



BCAM April, 2016 Monthly Report

Tom Hursey – Executive Director

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

TO SEED OR NOT TO SEED? AN EASY QUESTION, AND EASY ANSWER – YES or NO.

The tougher question is HOW TO SEED? I mentioned in the March Monthly Report that if 50 coaches responded that they would like to see a survey sent to BCAM members concerning seeding the state tournament, it would happen. Responses trickled in until Graham Couch, sportswriter for the Lansing State Journal, wrote an article expressing the need for seeding. Graham's article is printed in this Monthly Report. His article spurred enough responses to warrant a survey. Once things settle down this spring, a survey will be emailed out to all head varsity high school BCAM coaches.

Having been involved in non-seeded tournaments during my coaching career, I have mixed feelings. When my team was one of the district favorites, seeding might have helped my team reach the final game. But when my team was not that good, I would hope to play in a bracket that might allow me to win a couple of games. With that being said, please look for the survey and respond.

I am always amazed at the quality and efficiency of our state basketball tournaments each year. I am also impressed with the improvement of the presentation of the games over the last few years. Instead of halftime and quarter breaks of yawning and checking out our mobile phones, we are now entertained with special shooting contests highlighted with BCAM's Top Shooters Challenge in which the top 3-point and free throw shooters are brought to the state finals to settle 'who is the best.' The pre-game introductions are started with a video of previous years' highlights. The Miss and Mr. Basketball recipients are honored during a quarter break. Scholar-athletes have their successful careers spotlighted at center court. The HoopFest during the boys' finals is non-stop action for kids of all ages (held at Jenison Fieldhouse). Special awards for outstanding achievement are given to longtime athletic administrators who have given most of their lives to high school sports. And let's not forget the BCAM HOSPITALITY ROOM which is made available to coaches, officials and their guests. The MHSAA shares in the cost of this event. Again this year, over 400 were in attendance. My cap again goes off to the MHSAA, especially Nate Hampton, for their efforts in producing one of the top state championship formats in the country.

Specialization by young athletes is becoming more of an issue in youth and high school sports. Later in this Monthly Report are some excerpts from an article written by Jack Roberts, Ex. Director of the MHSAA – [Multi-Sport Participation Finally Getting Multi-Level Support](#). The MHSAA is taking the initiative to educate high school student/athletes as to the health concerns brought on by specialization. Please take time to read.

Another good read that is posted later in this Monthly Report is entitled GETTING GOOD vs. GETTING SEEN. It might help you with parents pushing their kid into club/AAU teams in the off-season.

The BCAM Awards Program has been underway for over a month. Hundreds of awards will be given to outstanding players and coaches. This program is only as good as the members who nominate their players. We have many deserving players and coaches that go unnoticed because their coach or peers do not nominate them. And there are many members who do not take the time to vote. With our online process to nominate and vote, there is no excuse to not participate. Please take a couple of minutes to make our Awards Program even more valid than it already is.

Finally, I continue to be amazed at BCAM's growth in recent years. We must be doing something right. No question that our "School Membership" special is one of the main reasons for our large membership (over 5400 members). **The School Membership accounts for 80% of BCAM's Members.** This year we had a total of **449 (52% of high schools and colleges)** schools sign up with the School Membership. If you aren't one of those schools, make sure this summer that you get your entire staff signed up with this great cost saving program.

BCAM PLAYER/TEAM/COACH AWARDS – (Amy Heydenburg, BCAM Administrative Assistant)

The final nomination deadlines are drawing near for all the BCAM player/team awards. A **BIG Thank You** to all high school and college varsity coaches who took the time to nominate their players for BCAM awards!! It always saddens me to see some of the best players in the state not win a BCAM award because their coach did not take the time or care to nominate them.

BCAM's BEST (All-State) is already published and more will be following in the next few weeks. As all awards are finalized, they will promptly be put on the BCAM homepage "carousel".

When you nominate players, I cannot stress enough how important it is that you receive a confirmation email after you submit EVERY nomination. This is your **only proof** that we received your nomination. Keep these confirmation emails until after the selections are made.

Ballots will be emailed on Sunday 4/3 for Boys and Girls Regional High School Varsity Coach of the Year. If you are an "actively coaching" (non-college) BCAM member, you should receive two ballots for COY. Ballots will come from Survey Monkey. If you do not receive them, check your spam folder before contacting amy@bcam.org. Deadline to vote is April 13.



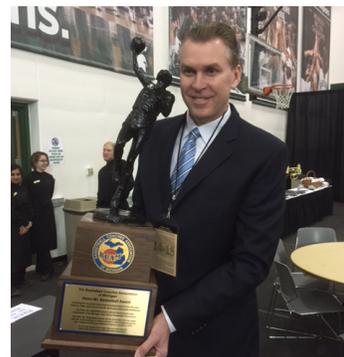
BCAM SELECTS TWO OUTSTANDING STUDENT/ATHLETES FOR MISS & MR. BASKETBALL: Kysre Gondrezick (Benton Harbor) and Cassius Winston (Detroit UofD Jesuit HS) were voted this year's Miss Basketball and Mr. Basketball. Write ups and results on these two great players can be found on the homepage of www.bcam.org. In addition, both of these players were also named Michigan's Gatorade Player of the Year. Congratulations to Kysre and Cassius.



BCAM ANNOUNCES NEXT WAVE OF RETRO MR. BASKETBALL WINNERS: Seven years ago, the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan launched a decade long program designed to identify and honor the state's greatest high school basketball players for the years 1920 through 1980. This year, we honor those seniors for the years that end in six – 1926, 1936, 1946, 1956, 1966 and 1976. (See the complete article about this year's and past winners on the homepage at www.bcam.org):

- 1976 STUART HOUSE – Detroit Denby**
- 1966 RUDY TOMJANOVICH – Hamtramck**
- 1956 MEL PETERSON – Stephenson**
- 1946 JACK FORESTIERI – Benton Harbor**
- 1936 CHARLES PINK – Detroit Northwestern**
- 1926 ROGER GROVE - Sturgis**

At right: Tim McCormick (Clarkston HS) holds the Retro Mr. Basketball trophy. Tim was in the first group of Retro Mr. Basketball winners for the year 1980. The trophy is the original Mr. Basketball trophy that was retired in 2014.



TOP SHOOTERS SHOOT IT OUT AT GIRLS AND BOYS STATE FINALS:

20 top shooters in the state in girls' and boys' 3-point and free throw shooting were invited to the state finals for the 7th Annual Top Shooters Challenge. A preliminary contest was held to determine the top two shooters in each category. These top two shooters shot at one of the half-times of the state finals to determine a winner. In the girls' division Maggie Rogers (Rochester Adams) and Terese Ledy (Marquette) tied as winners in the free throw contest. Ellie Taylor (Midland Dow) was victorious by two shots over (Goodrich's) Madison Stevenson in the 3-point contest. For the boys, Hunter Ruell (Manton) placed first by two over Justin Bradford (Sparta) in free throws while Chase VanderKlay (Wyoming) repeated as 3-point champion with (Lake Linden-Hubbell's) Arthur Lyons as runner-up.



Contestants are chosen based on player's FT and 3pt shooting percentage during the regular season (must have 50 shot minimum for the season). The top 20 players who are nominated for the BCAM Top Shooters Award by the "early deadline" are invited to participate.

Above: Girls Co-Champion Maggie Rogers shoots while her competitor Terese Ledy waits her turn.

Below: The group of girls' 3 point contestants pose for a photo.



Below: Boys 3pt contestants. Second photo: Boys FT contestants.



MARYSVILLE H.S. SETS C. VS C. RECORD: (Submitted by: Ms. Erin Potts - AP History Teacher - Marysville HS)

Marysville High School set a new fundraising record on February 5th with their fourth annual Coaches vs Cancer event, which raised \$11,004.49 for their local Relay for Life and the American Cancer Society. In 2015 MHS raised over \$8,000 and ranked #5 out of all Coaches vs. Cancer events in the Lakeshore division, which includes Michigan, Illinois, and

Indiana. This event was a total team effort that involved all levels of the boys and girls basketball program, countless students and staff, and the community as a whole. The fundraising total was made possible through a combination of business sponsorships, shirt sales, raffle sales, pledge card drive, penny wars, and more. Our coaching staff is proud to support this cause and is dedicated to continuing their efforts to fund cancer research and support cancer patients.



MAKE THE STAT SHEET WORK TO TEACH THE GAME: *By Bob Taylor, (Long time high school, college and youth coach and former BCAM Board Member)*

When I first started watching my kids play I learned that some parents paid their child to score. Many did it in an attempt to make the player more aggressive. In fact, some paid for shots!

Youth coaches could modify this idea to help teach the game by using a scoring system that rewards assists, rebounds, shot selection, and steals.

At Dow High School we have a great system entitled “Impact Points to Winning”. Fred Queary, an engineer who’s an avid basketball fan has put together a plus/minus system that is a great tool to teach athletes there is more to the game than just scoring. Dow High has used this system for years. Fred has a point value (positive and negative) assigned to various stats. Your “Impact” to winning is measured by rebounding, assists, and steals in a positive way and missed shots and turnovers in a negative way. If we can start getting youth to realize the value in contributing to a total floor game vs. scoring, the game will be much better off.

In many ways it’s our fault that the scorebook is the only official documentation we keep.

Most teams have many parents who help or observe games. You could even give this job to the “loudest parent” to keep them quiet while using this stat system to teach your athletes how to play the game better.

If anyone would like to learn more about this program from Fred Queary, email me at bt2857@gmail.com.

SHOULD WE SEED OUR TOURNAMENT? *Here is one sportswriter’s point of view:*

It’s the perpetual randomness of the Michigan high school basketball playoff pairings that’s bewildering, the absence of logic that’s aggravating. It’s been more than two decades since Okemos’ fifth-ranked boys basketball team played top-ranked Lansing Sexton in a Class A district opener in 1994. The first day of the postseason and the previously unbeaten Chieftains were done, victims of a crummy draw and a senseless system. As a 14-year-old freshman at Sexton, with little common sense of my own, I realized then that adults aren’t that bright, either.

All these years later, undefeated [East Lansing played 16-4 DeWitt Wednesday night in a Class A district semifinal](#). The Trojans had already played on Monday night, while one-win Lansing Eastern, on the other side of the bracket, drew a bye straight to the semis. No seeds. Random luck. Another pointless regular season. Fairness and reason — staples of any sound educational setting — kicked to the curb. That’s going to change shortly. Believe me: The Michigan High School Athletic Association will have a seeded postseason basketball tournament. When and how is all that’s left to be worked out.

It could be in place by next year if coaches speak up. Otherwise, it won’t be long. Too many coaches want it. Generations are turning over. And the status quo is indefensible. I know my peer group and the one a few years behind it. We are flawed and fickle. But we don’t like to look stupid. Michigan high school basketball, right now, looks stupid. This is not how it’s done in other states. Or anywhere in competitive athletics.

The latest groundswell for change began with last year’s girls Class B district opener between Williamston and Haslett, two top 10 teams — [one of which saw little of the March Madness experience it had earned](#). It prompted Williamson’s coach Pete Cool to reach out through a friend to one of the more renowned analytics minds in sports, former Michigan State University director of basketball operations Kevin Pauga, now an assistant athletic director at MSU. [Pauga is also known nationally for KPI Sports](#) algorithms, a transparent and layered metrics system that quantifies a team’s resume by assigning a value to each game — measuring home and road wins, percentage of total points and quality of

opponents within a 25-step process. The NCAA tournament selection committee has begun using it among its metrics and MSU has for years trusted KPI in putting together its non-conference schedule.

Pauga met last June with Cool, Basketball Coaches Association (BCAM) executive director Tom Hursey and MHSAA assistant director Nate Hampton. And then, throughout the year, he worked in the background, reaching out to coaches and reading the room in a state that's always done it one way. "I kind of got the feel (people thought) there might be a better way to do it, but nobody was sure what that was," Pauga said. Michigan high school sports are guided by a geographic principle above all else. This is, in part, out of necessity, given the state's size and the sparse population up north. But geographic principle and tournament seeding aren't mutually exclusive.

So Saturday morning, after the boys high school regular season was complete, Pauga went to work on a mock bracket for the Class A boys playoffs using the KPI formula. He ranked the schools in each pre-determined regional and then assigned them a district based on ranking and distance. Each No. 1 seed would play in the closest district to them, but no two No. 1 seeds could be in the same district. For example, based on the KPI formula, both East Lansing and DeWitt would be No. 1 seeds, so they wouldn't have met Wednesday night. Instead, DeWitt would have been the No. 1 seed in the Holt district. East Lansing would have Wednesday played the winner of 4-seed Haslett and 5-seed Mattawan. The average miles traveled for teams statewide increased modestly from 14.9 to 18.4 in Pauga's bracket. But there were outliers. Waverly, under the KPI formula, had it worst, sent to the Sturgis regional 90 miles away.

"That was the one that stood out," Pauga said. "But I don't want to fudge this to prove a point. I'd rather show, 'This is one or two things to avoid.'" Whether Pauga's KPI is the answer is less important than moving toward an answer.

The MHSAA isn't preventing progress. "We're open to it," said spokesman Geoff Kimmerly, formerly the Lansing State Journal's prep editor. "We know that there are coaches who are into it. We're certainly into checking out the possibilities. I think on our end, we would forecast having it turn out something like how our football (playoff) points work out." Kimmerly believes the only feasible way is to seed the districts and not the regionals — thus avoiding the Waverly to Sturgis scenario.

"The challenge here, it has to be complicated enough to include the right variables, because we want to be able to reward strength of schedule like we do in football," Kimmerly said. "But it also can't be so complicated that the average fan can't figure out what we're doing. I think that's a key there." KPI could be that — adjusted to seed districts only and published every week so schools knew where they stood.

Any policy change will be made by the MHSAA's representative council based on a proposal from its basketball committee — made up of ADs and coaches. But change begins with the coaches themselves. Perhaps simply by checking their email in-boxes. BCAM's Hursey sent out 5,000 emails on the subject March 1, telling the coaches association members that if he received 50 responses, he'd put together a more formal survey. "So far we've got like 20 coaches who have replied to it," Hursey said Wednesday, nine days later. "We feel as an association, for us to get a change at the state level, we probably need 75 percent of our coaches or better to support something like that." A previous survey, several years ago, was in the 65-percent range.

The hesitation for some, Hursey surmises, is that it doesn't benefit coaches of lesser programs. Pauga heard two arguments against seeding the postseason: It's a fresh start, everybody is 0-0 and has a fair chance going in; and we've always done it this way.

Those are two horrible answers — the latter soon to be crushed by a Millennial generation landing more of these coaching jobs. As to a "fair chance" for everyone, nothing was fair about East Lansing and DeWitt playing Wednesday night. "If you have an outstanding season, you should be rewarded somehow in the playoffs," East Lansing coach Steve Finamore said Wednesday, several hours before the game. "I guarantee you, if you talk to 100 coaches, 100 say they would like the seeding. Especially younger guys. ... I don't think surveys are going to do anything, because people don't like filling out surveys."

This isn't Finamore's first postseason headache. East Lansing and Okemos met in the first round of districts five years ago under similar circumstances. "We were (No.) 7 or 8 in the state," he said. "They were right there, 10 or 11. And we played them on that Monday night and we lost and our season was over. "I mean the kids (this year) have a great accomplishment. We went undefeated in the regular season, we won the conference regular-season championship. I don't want to put a damper on it, it was one of our goals, but ..."

No need to explain, Steve. It didn't make sense 22 years ago. It doesn't today.

Graham Couch (Lansing State Journal) gcouch@lsj.com. Follow him on Twitter @Graham_Couch.

Getting Good vs. Getting Seen - Why Play AAU Basketball?

It was a great night for High School basketball. I was in a gym packed with fans, it was a regional playoff game, and the winning team would qualify for the State Tournament. I was proud to watch the game, between the two teams playing I had trained nine of the players in the game.

They all played hard, a few played well, and in the end it was a lopsided victory for the more experienced, better coached team that made more shots...

After the game the parents of one of the guys I had trained approached me. They were upset, their team had lost, their son hadn't played much and he hadn't played particularly well outside of a big dunk towards the end of the game.

“Tyler,” they said, “We need to get Jonathan on a good AAU team this summer.”

I grunted non-committally.

They went on, “He really wants to play in college and right now he doesn’t have any options. We need to find the right team and the right coach that will get to the right tournaments. Can you help us find the right team?”

They are loving, supportive, well intentioned parents. They want the best for their son. I decided to share the truth with love, and here is what I laid out for them...

- Jonathan didn’t start for a team that lost by a lot in regionals.
- Jonathan is a 6'5" Post player.
- Jonathan can’t dribble by a defender or shoot well from fifteen feet.
- Jonathan can’t defend a wing and won’t play Post in College.
- If a College coach did see him this summer they would dismiss him almost immediately and not think of him again.

These are TOUGH things to hear, but they needed to be said.

Jonathan needs to get GOOD before he even thinks about getting SEEN. Jonathan needs to spend 2–3 hours a day training his skills. He needs to be able to face the basket and beat a defender 1 on 1. He needs to be able to consistently make threes and elbow jumpers. He needs to be able to defend perimeter players. He needs to be able to pass and make plays at speed. He DOES NOT need to get seen by college coaches until he gets good.

Let’s do some math. If Jonathan gets on a “good” AAU team and travels to a viewing tournament somewhere, between all the travel, games, and useless hours sitting in a hotel or in a van he will probably invest five days in that one tournament. Over those five days he will probably play five games. The average high school player that isn’t the star or point guard has the ball in their hands 1:47 a game. In those five games he will have the ball in his hands against good competition doing something that makes him better a grand total of 10 minutes.

10 minutes!

AAU Tournament 5 days = 10 minutes of valuable training time.

If Jonathan chose instead to stay home during those five days he could have spent those five days like this:

Morning Basketball Training: 40 minutes lifting, 1 hour basketball shooting, 20 minutes ball handling.

Afternoon Basketball Training: 1 hour basketball shooting, 20 minutes footwork, 20 minutes ball handling, 20 minutes agility training and 1 hour pick-up games.

That is 5 hours per day.

Getting good in the gym 5 days = 25 hours of valuable training time.

If you are good, a college coach will find you.

Don’t waste time nearly every weekend this summer trying to get seen when you are not yet good enough. Get good first, then get seen. Play pick up with players that are better than you, do things you don’t get to normally do on your team. Stretch yourself to do things others won’t.

It is insane to keep doing the same things and expect different results.

Now, with all that being said, there is a place for AAU. Being on a team with better players that push you to be better has some value.

Just getting on a good AAU team will not get you a scholarship or a jump shot. Just playing against better players will not make you a college basketball player. The only way to get that opportunity is to do the painful, boring work in the dark where no one is watching or motivating you. Only then will you be seen in front of the lights. There are no shortcuts. The truth is this.

Go and do your work to get good. Don’t waste your time thinking about how you will get seen.

#STAYUP

Tyler Coston is the Director of Basketball Development for PGC Basketball.

Register for a [PGC Basketball Camp](#) this summer and GET GOOD!

MULTI-SPORT PARTICIPATON FINALLY GETTING MULTI-LEVEL SUPPORT: (John E. "Jack" Roberts –MHSAA)

We've learned that Big Ten football coaches favor recruits who play more than football in high school. We've learned that our fantastic Women's World Cup Soccer champions were almost all multiple-sport athletes in secondary school. And now we see several dozen amateur and professional sports organizations have joined a campaign to oppose the negative trends in youth sports and to promote a more balanced, healthier sports experience for children and adolescents.

And there it is - a healthier experience. Suddenly, our philosophy that multiple-sport participation is better for youth than sport specialization has been made a health and safety issue, which we've known all along but have not emphasized enough.

Now, with attention to over-use injuries and burnout, sport specialization has become a health and safety crisis on the level of concussions, heat illness and sudden cardiac arrest. Multi-sport participation has become a health and safety imperative. A matter of good public policy.

The MHSAA intends to ride this wave for all it's worth, and hopes the currents flow into communities and households. In the same way the environment movement catches fire when presented as a human rights issue – that people everywhere have a basic right to clean air and water – sport specialization must be recognized as a threat to young persons' safety – a risk as great as head trauma, heat illness and heart failure, requiring the kind of bold policies and programs we've implemented in recent years to address those equally serious problems.

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