



Basketball Bulletin

No. 2 For Athletic Directors, Basketball Coaches, Basketball Officials and Basketball Observers February 21, 2008

Now is NOT the time to neglect our pre-game conferences. The price of poker is going up and we need to be at our best and be ready for every possible tough situation that will arise during our games. And you can be sure, tough situations are going to arise.

A couple of items that need to be talked about in our pre-game conferences:

1) **Traveling in the post area:** Who has primary responsibility for the physical action by the post player with the ball and physical play of the defender and who then has responsibility for the foot movement of the post player with the ball? Needless to say, the responsibility of both of these actions does not lie solely with the lead official. Spell it out in our pre-game which officials are keying in on what. It appears from coaches comments and film clips that while we are doing a good job on the traveling aspect in these situations we are missing some traveling calls. These traveling omissions can result not in a basket by the offender but a foul on the defender. This can become a big momentum swing.

2) **Off ball coverage following a whistle for a foul or a violation:** This pertains to the two officials not responsible for the whistle. Your immediate responsibility following a whistle by your partner IS to become a GREAT dead ball official immediately. No need to chase the ball and take our eyes off the players on the court. No need to rush to your new position. Your immediate responsibility to view the action of all 10 players on the court until we are ready to put the ball in play again. Our worst nightmares occur during dead ball situations. Do not let anything go undetected on your watch. This time of the season emotions run high and frustration can set it. Be there!!

3) **Clock management:** Some of us are great clock managers and some are getting better at it and some of need to improve. Whichever category you rank yourself in at this point...GET BETTER.

Don't be like the collegiate official in the area who recently told a coach after an obvious 9 to 10 seconds ran off the clock and was not going to be replaced "don't worry coach, it's not going to make any difference in this game"

4) Lastly and most importantly: I personally want to thank you all for a great ride in the North Central Conference.

The end of this season will be 40 years for me in the NCC, the last 10 working in a supervisory position with officials. It has been great and I can't begin to thank you enough for the good times and great memories.

The bad news is, of course, the NCC is done. The good news, at least for me, is that I will continue to be involved with basketball officiating in the soon to be enlarged Northern Sun Conference. God bless!