

NA FALL BALL WEEK #7 RECAP ACCORDING TO FENNIS DEMBO

Week # 7 is now dust in the wind. On the second to last week of the regular season we saw cool temperatures and the leaves were falling at a higher % than the jump shots in the barn. Postgame meetings outside may need to be relocated inside to ensure no frostbite. The seedings are starting to take shape and only one week left to make some moves. So lets' recap week #7 of NA FALLBALL

NORTH ANDOVER 67 LONDONDERRY 64. This was a pretty good game between two teams still finding their way. Londonderry was the better team in the first half and NA was the better team in the second half. The Robbie Couymoudjian vs. Jake Coleman matchup was a good one as both teams' best players just play and produce. NA built a 9 point lead late but the Lancers would not go away. A Jake Coleman game tying 3 pointer fell short and The Knights won their third straight and for the first time in three years NA is above .500 this late in the fall season. Despite the losing effort Jake Coleman's performance was one of the top ten of the fall

WACHUSETT 56 CHELMSFORD 51. The Mountaineers like the Knights have won 3 straight. This team is starting to truly adjust to the speed and physicality of this league after a slow start in September. Tyler Burgess with 19 points and 12 rebounds and Tyler Dion 14 points 5 assists and 4 rebounds were the two best players on the floor. Austin Chadwick once again led the Lions with 20 points. Chelmsford doesn't have a ton of talent but clearly every week they compete and are in every game because of how hard they play

METHUEN 57 SALEM 44. This was another game of two halves and two different teams. In the first half I was impressed with how Salem was taking a page out of the Methuen manuscript as they were the harder working team, they were aggressive on both sides of the ball and led by 14 at one point. In the second half a light switch went off and the teams switched roles as the Rangers just wanted it more in the second half securing a nice 13 point win. Methuen had 3 players reach double figures led by Evan Hardy's 13 points and Salem got another fine performance from point guard Matt McLaughlin with 12 points, 2 assists and 6 rebounds.

WESTFORD 81 ANDOVER 42. I know Andover is missing players and I know they are my enigma team but tonight the Golden Warriors were absolutely run out of the barn by the Grey Ghosts. WA size, was impressive as their starting front court of Baltayan, Hartmann and Coffey scored

56 of the 81 points. WA is also missing 3 guys every week that will be rotation guys this winter. Westford is good. Andover needs to play harder than they did tonight to make a run this fall.

LAWRENCE 59 LOWELL 34. Lawrence as I have preached are legit. They are now 7-0 and 3 of their last 4 wins have been by 20 plus. No superstars but they are a team. I am not sure they can run the table to be back to back champions but until someone knocks them off they are the team to beat. Lowell is reeling 5 straight losses and the personnel is all over the place. They are too talented to be 2-5

TEWKSBURY 73 ST JOHNS PREP 64. Every week I hear how does Tewksbury keep competing and winning. The answer is not hard, they play hard on both sides of the ball, guys know their roles, and they know how to play together. Next question is well they only have Tenaglia and Derrah, well first both Nate and Justin are 2 of the best 15 players in this league and little do people know they have very good complementary players. SJP is not good right now! They were my pre- season favorite to win fall ball but right now an absolute head scratcher. The one glaring thing is unlike Tewksbury, guys don't know their roles, guys don't know their personnel and they don't play consistent enough to beat the good teams. I have a feeling things will change but we may not see that till the winter. Time to take a stand Eagles

PELHAM 80 TRITON 48. Vikings went out to an early 8 point lead and then it was all Pythons. Keith Brown with another outstanding game with 26 points 9 assists and rebounds. Colby Wilson was huge from deep and the Pythons are now 4-3. Triton got 15 points from Will Parsons and 16 points from Adam Baletsa but needs to play more aggressive and smarter

ST PETER MARIAN 58 HAVERHILL 43. The Guardians started out slow using two quick timeouts and then they decided to play the way they have played every game this fall. They regrouped played better defense and started to make shots. Haverhill played hard but could not put ball in the hoop. Darten, Zorilla and Langford were huge for SPM and Navin Cruz with his best game for the Hillies with 13 points and 3 assists

NEW MISSION 50 CENTRAL CATHOLIC 30. This was an ugly game between two good teams. The Raiders missed Kevin Fernandez & Tannahj Pettway a ton in this one as CC had their season high in turnovers. New Mission didn't play great but they definitely made CC play ugly. A number of Titans stepped up at various times to make plays. One highlight for CC was Ian Carmichael.

BILLERICA 48 PEABODY 35. Despite losing by 13 this was the best "team" basketball Peabody has played all fall. The Indians got to 6-1 after a slow start. Not his best game of fall but Josh Bradanese was once again the difference with 25 points and 9 rebounds

WEEK # 7 RESULTS

NORTH ANDOVER 67 (ROB COUUMOUDJIAN 15) **LONDONDERRY 64 (JAKE COLEMAN 27)**
WACHUSETT 56 (TYLER BURGESS 19) **CHELMSFORD 51 (AUSTIN CHADWICK 20)**
METHUEN 57 (EVAN HARDY 13) **SALEM 44 (MATT MCLAUGHLIN 12)**
WESTFORD 81 (PAT COFFEY 24) **ANDOVER 42 (JON RODRIGUES 14)**
LAWRENCE 59 (BENIAMMI RODRIGUES 19) **LOWELL 34 (QUEST HARRIS 12)**
TEWKSBURY 73 (NATE TENAGLIA 21) **ST JOHNS 64 (SPENCER DANFORTH 19)**
PELHAM 80 (KEITH BROWN 26) **TRITON 48 (WILL PARSONS 15)**
ST PETER MARIAN 58 (TJ DARTEN 18) **HAVERHILL 43 (NAVIN CRUZ 13)**
NEW MISSION 50 (CHARLES MITCHELL 13) **CENTRAL 30 (GEORGE GRILLAKIS 7)**
BILLERICA 48 (JOSH BRADANESE 25) **PEABODY 35 (JAKE GUSTIN 11)**



STANDINGS – HAVE BEEN UPDATED ON THE WEBSITE – PLEASE SEE –

NEXT WEEKS GAMES: PLEASE SEE WWW.NAFALLBALL.COM

NUTS & BOLTS:

- 4TH installment of leading scorers will be posted after week 8
- Next week is the last week of games at the McDome (Brooks School) all playoff games will be at the Barn
- Coaches Appreciation Buffet will be held next Monday and Tuesday on the second floor. Catered by Stacheys pizza this is for high school coaching staffs (no parents, players, groupies) Please go up before or after the game. Food will be coming at 6pm. Good chance to network and ball bust. Faz loves the food but not the fact people invade his personal skybox during this event
- NO SHIRT! NO PLAY!
- The players appreciation FREE SLICE / FREE DRINK WILL BE GIVEN OUT AFTER YOUR TEAMS FIRST PLAYOFF GAME....MORE DETAILS NEXT WEEK
- Coaches row has been shortened giving a few more seats to general population

PLAYOFFS:

MONDAY 11/9 5:15, 6:25, 7:35, 8:45 – PRELIM PLAYOFF GAMES SEEDS 13-20. Highest remaining seeds become seeds 13-16

TUESDAY 11/10 – 5:15, 6:25, 7:35, 8:45 – FIRST FOUR GAMES IN ROUND OF 16

MONDAY 11/16 – 5:15, 6:25, 7:35, 8:45 – SECOND FOUR GAMES IN ROUND OF 16

TUESDAY 11/17 – 5:15, 6:25, 7:35, 8:45 – QUARTERFINALS

MONDAY 11/23 5:15, 6:25 – SEMIFINALS 8:00 – FINALS

ZEBRAS THIS WEEK: BRIAN GLEASON, BRIAN MARTIN, BRIAN SCHAUFENBILL, KEVIN BOUTILIER, RALPH SULLY, RYAN WHOLLEY, JIM SLATTERY, RICH NAPOLITANO, TRACY MITCHELL, JULIEN SCOTT

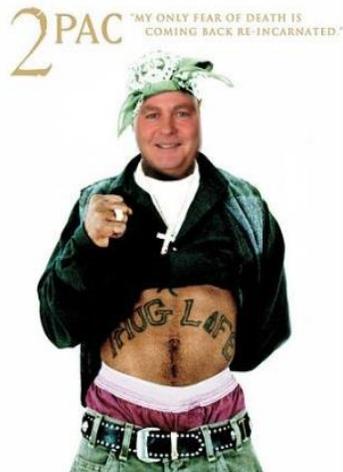
GAME OF THE WEEK: full disclosure there was not a true game of the week as some of the ones we expected to be the good ones did not meet the expectation. This week we are going with **METHUEN VS SALEM**. A tale of two halves but loved the effort by both teams, both benches were into it. Coaches were into it and both head coaches also compiled a list of things they liked and a list of things to work on. Both teams also have all humble and hungry players

TEAM OF THE WEEK: This weeks' nominees are NEW MISSION, LAWRENCE, WESTFORD, and WACHUSETT. The winner is the **NEW MISSION TITANS**. I don't think they played great but forcing 18 turnovers, limiting CC fg % to 25% until late and actually the way they played together gives them the slight nod over WESTFORD GREY GHOSTS who ran Andover out of the Gym

DO YOUR JOB WINNER WEEK 7: Nominees are CONNOR ROGERS (NA), TY LEE (NM), DEMARR LANGFORD (SPM), COLBY WILSON (P), TYLER DION (WACH), this week we are going with **DEMARR LANGFORD** of SPM. Demarr I have watched very closely and he has accepted his role for the Guardians and tonight did all the little things, utilizing his lanky body, getting into the lane and coming up big defensively and grabbing 10 boards. The kid has a lot of potential. Congrats DEMARR

BABY FACES? I DON'T THINK SO: This week from the freshman class we saw fine performances from **QUEST HARRIS** of Lowell and **DEMARR LANGFORD** of SPM, along with nice games by sophomores **GIOVANNI CHAMPA** of Tewksbury and **DARION JORDAN** of New Mission. I am a huge fan of all four and this week they brought it. Stay Hungry boys and bring it every week

PLAYER OF THE WEEK #7: So these are the nominees: **NATE TENAGLIA (T), KEITH BROWN (P), JOSH BRADANESE (B), MIKE BALTAYAN (WA), JAKE COLEMAN (LO), TYLER BURGESS (WACH), BENIAMMI RODRIGUES (LA)**. This was a tough decision this week as the big 3 of Tenaglia, Bradanese, and Brown could be named TRI – MVP like some of the high school leagues do but all three despite having strong games this week was not their best week. All three have been named Player of the Week in past weeks so we are going to go with the biggest surprise of the week in **MIKE BALTAYAN** of Westford Academy. Big Mike caused Andover fits and he had his most productive fall game with 18 points and 21 rebounds and 4 blocks. The junior is a work in progress but this week we honor him as week 7 player of the week. We have never named a player of the week if their team lost but honorable mention this week goes to Londonderry's **JAKE COLEMAN** who had one of the top 10 performances of the fall with 27 points 5 assists 6 rebounds. The point production is even more impressive when you see one of the strongest defenders in the league Robbie Couymoudjian in his grille all night. It is no wonder a number of NE 10 schools have told me they are watching the rising junior



HALLOWEEN

I WILL BE WEARING MY CUSTOMARY COSTUME FOR

WEEKLY PET PEEVES FOR WEEK #7

MONDAY	TUESDAY
THE WHINER LINE IS OPEN – ARE YOU KIDDING ME?	INABILITY TO COMPLETE PASSES – BROKEN RECORD HERE
PLAYERS WHO TAKE NO PERSONAL ACCOUNTABILITY – LEARN TODAY OR SIT TOMORROW	PLAYERS NOT COMING TO PLAY AT THE TIP OFF- GOTTA BE MORE THAN READY
INABILITY TO MAKE SOUND PASSES – PLEASE SEE THIS WEEKS RANT	INABILITY TO GRAB LOOSE BALLS- HOW BAD DO YOU WANT IT?
INABILITY TO FINISH WITH CONTACT – LEAVING POINTS OFF BOARD, GET STRONGER, GET BALANCED, FINISH	PLAYERS WHO DON'T HAVE A REAL FEEL FOR THE GAME – SOME WILL SOME NEVER WILL
KEEPING YOUR MAN IN FRONT OF YOU – ANGLES, MOVE YOUR FEET, COMPETE	POOR SHOT SLECTION, POOR SHOOTING % AND THE LACK OF GOOD SHOOTERS- PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE



POWER RANKINGS AFTER WEEK # 7

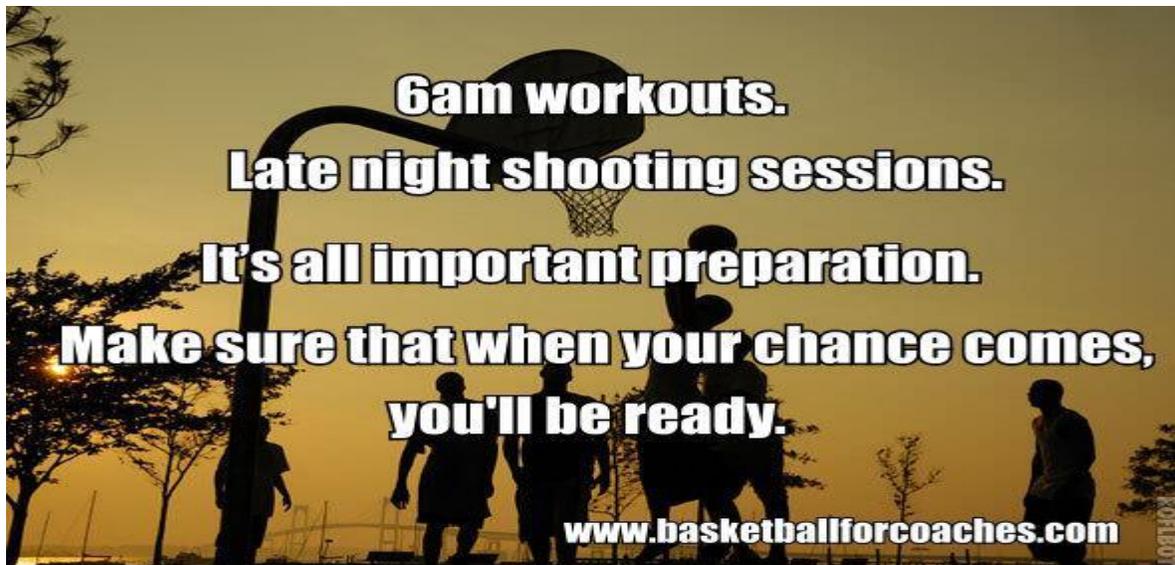
THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK
1.LAWRENCE 7-0	LAWRENCE 6-0
2.TEWKSBURY 6-1	CENTRAL CATHOLIC 5-1
3. NEW MISSION 5-2	TEWKSBURY 5-1
4. CENTRAL CATHOLIC 5-2	NEW MISSION 4-2
5. BILLERICA 6-1	BILLERICA 5-1

BIGGEST DROP: CC 2 TO 4

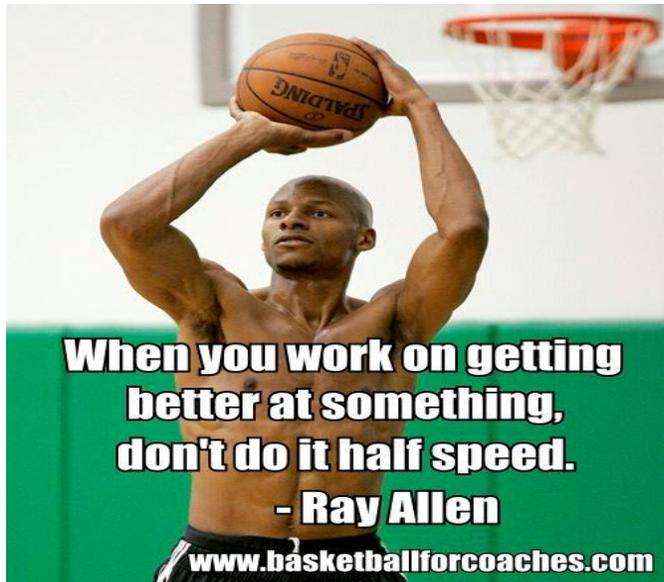
BIGGEST RISER: NORTH ANDOVER 14 TO 9

OUTSIDE LOOKING IN: WESTFORD 5-2, ST PETER MARIAN 5-2

IT'S NOT WHAT YOU DID LAST WEEK, LAST SUMMER OR WHAT YOU MIGHT BRING NEXT WEEK, IT'S WHAT YOU DID THIS WEEK



FACES IN THE CROWD: Billy Brinklow, Phil Conners, Tewksbury Mens Guild, Sean Derrah and family, Sean Kenneally, Josh Peters, T Choh, The Danforths, John Dullea and entourage, Jake McElroy, Johnny Bag o Donuts, Mrs. Tenaglia, Mr. Conners Sr. Raymond Nunez, Old time Lawrence fan at the wrong gym, Bobby Micalyzk, Frank the Tank, Ryan Middlemiss, David White, Robin Columbian, Myle Couymougian, The Cinserrulli's Rogers, Fowlers and Rosenthals, Julie Whipple, Mr. Whipple, Sister Whipple, The Bertrands, The Brittings, Mr. Coleman, Mr. Chisolm, kid who looked like Wabissa Bede, Tom Gibbons, Coach Dion, The Central Mass Lions Club, Charlie Micol, Mr. Beati, New Chelmsford fans, Lisa Lannon, Matt Curran, Tyrone Scott, wife and daughter, new Methuen Assistant coach, Anthony Faradie, Roger Hardy, Sgt. Mejia, Dante Rivera parents, Dean Colleti, Ken and Barbie, Rob Mclaughin, the artist formerly known as Bengie, The Curtis family, Mrs. Coffey, Tom Coffey, the Hartmann's, the Gliddens, John Warden, Pags, Mrs. Witten, old friend Tom Labrie, a relaxed Faz, Coach Hibino, Mr. Kim, Will the Thrill, the lovely Madeline, Jack Fowlers better half, Nate Stanton, Mike Dunham, Alex Larosa, figure skater Katrina, the infamous Trevor, Kevin Tanglis, Paul Tanglis, Bill Boutilier, Out of retirement Brian Martin, Pepe Lepu, Eagle Tribunes Bill Burt, former NA star Brian Schaufenbil, Manny Bello from Compass Cleaning, Meet the Pelham Browns, Coach Nystrom, Coach Sean, the Franks, Dave Clay, The Parsons, Salisbury Beach Restoration Committee members, Coach Fenderson, Guardians Pep Squad, Mrs. Roache, Cory McCarthy, New Mission Videographer, Mrs. Carmichael with a new hat, Rick Nault, Central Catholic Board of Trustees, Big Jim Zenevitch, the lovely Mrs. Grillakis, Lance Petka, Atty. Hajjar and the wife, injured Kevin Fernandez and Manny Sanchez, Marc Bradanese and son EROCK, Josh Bradanese girlfriend, Mrs. Baltayan, Billerica coaching staff, Liberty Tree Mall improvement society, Justin Barrasso, Roy Nickerson, Mr. Hommonnay, NA players down watching CC/NM, Kevin Bettencourt, Luke Richards, Steve "Bouda" Boudreau,



FASHION OF THE WEEK: Chelmsford Player Coach **Nick Beati** with a nice pair of Jordache jeans and black Italian made alligator shoes. Former winner **Bengi** with what we call the Tupac look with the bandana until the ref asked him to remove it if he was going to coach (c'mon zebra where is the love for fashion?) **Tom Labrie** from Andover with the post workout at the K OF C look. **Mrs. Witten** is always one of the best dressed people in the barn. **Tyrone Scott** with an impressive business meeting attire. **Justin Barrasso** was dressed in the clerk of the works outfit with beige pants and button down shirt. **Mrs. Carmichael** got in the mix with a new hat but the winner is **MRS WITTEN of ANDOVER**, the woman year in and year out always has fashion sense

HE SAID THAT? NO HE DIDN'T SAY THAT DID HE?

"Where do you guys get these refs? – disgruntled player.... Answer top level high school and college ranks young man

"I didn't see his hand" – disgruntled player when called out for not shaking hands with opposing coach.....

"My guy suffered the Curse of the Recap" – Charlie Micol when asked where his promising freshman was, out for the remainder of fall with injury

"We are just not very good right now" – John Dullea

"You need to come to your own emotional rescue" – Mick Jagger

"How come the refs don't call all these carries?" – Johnny Bag o Donuts



SEEDINGS AFTER WEEK 7 – THERE WILL BE MAJOR MOVEMENT I AM SURE AFTER WEEK 8 BUT IF THE PLAYOFFS STARTED TODAY THIS IS WHERE THINGS WOULD BE – TOTAL TRANSPARENCY – RECORD/HEAD TO HEAD / STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE

1. LAWRENCE 7-0
2. TEWKSBURY 6-1 SS
3. BILLERICA 6-1
4. NEW MISSION 5-2 H2H
5. CENTRAL CATH 5-2 SS
6. WESTFORD 5-2 SS
7. ST PETER MARIAN 5-2
8. NORTH ANDOVER 4-3 SS
9. PELHAM 4-3
10. WACHUSETT 4-3
11. ST JOHNS PREP 3-4 SS
12. METHUEN 3-4 SS
13. ANDOVER 3-4 SS
14. CHELMSFORD 3-4
15. SALEM 2-5 H2H
16. LOWELL 2-5
17. LONDONDERRY 1-6 SS
18. HAVERHILL 1-6 SS
19. TRITON 1-6
20. PEABODY 0-7

WHO BROUGHT IT DURING WEEK 7- DON'T TELL ME WHAT YOU DID LAST WEEK OR WHAT YOU DID THIS SUMMER AND PLEASE DON'T TELL ME WHAT YOU WILL BRING DOWN THE LINE. SHOW ME WHAT YOU BRING EVERY WEEK

Keith Brown once again came close to a triple double with 26 points, 9 assists and 8 rebounds as he continues to assault the fall ball record book. **Colby Wilson** can knock down shots and tonight he did 22 points with 6 assists. **Kyle Frank** with his third straight productive week with 13 points and 3 assists. **Cam Deleatto** 8 points 6 boards and **Ryan Nystrom** 9 points also contributed. Triton was led by **Will Parsons** with 15 points and 8 rebounds. The sophomore is going to have a strong winter season. **Adam Baletsa** is growing on me with 16 points, 2 assists and 7 rebounds. **Connor Henry** needs to realize how much he can impact a game. He has a great body and tonight had 8 points and 12 rebounds.

St Peter Marian with a nice win. **TJ Darten** continues to be offensively productive with 18 points but needs to be careful of hunting shots. TJ is a tough matchup. **Juan Zorilla** shot 50 % and had 15 points. **James Amarillo** is a slight wing but he has been productive. This week he had 9

points and as already discussed **Demarr Langford** was our **DO YOUR JOB WINNER FOR WEEK 7**. Haverhill got a great performance from **Navin Cruz** with 13 points, 3 assists (should have had a few more but missed layups). **Avery Ceron** was high rebound man with 6 and **Mike Battaini** had 5 points, 5 assists and 5 rebounds

Central struggled this week but **Ian Carmichael** did a nice job with the Titans front court. **George Grillakis** had a team high 7 points. Struggling a bit this fall from 3 land but always gives a great effort. **Sam Lara** had 6 points and 7 rebounds and seldom used reserves **Mitch Petka** 6 rebounds and **Dennis Quinn** 6 points and 4 rebounds impressed in limited minutes. New Mission **Charles Mitchell** with 13 points on 50% shooting. **Ty Lee** just does work every week. Tonight Ty had 10 points, 3 assists and 7 rebounds. **Charlie Mitchell** had 8 points 5 rebounds. I love **Darion Jordan** 5 points and 6 rebounds. Titans need to feed this guy a bit more. **Trahe Quales** may have altered 7 shots, had 3 blocks and was very active. The kid is good.

Josh Bradanese with another dominating performance. He did not shoot it well tonight but still scored 25 points with 9 rebounds as Peabody did not have an answer for him. Good to see **Jeff Trainor** back. The UMASS lacrosse recruit had 4 points 3 assists and 9 rebounds. **Brandon Jewer** had 7 points and three boards and **Joe Perrotta** had some nice moments. Peabody played some good team basketball tonight and some new guys stepped up. **Christian Teehan** had 10 points. **John Lawrence** was strong with 7 points, 2 assists and 2 rebounds. **Jake Gustin** with his best night with 11 points. **Chubukum Okungawa** with 7 rebounds

Lawrence is just getting the job done. **Benniammi Rodrigues** was terrific with 19 points and 5 rebounds. **Kevin Vanderhorst** with 11 points 5 assists and 2 rebounds. **Marcos Germossen** attacked for 12 points and **Ahian Rodrigues** chipped in 9. The only guy that brought it for Lowell tonight was promising freshman **Quest Harris** with 12 points

It was the BIG 2 plus Gio tonight for the Redmen. **Nate Tenaglia** 21 points 3 assists and 2 rebounds along with his motor and work ethic. **Justin Derrah** had 18 points and 4 rebounds and **Giovanna Champa** had 18 points and 4 rebounds. **Sean Moose and Ryan Briggs** do their job and **David Giuggio** added 9 points. The Eagles are struggling is an understatement. Tonight **Spencer Danforth** 19 points, 2 assists and 5 rebounds and **Harry O'Neil** 11 points were the lead dogs. **Brent McNiff** had 9 points and 6 rebounds and **Jimmy Yfantopolis** added 10 points off the bench.

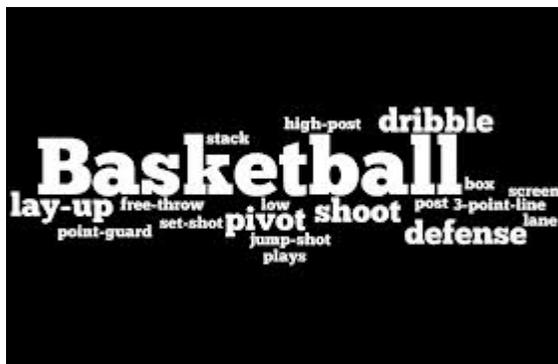
Robbie Couymoudgian was very good for the Knights with 15 points, 2 assists and rebounds and his effort was outstanding. **Connor Rogers** is becoming one of the most efficient point guards in the league. Tonight 11 points 5 assists and 5 rebounds. **Matt Rosenthal** is really thriving under the new system with 12 points and some good defense. **Jack Fowler** chipped in with 4 points and 5 rebounds. First mention of the fall for sophomore **Chim Ogwuru** who had 11 points off the bench. He needs to see the floor better but tonight he was a help. As mentioned earlier **Jake Coleman** was excellent with 27 points 4 assists and 6 rebounds. **Matt**

Corey was sound with 9 points 4 assists and 3 rebounds. **Ethan Garafolo** had 9 points and 3 assists and **Cole Britting** did a good job running the squad.

Tyler Burgess of Wachusett had his most productive game of the fall with 19 points and 12 rebounds. Teammate **Tyler Dion** was solid with 14 points, 5 assists and 4 rebounds. He just makes people better. **Matt Berman** 10 points 7 rebounds and **Evan Cudmore** 11 points 7 rebounds were also very good. **Austin Chadwick** once again was the Lions leader with 20 points 3 assists and 5 rebounds. **Jared Krueger** had 8 points 5 assists and 4 rebounds. **Andrew Linehan** had 8 points and 5 rebounds and **Kevin Sweeney** also chipped in with 6 points.

Methuen had 3 people in double figures. **David Dizzazo** was productive with 10, **James Ogunjobi** with his best game in fall ball with 12 points and 7 rebounds and **Evan Hardy** with 13 points and 2 boards. **Angel Mejia** with his first mention was solid in limited minutes and **TJ Scott** was good with 5 points and 6 rebounds. Always need to mention the heart and soul of the Rangers **Keegan Lannon** who brings it every week had 8 points and 5 assists. **Matt McLaughlin** was Salem's best player with 12 points 2 assists and 6 rebounds. **Griffin Curtis** had 9 points, Mr. Energy **Tim Dodier** had 7 points and 3 rebounds and **DJ Colleti** contributed 6 points.

Mike Baltayan was this weeks' **PLAYER OF THE WEEK** as mentioned earlier. **Bobby Hartmann** was Bobby Hartmann 14 points 16 rebounds. **Pat Coffey** continues to scorch the nets with 24 points and 4 assists. **Jon Glidden** impressed this week running the point with 9 points 4 assists and 1 rebound. **Robbie Hudson** also had 4 points and 5 rebounds. For Andover not much to talk about **Jon Rodrigues** had 14 points, **Brandon Witten** had 8 and **Devon Beasley** had 8 points and 3 assists. Andover only had 7 assists and 13 rebounds



THE WEEKLY RANT – FOOD FOR THOUGHT OR FOOD FOR THE DUMPSTER.... YOU DECIDE

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE ART OF PASSING?

So what has happened to the art of passing? Is it me or is there a complete downfall in this area. Seven weeks of fall ball are now in the books, but my issue with passing has been going on for a number of years. I think there are a number of factors for this and we need to get back to the basics. **THE FUNDAMENTAL SKILL IS NOT TAUGHT ENOUGH**, many years ago coaches spent

a good amount of time working on passing at the youngest ages through the youth years. I think this is not taking place enough now and the reasons vary, youth coaches have limited practice time and passing is a thing that folks say they will get around to, some trainers don't teach it enough because it's not sexy enough and then I think the reality is not enough people know how to teach the skill. **FLAWED FUNDAMENTALS** is my pet peeve because I hear people say "how hard is it to teach someone how to pass the ball? It is more difficult than the average person knows. You need to teach footwork, balance and control and then you need to put players in game style scenarios and break down the skill to the core then repetitively work at it. **WHAT PASS TO MAKE?** is harder than you think if you have not been taught the skill then practiced it live. The past seven weeks I have witnessed numerous players make the wrong pass. An air pass that should have been a bounce pass, a bounce pass that should have been an air pass. A lob pass that had nothing on it and became a turnover. The post position as previously discussed is evolving and not what it once was but the **COMPLETE DEMISE OF THE POST ENTRY** has me beside myself. Most kids in this league are incapable of making the post entry. Most of the time because of where they are trying to make it from, the fact they are letting everyone in the gym know they are doing it and the inability to put it properly in the receivers hands. Basketball is so much about angles and this is a perfect example. Oh boy 5-6 years ago we were spoiled with a number of kids in this league who knew how to make a post entry. Open post offense, no clogged lanes is the new basketball but you are missing the boat if you don't think post up situations are part of that and we need kids to be able to make that pass. I know Harry O'Neil at SJP knows what I am saying. **THE CHANGING PHILOSOPHY OF PASSING.** Most people know I am very interested and embrace the changes in the game. I love the proper use of the Rondo layup over traditional layup based on defense, I have been teaching the floater back when everyone else thought it was a shit shot so it's no wonder I love the use of the 1 hand pass, I love the baseline pass where you are going out of bounds. I teach what I call the loop or hook pass. I love the "appropriate use" of the dribble hand off and pitch pass. Some would say this is not proper passing but if they knew how much time we put in on teaching footwork, balance and control they would understand all of these passes are "in control" passes. I still have Roy Nickerson voice ringing in my air how many guys get caught in the air and made bad passes last night. Please teach the basics before you teach advanced passing and if you are going to do advanced passing learn the skill first. This is more evidence that **WE MUST SPEND A TON MORE TIME TEACHING PASSING.** How about **THE EXCHANGE!** , it is not rocket science here but in week 6 I saw two teams playing against each other have 6 straight passing turnovers in succession and it had nothing to do with good defense. The result besides the turnovers were the passer yelling at the receiver and vice versa. Don't blame each other, practice and get better, step to make the pass, step to catch the pass. **FAKE A PASS TO MAKE A PASS** is a statement I first heard in the 1970's. I hear Bob Knights voice overcome me when I say it to youngins a 1000 times a fall, you want to shut me up just try it once and I will go mute. Kids need to **PLAY TOGETHER MORE.** What stinks in 2015 is our high school teams don't play enough together (**ARE YOU LISTENING MIAA**). The more guys play together the better they get in every aspect especially in passing. The best teams in this league that play, and pass

together the best are the ones you know are playing a lot together. **BASKETBALL IQ** is very important when it comes to all aspects especially passing. Defenders can be more aggressive, tougher, better, longer, relentless and that is when basketball IQ comes in, use your brain, don't panic, see the play ahead. Sorry boys if you are not smart passers and turn the ball over, I can't play you. You need to value every possession, possession is gold. You can't pass but you can do other things well I will play you but you will be put in a position where your job will be very defined and passing won't be one of them, you might become just a screener (hank smith voice). Then there are the **JUST DAMN LAZY PASSERS**. You can teach these guys all you want but at the end of the day some kids are just lazy passers, receivers, and turnover kings. This one is easy, from the best player to the last kid on the bench, throw lazy passers and you sit.

As we head into week 8 I am hoping to see some improvement in the art of passing. On the positive side this league is **not void** of very good passers and in the **END OF SEASON GOOD, BAD AND UGLY RECAP** I will talk about the guys I think are the top passers (spoiler alert here is a couple guards Tyler Dion, Keith Brown and big Josh Bradanese). One thing for sure is that in week 6 we set record for most turnovers by the entire league and the majority were passing turnovers and then in week 7 we improved by maybe 2 less turnovers. So lets' as a culture get better. Instead of posting meaningless videos of stationary dribble with poor stance post a video teaching passing. Lets' give passing as much interest and time as shooting and ball handling

Don't Get Too High, Don't Get Too Low.....It's Fall Ball

