



*December 2017*  
*BCA M Monthly Report*

**FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (Tom Hursey):** When you receive this Monthly Report you are either into your season or just about to start. Now the fun begins. Hopefully you feel good about getting started. Now you get to see if all your off-season work and pre-season practices will pay off. I wish every coach Good Luck and success. Keep in mind that success can be measured many different ways. Success can be winning games but there are more important lessons to be learned as you go through the season that can be called success...teamwork, sportsmanship, friendship, improvement, reaching goals, etc. Remember that when the season ends there will be as many losses as there will be victories. **FIND WAYS TO DEFINE SUCCESS OTHER THAN VICTORIES.**

I have included some articles later in the Monthly Report that you can pass on to your players. They include Building Confidence, Most Valuable Teammate, Passing the Rope and How to Handle a Loss. There is a seeding update, an important notice if you think you have a Miss or Mr. Basketball candidate and a very good article on Coach/Official Communication.

Enjoy the journey!

**SOUTH LYON TEACHER/COACH HONORED BY TODAY SHOW** - A very moving story...check it out!

<https://www.today.com/video/watch-a-deserving-teacher-get-surprised-by-his-whole-school-live-on-today-1096492611742>

**DO YOU HAVE A MISS BASKETBALL OR MR. BASKETBALL CANDIDATE? PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING:**

Since we are looking for the Number 1 senior girl basketball player and the Number 1 senior boy basketball player in the state AND these players would be Division 1 players in college, only nominate a player that is being recruited by D1 colleges. You will be asked if your player has D1 offers. These nominations will be considered when selecting the "Outstanding Players" Watch List.

Email your nomination (Girls) to: Dorene Ingalls ([doreneingalls@hotmail.com](mailto:doreneingalls@hotmail.com)) and (Boys) to: Al Snyder ([aesnyder9@gmail.com](mailto:aesnyder9@gmail.com)).



## Seeking Input on Seeding – In case you missed Jack Roberts' Blog...

From November 21, 2017

Seeding is a part of some levels of some Michigan High School Athletic Association tournaments, but no part of any level of MHSAA tournaments for other sports. The decisions are made sport-by-sport and level-by-level after sufficient understanding of a specific plan and broad support.

Seeding deals with logistics, not a fundamental value of educational athletics. It gets outsized attention for its importance, having nothing to do with the interactions that lead to learning and growing in interscholastic athletics. It's another byproduct of the ever-increasing influence of the pervasively promoted and televised NCAA's basketball tournaments over the past 25 years.

Michigan's high school sport most engaged in the topic now is, in fact, basketball. Discussions and surveys have been conducted regarding seeding at MHSAA District tournaments.

We've learned this summer and fall that a majority of our local school athletic directors favor seeding and do not think it will make regular-season scheduling more difficult nor cause coaches to delay or diminish substituting during regular season games.

We've learned that a majority favor a system that maintains geographically determined District tournaments and merely separates the top two seeded teams in each District, and continues to use a blind draw to place other teams assigned to the District on the bracket.

We've learned that a majority favors having the best two teams determined primarily through objective criteria assessed by an MHSAA created or controlled ranking system.

We've learned that while the majority favors these moves toward District seeding, there are significant pockets of opposition to any seeding at all in MHSAA basketball tournaments. At two of six Athletic Director In-Service meetings and at two of seven Update meetings in September and October, large majorities in attendance opposed seeding of District basketball tournaments; and voters were nearly evenly split at several other meeting sites.

The discernible pattern is that seeding loses support as one moves out of the more densely populated areas of Michigan. We need to better understand why this is so, and what's behind these regional or demographic preferences; then have the Representative Council make a decision at its meeting in March or May; and get this topic decided one way or the other.

There is so much else that is so much more important than seeding to the health of school-sponsored basketball that deserves the attention that seeding has been getting.

--Jack Roberts' blog can be accessed by going to: <https://www.mhsaa.com/news/blog-from-the-director>



*These BCAM Hall of Fame coaches were inducted into the Michigan High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame this fall. Congratulations! L to R: Don Palmer, Jim Maier, Mike Krogel, Mike Phelps, Ed Mehlberg, Jim Goorman.*



## **EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN COACH AND OFFICIALS:** *Mike Conlin, BOCCC Member and Assignor*

Last spring, I participated in a post season coaches meeting as the coordinator of officials. The discussion during the meeting quickly turned to coach/official communication. Coaches weren't concerned about rules or re-occurring plays that continue to be problematic. They were concerned about officials that wouldn't talk to them.

What I found most interesting is that most coaches in the room had no idea what is expected from officials from a supervisory standpoint. As someone who has/does manage officials from middle school through Division I college, here are the three main objectives of every official at any level.

1. Get plays right
2. Effectively communicate with coaches
3. Manage major moments

It is not the official's primary job to "talk to coaches". That being said, most would agree "good officials", are able to communicate effectively. When we are educating officials on communicating with coaches, we list several "keys to success".

1. Be a good listener. Listen to understand, don't listen to reply.
2. Answer questions. This sounds simple. What it means is officials don't need to respond every time the coach states or yells, "that's a foul" or "traveling". We teach officials to respond to legitimate questions.
3. Be honest. If you know you missed a play, tell the coach that. Be careful defending your position when it's possible you could be wrong.
4. Resist the urge to have the last word. Let the coach have that.

I believe there are also several "keys to success" for coaches to effectively communicate with officials.

1. PICK YOUR SPOTS - Too often coaches have something to say on every trip down the court. Coaches who do this, quickly lose credibility. Constantly complaining or "officiating" is not effectively communicating, it's just badgering.
2. MOVE ON – Once you've gotten the explanation of the play in question, move on to the next play.
3. FIGHT FAIR – Several types of unfair behaviors come to mind:
  - a. Yelling at officials from a long distance. There is no positive response from the official that's being yelled at. That official has 4 options:
    - i. Ignore the coach – negative
    - ii. Yell back at the coach – unprofessional
    - iii. Give the stop sign to the coach – negative
    - iv. Assess a Technical Foul to the coach – negative
  - b. Questioning the integrity of the officials, such as:
    - i. Stating the foul count. Stating "the fouls are 6-1" is suggesting the officials are cheating. If a team has fouled 6 times, the officials aren't to ignore continued fouls until the other team "catches up".
    - ii. Asking that the game be called "the same at both ends". That's inferring that the officials are cheating. If you have a concern that similar plays aren't being officiated the same. Ask that question.

Communication between coaches and officials is important. The responsibility is on both parties to do it effectively.



## Great YouTube video on building confidence: *(Pass this on to your players)*

3:38 min-- <https://youtu.be/IATcOpKQHao>

### **MOST VALUABLE TEAMMATE (MVT):** by Jeff Janssen, [www.JanssenSportsLeadership.com](http://www.JanssenSportsLeadership.com)

(Editor's Note: The following are excerpts from an article in the *Coach & AD* magazine. It outlines what it takes to become a model team member. Every team has at least one player, not necessarily the best players, who could be your MVT. BCAM has an award for this player...it is called the BCAM TEAM FIRST AWARD. At the end of the season, each team will be asked to submit that player's name and she/he will receive a TEAM FIRST certificate)

- 1. TEAM-FIRST MENTALITY:** The first ingredient of being an MVT is having a team-first mentality.
- 2. EXECUTE THEIR ROLE:** MVTs fully understand, take pride in, and fulfill their roles.
- 3. CONSIDER THE BEST WAY TO CONTRIBUTE:** MVTs continually look for ways they can help and contribute to the team.
- 4. CARE ABOUT TEAMMATES:** MVTs prioritize relationships. They connect with their teammates on a consistent basis and get to know each of them as individuals.
- 5. EXUDE POSITIVITY:** MVTs bring a palpable positive energy to the team.
- 6. PUSH THEIR TEAMMATES:** MVTs push their teammates to reach their full potential.
- 7. CELEBRATE TEAMMATE SUCCESSES:** The true hallmark of MVTs is their selfless ability to be happy about a teammate's success as they are of their own.
- 8. REQUIRE ACCOUNTABILITY:** MVTs also realize they must hold themselves and teammates accountable to the standards of the team.
- 9. HAVE THE TEAM'S BACK:** MVTs are there for their teammates through thick and thin and refuse to let them down.
- 10. DEPENDABLY DELIVER RESULTS:** Come hell or high water, MVTs will move heaven and earth to get the job done because their teammates depend on them.

## Pass the Rope (Here is a concept that you might consider)

<http://training-conditioning.com/performance/pass-rope>



David Gentry, Head Coach at Murphy (N.C.) High School, has amassed more than 350 wins—the most in Western North Carolina history. He's collected six state titles. And he was named the NFHS National Coach of the Year in 2013.

If you assume the secrets to his success are all about Xs and Os, you'd be mistaken. What has been most important to racking up wins, he says, is developing relationships. This starts by Gentry connecting with his players on a daily basis.

“If I don't show my players I care about them, how can I expect them to buy into what I want them to do on the field?” Gentry says. “I reach out to my athletes every day, asking them how things are going in class or at home, for example. They appreciate that I show an interest in their lives.”

Just as important is players developing strong camaraderie among themselves. Gentry doesn't do a lot of team building exercises. Instead, he continues a Murphy tradition known as Passing the Rope.

Every year, after the first practice of the season, Gentry gives a short length of rope to one player he feels best embodied the characteristics of teamwork and sacrifice that day. At the next practice, that player gives the rope to one of his teammates, and this continues at subsequent practices. Every day throughout the season, the rope is handed from one player to another.

"I tell the players to imagine they've fallen into a well," Gentry explains. "For them to get out, someone else is going to need to take a rope and pull. Who are you going to want in a situation like that? Someone who puts others before themselves. So when you give that rope to a teammate, you're telling them, 'I'd trust you to pull the rope for me.' It's a huge honor in our program."

Another tradition that has helped players bond is a team breakfast that takes place in local restaurants on Friday mornings in August. "We don't do a ton of team get-togethers, but this one has really taken hold," says Gentry. "The staff and players meet for breakfast before practice and we talk about how fortunate we are to be alive and healthy. Sometimes, high school kids take things like that for granted. We want to remind them of all they have—so they learn to appreciate it."

When the spotlight is on the football field, the focus continues to be on the team over the individual. "Like most programs, we give our athletes helmet stickers when they make a good play," says Gentry. "But we only do that if we win a game. I always want my players to remember that their success isn't as important as our success, and this is a way to remind them."



## HOW TO HANDLE A LOSS

On January 19, 1974 in South Bend, Indiana, John Wooden entered the locker room to talk to his team. They had just lost to Notre Dame 71 to 70, ending the UCLA team's record setting 88 game win streak. Coach Wooden's post-game speech was short and to the point; no drama:

*We got licked. I don't want to hear any whining or complaining. If you happen to be asked anything about the other team, say only good things. Now let's get showered and get out of here.*

Coach described his approach to handling winning and losing this way:

*I never wanted excessive jubilation because we outscored somebody in a game, nor did I want excessive dejection if we were outscored. You're not going to feel the same, that is true, but I want nothing excessive.*

*I want that peace within yourself, knowing that you tried your best; then we will not have anything excessive either way.*

A player hanging his head after a loss and being dramatic is like a person waiting for applause because they have a tooth ache. I don't agree with the idea somebody *takes losing really hard because they are so competitive*. The two things are unrelated. You get dejected over losing due to a lack of self-control. If you are competitive you go back to the gym and make 200 shots after a sub-par performance, you don't whine or complain.

Coach liked to say: "A mistake is valuable if you do four things with it: recognize it, admit it, learn from it, forget it." You can apply the same attitude to a loss.

Coach Wooden did not dwell on the past, he put it this way:

*Today is the only day that matters; it's the only day you can do anything about. Make each day your masterpiece.*

*The past will never change; anything that happened will never change. The future is yet to be; you've just got to concentrate on today and if you do that, the future will take care of itself.*

In the poem *If*, Rudyard Kipling gives his son the following advice on handling a loss and making the transition from being a boy to manhood:

*If you can make one heap of all your winnings  
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,  
And lose, and start again at your beginnings  
And never breathe a word about your loss;  
You'll be a Man, my son!*

For John Wooden, his life was based on faith, family and friends. Winning and losing did not define him. John Wooden defined himself on how considerate he was of other people, not on whether his teams won or lost basketball games.

How do you define yourself?

Yours in Coaching, Craig Impelman [www.woodenswisdom.com](http://www.woodenswisdom.com)



“A smart man makes a mistake, learns from it, and never makes that mistake again. But a wise man finds a smart man and learns from him how to avoid the mistake altogether.”—

**Roy H. Williams**

“The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather a lack in will.”— **Vince Lombardi**

“When you have confidence, you can have a lot of fun. And when you have fun, you can do amazing things.”— **Joe Namath**

"The true joy in life is to be a force of fortune instead of a selfish clod of ailment and grievances complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy." - **George Bernard Shaw**