. There, he spent several years working to develop a Provincial Sports Organization which included officials along with players and coaches.

Over the years, this official spent time officiating in Lethbridge, Drayton Valley, Airdrie, Calgary and Edmonton.

He is an accomplished floor official, is currently a member of the CIS panel of officials, and as a member of that panel serves in a mentoring capacity for other officials. He has worked many provincial and national championships, including several trips to the CIS Men's in Halifax.

But this award is not about this individual's on floor performance.

It is about his work behind the scenes as one of the ABOA's premier builders. This individual was a lead advocate in the launch of many of Alberta's highly successful Super Week-ends. He was often tasked with identifying, contacting and co-ordinating their



travel itineraries and subject material for many of the featured clinicians that we have been fortunate to have over the years from across Canada as well as the ranks of the NCAA and the NBA. Some of the clinicians we have been privileged to have include Canada's National Interpreter, Paul Deshaies, CABO's current President, Don Cline, and one of FIBA's Technical Commissioners, Fred Horgan, several NCAA officials including Irv Brown, Dave Libbey, Freddy Carbonne, Jim Bain, Ed Hightower, John Clougherty, Richie Ballesteros and Mark Reichling. And from the ranks of the WNBA and the NBA, we have had Clarke Stevens, Hugh Evans, and this year, of course, Tommy Nunez.

*continued on page 10*

### Coaching for Character

I've spent lots of time with some of the world's most successful coaches. I discovered that many of them think about character a lot, especially traits that are important to winning -- like self-discipline, perseverance, resiliency, and courage.

Unfortunately, they pay less attention to virtues like honesty, integrity, responsibility, compassion, respect, and fairness -- aspects of character that make a good person, citizen, spouse, or parent.

The problem is, even at the amateur level many coaches are hired and paid to win, not to build character. Unless it interferes with performance, worrying about the kind of person an athlete is on or off the field is a waste of time.

Coaches who seek to hone the mental and physical skills of winning while ignoring moral virtues of honor and decency too often produce magnificent competitors who are menaces to society.

Perhaps coaches of elite athletes not connected with educational or youth-serving institutions can operate in this moral vacuum, but all others have a responsibility to teach, enforce, advocate, and model all aspects of good character, including trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship.

Whether it's sports, business, or politics, whenever we divorce issues of competence from issues of character, we create a class of amoral professionals who think they're exempt from common standards of honor and decency.

This discredits and demeans the moral standing of everyone involved.

*This is Michael Josephson reminding you that. **character counts.***

## ABOA Builders Award contined

He served as ABOA President from 1993 - 1997.

Our ABOA Builder's Award winner is also very active during each basketball season coordinating the highly successful provincial exchanges that we have had among ACAC member schools. This individual is also very active every year during the ASAA High School Provincials. He tirelessly coordinates the appointments of Provincial Assignors/Evaluators to the 8 tournaments held across the province each March. This past year, 74 officials, 19 assignors/evaluators covered 166 games involving 336 assignments, quite an accomplishment, in large part due to the leadership of this individual. Forging this highly successful relationship with the ASAA, was an early vision and long term goal of our recipient and his foresight in envisioning how these two groups could work so well together is truly remarkable.

But our Award winner's work does not end there. He carefully scrutinizes the evaluations received on all officials to assist in the identification of potential leaders from across the province. He truly has a Provincial perspective, focussed on official's development each and every year.

On the national scene, this individual serves on the National Panel of Evaluators and I believe has been assigned to at least one national tournament in each of the years that he has been a member of that panel.

He is currently on the ABOA Executive, and holds the position of Evaluation Chair.

In my opinion, this one individual has probably done more to promote basketball officiating development than many organizations do over a 30 year time frame. It is a privilege for me to introduce to you this year's recipient of the ABOA Builder's Award, Jake Steinbrenner.

*(presented by ABOA Supervisor Bil Carr)*

## Don't Let the Barbarians Set the Standards for Sports

Having recently had the opportunity to speak with about 60 Olympic hopefuls, I've been disturbed by the barrage of cynical and scornful attempts to belittle the idea of that integrity matters in sports.

In the face of widespread outcry and some serious sanctions, dozens of sports commentators, former players, coaches, and fans have defended New England Patriot coach Bill Belichick, who was caught red-handed violating clear rules banning efforts to steal the signs of opposing teams by sideline videotaping.

The arguments are lame and sophomoric: "Everyone does it," "Cheating's part of the game," "If you aren't cheating, you're not trying hard enough," "It didn't really matter since the Pats would have won anyway," and "It's only cheating if you get caught."

Sadly, many players, coaches, and fans who want to win any way they can find these claims persuasive. That's why the United States Olympic Committee is so anxious that our nation's premier athletes learn the ideals of Olympism -- a concept that elevates sportsmanship and fair play above victory.

The essence of Olympism is simple: There is no victory without honor. Cheating, boastfulness, whining, and gamesmanship techniques that treat other athletes with disrespect or demean the event are unworthy of anyone granted the privilege to represent his or her sport and country as an Olympian.

Cynics are right when they say sports cheating is rampant. It's also true that lots of politicians lie, lots of parents neglect or abuse their children, and lots of citizens cheat on their taxes, spouses, and employers. So what?

Ethics is not about the way things are; it's about the way they ought to be. Like it or not, the values conveyed by sports influences our culture and shapes our attitudes as to what is permissible and proper in the pursuit of our goals. We can't let the barbarians set the standards.

*Michael Josephson 'Character Counts'*

**What to Watch For In Tonight's Game**

1. Identify Key Players – who runs the show? who initiates?
  - shooters, slashers, go to guys, crashers & bangers, lizards
  - history between teams,
  - key match ups
2. Rule Changes/ Pts of Emphasis
3. Contact parameters - perimeter, post, off ball, bench decorum
4. Philosophy/ Game Awareness/ Consistency
5. L, T, C Positions/ Coverage & Situational discussions
6. Priorities – tough becoming rough so it's time to reel it in
  - coaching match-ups/ inequities in personality & behaviour
  - player challenges/ intimidation & taunting
  - down the stretch/ last shot scenarios in all 4 Quarters

**What We Don't Want In This Game**

1. Sideline demeanor / 1<sup>st</sup> impressions – lackadaisical, too cool, rigid, sloppy
  - Crappy toss – we only get one per game

2. 1<sup>st</sup> whistle/ signal/ no crispness/ no voice
3. 1<sup>st</sup> call – wrong, questionable, indecisive O/ B
  - 1<sup>st</sup> foul soft, indecisive, wrong
  - first offender missed, called the 2<sup>nd</sup> one
4. 2<sup>nd</sup> violation or foul is inconsistent or missed
  - rebound judged a giveback one end/ foul the other end
5. 3<sup>rd</sup> violation or foul is questionable & goes against same team
6. Pet violations called by one official ie. Too many travels, 3 secs, etc
7. Screw up rule or rule change – over/back, breakaway or inbound foul
8. Report to table is not clear – get called back by scorekeeper
9. Clock doesn't start or stop
10. 24 sec violation missed/ toe on line – 3 is 2 or 2 is 3
11. Charge one end/ Block the other or worse yet - Blarge
12. Press coverage not picked up and big contact missed
13. Fouls 4 – 0, then 5 or 6 are soft or first foul on other team not called
14. Missed penalty or wrong shooter
15. End of quarter/ half not communicated as crew

16. Sub administartion & time out awareness poor
17. Coach A focused/ B is volatile – how to manage?
18. End of game scenarios – last 2 minutes/ advance to center
  - need to foul/ who?
  - 2 or 3 pt shot/ tie game/ 1, 2, 3 pt spread

**stripes**

Official ABOANewsletter

Editor: Ken Runquist

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