



NA FALL BALL 2015 WEEK #3 RECAP

ACCORDING TO FENNIS DEMBO

I am happy to report that we had a very good week #3. As we approach October 1st the Barn Doors are still open and we are starting to see a hint of fall colors in North Andover's historic olde center. Parking was at a premium and some hooligan actually snagged the parking spot for our mini-bus that was returning from a golf match. Notice to the offender, your vehicle will be towed by the NA Finest next time. Week 3 also saw an onslaught of college coaches down to see many of our players with Keith Brown, Josh Bradanese and Tyler Dion the top 3 right now, followed closely by Tenaglia, Carmichael, Bryan, Coffey, Hartmann, Danforth, etc. Slight condensation issue during last game Tuesday. Week 3 is a forgotten memory with the exception of this recap. Enjoy!

ST. JOHNS PREP 57 NORTH ANDOVER 37. Once again North Andover came out on fire and was the better team for the first ten minutes but a Prep 13-0 run put the Eagles in command. For the second week in a row North Andover outplayed in the second half as the Eagles held the Knights to 8 second half points. Spencer Danforth was excellent tonight in helping the Eagles to their first win.

LONDONDERRY 64 ANDOVER 51. The Lancers get in the win column with an absolute dominating first half leading 48-16. The Golden Warriors got a kick in the butt at halftime and responded but just too big of a hole to climb out of. Andover is very up and down right now. Jake Coleman was again very good for the Lancers

ST PTER MARIAN 68 PEABODY 32. A contrast in styles in this matchup as the Guardians were just too athletic, too quick and too aggressive for the Tanners. We talk about Barn Burners in fall ball this was a Barn Butt Kicking. Tanners missing a couple of guys that would help the problem areas but tonight a total team effort from SPM

BILLERICA 56 TRITON REGIONAL 53 OT. Our first overtime game of the fall as Josh Bradanese tied the game with a three out of an out of bounds set and survived a brain cramp by the Indians that put the Vikings on the foul line that would have iced the game but they could not

make the freebies. A real entertaining game as both coaches were really into it. Josh Bradanese showed why 9 colleges stayed for the last game 31 points 9 rebounds

WESTFORD 60 WACHUSETT REGIONAL 50. Over at the McDome the Grey Ghosts remained one of the final four undefeated teams with a solid win over the Mountaineers. Pat Coffey continues to put the ball in the hoop and Bobby Hartmann's 18 rebounds was tops for the fall. Westford slowed down Tyler Dion in the process.

METHUEN 53 HAVERHILL 50. The Rangers turned a halftime deficit into a solid first win of the fall. A usual slugfest between these two MVC Border rivals. The sophomore trio of Dante Rivera (15), Evan Hardy (11) and TJ Scott (10 rebounds) were impressive. Joey Fenderson was top dog for the Hillies with 26 points and 6 for 8 from deep

CHELMSFORD 72 SALEM 52. The Lions get their first fall ball win by forcing the Blue Devils into 20 plus turnovers. Both teams at times executed their usual sets very well but in the end Chelmsford was the tougher and more aggressive team. Salem really missing their best player Matt Vartanian but other guys have a chance to step up

LAWRENCE 52 NEW MISSION 48. Lawrence went out big against New Mission in the first half as they just out worked the Titans. As usual New Mission came back strong in second half but could not complete the comeback and fell by four. Marcos Germosen was the most active player on the floor and scored 21 for Lawrence. This was a fun game to watch if you like a track meet

CENTRAL CATHOLIC 64 LOWELL 49. CC was down at one point by 18 points and it looked like Lowell was going to run them out of the barn but a great second half comeback as they amped up the aggressiveness, work ethic and made shots. Lowell got away from what got them the 18 point lead in the first place and allowed CC to believe they could get the dub. Very good game

TEWKSBURY 65 PELHAM 47. Pythons may have had the best player but the Redmen were clearly the better team right from the tip off. We had to stop the game with 3 minutes left due to condensation on the floor but with the exception of a 5 minute run this was all Redmen. Ryan Briggs with 20 points tonight



WEEK 3 RESULTS:

ST JOHNS PREP 57 (SPENCER DANFORTH 17)

LONDONDERRY 64 (JAKE COLEMAN 21)

ST PETER-MARIAN 68 (JUAN ZORILLA 17)

BILLERICA 56 (JOSH BRADANESE 31)

CHELMSFORD 72 (AUSTIN CHADWICK 16)

LAWRENCE 52 (MARCOS GERMOSSEN 21)

CENTRAL CATH 64 (KEVIN FERNANDEZ 15)

TEWKSBURY 65 (NATE TENAGLIA 23)

METHUEN 53 (DANTE RIVERA 15)

WESTFORD 60 (PAT COFFEY 23)

NO ANDOVER 37 (ROB COUYOUMJIAN 16)

ANDOVER 51 (RYAN OCONNELL 15)

PEABODY 32 (JUNIOR ESTRELLA 13)

TRITON 53 (WILL PARSONS 15) OT

SALEM 52 (CONNOR GREENFIELD 11)

NEW MISSION 48 (ISAIAH LAURENT 13)

LOWELL 59 (SEAN BRYAN 15)

PELHAM 47 (KEITH BROWN 32)

HAVERTHILL 50 (JOEY FENDERSON 26)

WACHUSETT 50 (TYLER DION 16)

STANDINGS: HAVE BEEN UPDATED ON WEBSITE PLEASE SEE!

NEXT WEEKS GAMES: Please refer to schedule on website!!!!!!!!!!!!

TEAM OF THE WEEK: Nominees: CC, TEWKSBURY, LAWRENCE, WESTFORD, ST PETER MARIAN. Could make a case for any of these teams but this week we are honoring the **GUARDIANS OF ST PETER MARIAN**. 4 Double digit scorers, point guard Letourneau didn't score but ran the show, team shared the ball, played with pace, defended, everyone really into it. WE OVER ME was the mantra with the Guardians this week

GAME OF THE WEEK: Yes we had a Billerica/Triton OT game but only two real options this week with **Lawrence v New Mission and Central Catholic vs Lowell**. Loved both games, big crowds, intensity but **CENTRAL CATHOLIC V LOWELL** is the pick, just a tad better and the Raiders completed the big comeback.

DO YOUR JOB WINNER WEEK 3: Nominees: **BOBBY HARTMANN, BOBBY LETOURNEAU, MARCOS GERMOSSEN, TJ SCOTT, IAN CARMICHAEL, RYAN BRIGGS**. This weeks' winner **LAWRENCE'S MARCOS GERMOSSEN**. So active and relentless and it turned into 21 efficient points and 10 rebounds

BABY FACES! I DON'T THINK SO: NA Freshman **DARREN WATSON** has a motor and before long will be a shutdown defender for NA. METHUEN Sophomore **DANTE RIVERA** with his best Fall Ball game to date with 15 points in leading the Rangers this week. **HONORABLE MENTION:** SJP sophomore **JIM YFANTOPOLUS**. The Prep backup point guard scored 11 points in sparking the Eagles on a 13-0 run during first half & CC Sophomore **STEVEN HAJJAR** who gets things done

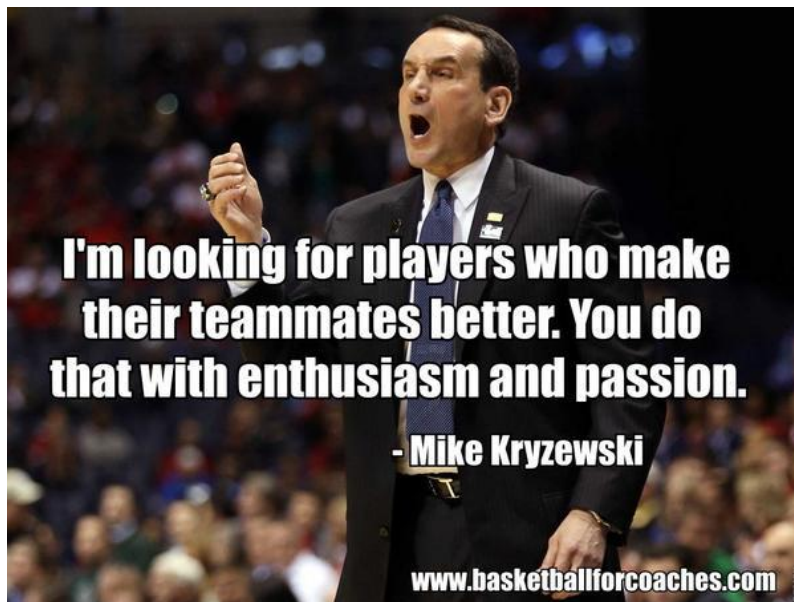
PLAYER OF THE WEEK: Some very good performances: *KEVIN FERNANDEZ, KEITH BROWN, BOBBY HARTMANN, NATE TENAGLIA, JOSH BRADANESE, MARCOS GERMOSSEN, SPENCER DANFORTH, SEAN BRYAN, JOEY FENDERSON & PAT COFFEY* but this week in the closest ballot to date is BILLERICA forward **JOSH BRADANESE**, 31 points 9 rebounds, hit some big shots at the right time, carried team on his back. A very nice performance

Zebras week 3: RICH NAPOLITANO, JAMES SLATTERY, TED SLATTERY, TRACY MITCHELL, KEVIN BOUTILIER, RYAN WHOLLEY, TONY ROMANO, BRIAN SCHAUFENBIL, CHRIS DION, BRIAN LEWIS

COLLEGES IN THE BARN. AFTER WEEK THREE WE HAVE NOW SEEN **32** DIFFERENT D2 AND D3 SCHOOLS. This week we saw: **SALEM STATE, ANNA MARIA, UMASS DARTMOUTH, NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE, SUFFOLK, ST JOSEPHS, UMASS BOSTON, KEENE STATE, MT IDA, WPI, ENDICOTT, FITCHBURG, GORDON, UNE, ROGER WILLIAMS, PLYMOUTH STATE, GREEN MOUNTAIN, LESLEY, SMCC, NECC**

NUTS AND BOLTS:

- Might have spoken to soon, two guys forgot shirts and 1 guy didn't want to warm up with his shirt came back to bench and it was gone. Fennis Too nice this week! NO SHIRT NO PLAY & you still can look cool wearing the shirt in layup lines
- Sound system was in play this week
- Humidity was tough last game but overall not a problem this fall and we should be good going forward
- New guys coming need to log in with Will the Thrill at the scorers' table
- Everyone has stats from weeks 1 & 2. You will get the complete 10 games stats when you come the next week.
- No trespassers in coaches Row this week and No Poachers by the exit doors



WEEKLY PET PEEVES:

MONDAY	TUESDAY
Missed free throws – Practice, Practice	Inability to play in a stance
Trying to dribble a loose ball- grab it	Inefficiency by guards – being exposed
Inefficient ball handling – go some place	Lost art of passing - heading 2 extinction
Controlling rebounds -get stronger	Lack of focus / inability to control emotions
Kids don't work on game then whine about PT or make excuses about their play	Where are all the shooter? Get in the gym and get better off catch and off dribble

FASHION OF THE WEEK: With the warm weather we saw a quick return to late summer wardrobe. One person had white pants. As far as I know that is still a no/no to wear white after labor day. Last week co winner Ryan Cain wore some funky candy cane socks this week. Coach Bobby M, Coach Tanglis and Lowell Volunteer coach all had the **new baby look** going equipped with **strollers, diaper bags and bottles**, Pepe had the yuppie sneakers on with bermuda shorts. Salem coach Mike Kimball had the haggard slack and button down shirt unbuttoned to his navel with t-shirt underneath, but the winner this week still to be identified was a fan during Billerica v Triton game who wore a very colorful TSHIRT with some saying on it, long bulky shorts that could have been confused for capris and low ankle socks. We will find this guy and get him his small pie

POWER RANKINGS: AFTER WEEK THREE WE ALWAYS START THE POWER RANKINGS

WEEK 3

1. CENTRAL CATHOLIC 3-0
2. LAWRENCE 3-0
3. TEWKSBURY 3-0
4. LOWELL 2-1 (gets 4th by .000098 % point)
5. WESTFORD 3-0 (EARLY SEASON STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE?)



FACES IN THE CROWD FOR WEEK #3 Former Keene Assistant Steve Boudreau, Johnny Bag of Donuts with a clean bill of health, Stacheys CEO Terry Holland, Back from Germany Don Romano, George York and son and law, NA Town Manager look alike from Peabody, Mickey Ward compadre Richie Bryan, Corey McCarthy and New Mission Videographer, an animated Mrs. Parsons, Lukey Richards, Mr. Coleman, Alex Larosa, Charlie Micol, Phil Conners and his dad, Bill Brinklow, former Assumption star Jimmy Zenevitch, former Bates star Derek Murphy, Tom Gibbons, Vic Brown, Roy Nickerson. Madeline McCoy, Manny Bello from compass cleaning, George Yfantopolus, John Dullea, Mr. O'Neil who filled in as coach this week. Former Andover star Tristan Shannon, Former TCU star Tracey Mitchell, Nick Napolitano, John Carmichael and father in law. Mr. Cronin with a cooler of drinks, old time lancer fan, Jersey Jim Connolly, Robyn Columbian and Myles, IAABO legend Bill Boots Boutilier, new Suffolk assistant coach Eric Wheeler, Raymond Nunez, Marcus Watson, Chris Bramanti, John Warden, Liberty Tree Mall Restoration Committee. Tewksbury Board of Selectman, Bob Hartmann, Derek McGaffigan, Mrs. Buresh, Mrs. Britting, The Wittens of Andover, Thad Broughton, Alex Frawleys girlfriend, Mrs. Henry, Dave Clay, Cows Rock owner Kierin, the lovely Mrs. Rob Mclaughlin, Atty. Hajjar, aspiring hip hop artist Nick Cincotta, former Suffolk star Dean Colleti, & All the coaches in coaches row



WHO BROUGHT IT IN WEEK #3 – YOU WANT TO BE MENTIONED YOU NEED TO BRING IT!

ROBBIE COUUMOUDJIAN of NA had a very good week 3. I thought his shot selection was much better and he scored 16 points. Defensively he got after it and nobody can question his toughness. **CONNOR ROGERS** continues to impress as the Knights point guard. Scored 12 points, had 5 rebounds and his hockey assists were huge in getting the Knights good shots in first half. Freshman **DARREN WATSON** is intriguing both on the defensive and offensive end of the floor. **JACK FOWLER** was steady again at the forward spot and sophomore **COLIN LEE** is active and has a nose to rebound. **SPENCER DANFORTH** had his best game this fall with a game high 17 points. I thought he played more confident and within himself more. **JUSTIN CONNOLLY** is a guy to keep an eye on 11 points 6 rebounds and played with more urgency. **TOMMY ONEIL** is starting to show he could dominate this league in the next year 8 points and 10 rebounds. Backup point guard **JIMMY YFANTOPOLUS** came off the bench and played well 11 points, 2 assists and 2 rebounds

Londonderry got another strong effort from guard **JAKE COLEMAN** with 21 points 5 assists and 3 rebounds. It was good to see another Lancer step up as **MATT COREY** was more productive on the offensive end with a complimentary 21 points himself. **ETHAN MAY** with 6 points and 4 rebounds was more than impressive. **COLE BRITTING** continues to do his job learning the point guard position. Andover looked disinterested in the first half as Londonderry crushed them, but I did see a different team in the second half. **RYAN OCONNELL** was Andover's best player tonight with 15 points, 3 assists and 4 boards. **DEVIN BEASLEY** had some strong moments in second half but needs to lead more without **EJ PERRY** here. He ended up with 16 points 5 rebounds and 2 assists. **JON RODRIGUES** chipped in with 12 points.

SPM had the total team effort this week. I loved **BOBBY LETOURNEA'S** bigger interest in setting kids up. 0 points but he may be their most valuable player. **JUAN ZORILLA** had a team high 17 points, **SHAMAR SIMMS** had 14 points and 3 assists. **TJ DARTEN** with an efficient 15 points and I am liking **DeMARR LANGFORD** more and more as he had a team high 5 assists. Peabody is struggling right now and this was a tough matchup in all aspects. **JUNIOR ESTRELLA** gives the effort 13 and 11 marking his third straight double/double of the fall. **CHRISTIAN TEEHAN** was productive with 8 points on 4/6 shooting. **JAKE GUSTIN** chipped in with 4 points. I have to see the Tanners play more together and understand roles better or it could be a long fall.

Billerica came back to take the OT win over Triton. Triton may have given this one away as they had some brain cramps, missed free throws and could not corral the biggest rebound of the night. For Billerica, **JOSH BRADANESE** was our Player of the Week with 31 and 9. **ALEX FRAWLEY** always gives an effort with 7 points and 4 rebounds. **JOHN BALTAYAN** is growing on me and I think he needs to get more touches. Only 2 points but six boards and not afraid to do the dirty work. **JOE PERROTTA** is +/- right now but if he can control his turnovers he can be a big part of this. Tonight 7 points 3 assists and 4 boards. Keep an eye on **TYLER BRADANESE**, kid is getting better every day. The Indians need to move the ball more and the schedule gets tougher for the Indians going forward. Triton was once again led on the offensive end by **WILL PARSONS** with 15 points and 6 boards. **CONNOR HENRY** could be poised for a big senior campaign. Tonight he had 11 points and was active. **JACK MCCARTHY** was terrific! 13 points 6 rebounds and a good feel for the game. **ADAM BALETSA** with a nice line 9 points 4 assists 6 rebounds. Vikings need to close a game like this out.

ANDREW LINEHAN was aggressive last night but needs to be more in control. He scored 14 but has to be careful of plowing over people. **AUSTIN CHADWICK** is the Lions best player and he had 16 points 5 rebounds this week. **KEVIN SWEENEY** was productive with 12 points and 3 rebounds. I like **JOSH SOGADE** every time I see him. He is raw but lots of potential cause he is active. **LANDON CASS** is going to be a nice part of this team with 11 points 4 assists and 5 rebounds. **JACK KRUEGER** contributed 8 points. Not a great night for the Blue Devils. They will not have Vartanian all fall but great chance for others to step up but who will step up? Salem will not win any games when they turn the ball over 22 times. **DJ COLLETTI** was a bright spot with 9 points, 2 assists, 4 rebounds and took 2 charges. **MATT MCLAUGHLIN** needs to stay

confident and cannot turn the ball over, if he does he will have games like tonight 10 points 4 assists. **CONNOR GREENFIELD** gives you the effort 11 points, 3 rebounds but even more so he has a motor.

As stated earlier **MARCOS GERMOSSEN** was active and productive scoring a game high 21 points. **KEVIN VANDERHORST** was very good with 8 points, 6 assists and 6 rebounds. **BENNIAMI RODRIGUES**, just another day at the office with 8 points and 8 rebounds. **JUAN FELIX RODRIGUES** with 7 points, less than what he has been scoring but like the fact that Lawrence top two scores didn't score much this week but other guys stepped up. New Mission Titans please hear me, you need to play with a sense of urgency in the first half. The third straight game they didn't and it's biting them in the butt. **ISAIAH LAURENT & DARION JORDAN** are going to be tough the more they play together in the front court. **TY LEE** is not getting enough respect in this league. Tonight 7 points, 3 assists, 3 rebounds, defends and is tough. **ALONZO COOPER** with his best game with 10 points. Getting into the lane and the floater might be the right shot but need to convert. I am a big fan of the **Mitchell** twins but I needed more out of them tonight against Lawrence.

Lowell was terrific in the first half as the new lineup of an appearance from Sean Bryan and the insertion of **QUEST HARRIS** was very productive. **SEAN BRYAN** was very good in his first game back 15 points 14 rebounds and a toughness that was impressive. **QUEST HARRIS** with the exception of the foul trouble was very good 12 points 6 rebounds and 2 assists. **SIDI DIAHLO** does what Sidi does as he can put the ball in the hoop and he did with 11 points. **EDDY ALCANTERA** with his best game of fall with 10 points and 4 boards. Felt bad for **ALEX RIVERA**, with Sean Bryan back Alex was off the ball and quite frankly did not get enough touches. The good thing the more this crew plays together they will mesh better they could be very good

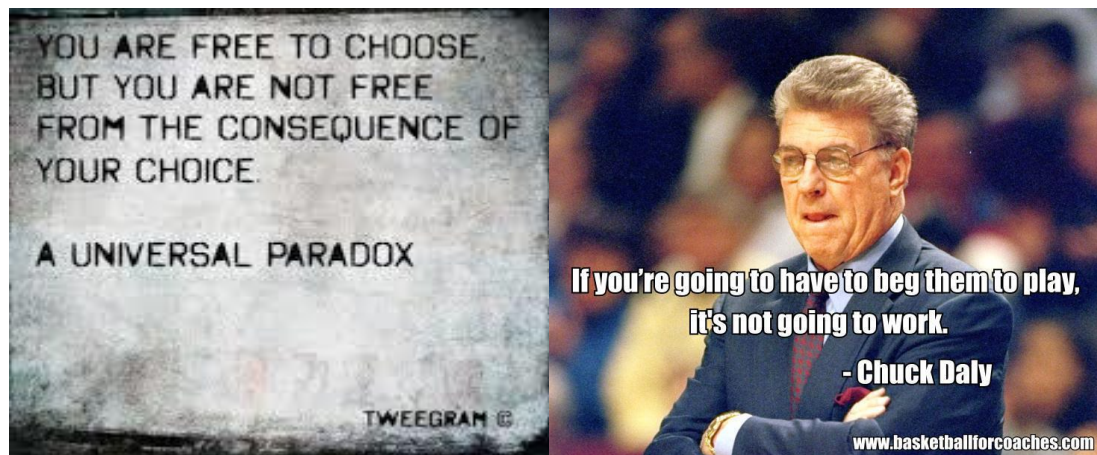
Gotta love the comeback by CC. It was an 18 point deficit looking like it could get to 30 but they battled back with depth, tenacious defense, aggressive offense and they made shots. **GEORGE GRILLAKIS** had a tough first half but was excellent in second half scoring and keeping ball alive. He finished with 12 points and 4 rebounds. I told you not to sleep on **KEVIN FERNANDEZ** and he had his best game 15 points, 4 rebounds along with a real toughness and on court leadership. **IAN CARMICHAEL** with 10 points and 8 rebounds was effective. **TANAHJ PETTWAY** is a warrior, his stat line wasn't usual but he did a lot of really good things on the floor. Real happy for a guy that does not get much press **JEREMY URENA** who may have only scored two points but he made plays. Great win for the Raiders

Tewksbury remains one of undefeated teams and they could make a run this fall. **NATE TENAGLIA** battled all night, shot better this week and finished with 23 points, 5 assists and 5 rebounds. **JUSTIN DERRAH** is just consistent, I might just call him 13 & 6 as he hit that again. Coach Connors has been talking about **RYAN BRIGGS** and this was his break out party; 20 points 100% from 2, 60% from 3, 100% from the line. **KEITH BROWN** was a load once again as he scored 32 points, 7 rebounds, 3 assists and pretty much had to do everything. Only 4 Pythons

scored but **KYLE FRANK** was productive with 10 points 2 assists 3 rebounds. **CAM DELETTA** gives you everything he has.

Westford Academy is 3-0 and they are playing very well! **PAT COFFEY** with 23 points and 4 assists once again led the Grey Ghosts. **BOBBY HARTMANN** was outstanding 15 points, 18 rebounds and the kid just works. The Grey Ghosts also got production from **MITCHEL ROSE**, **ROBBIE HUDSON** **SCOTT BEATTIE**, **ISSAC KNIGHT** and **MIKE BALTAYAN**. Wachusett was once again led by **TYLER DION** 16 points 3 assists and 3 boards. **RYAN BRODIN** played well with 13 points 4 rebounds. **NICK SCHMARE** had 8 points and 3 rebounds and **MATT BERMAN** had 6 points, 2 assists and 2 rebounds.

Methuen with a gutsy win over Haverhill. Sophomore **DANTE RIVERA** is learning the point guard position every week but tonight his 15 points were huge. I am high on sophomore **EVAN HARDY** and tonight he scored 11 points. Another sophomore **TJ SCOTT** only scored 1 point but he had 10 rebounds. **KEEGAN LANNON** and **DAVID DIZZAZO** scored 8 apiece. For the Hillies **JOEY FENDERSON** was a stud 26 points on 6 for 8 from deep. **MATT BATTAINI** was solid but Hillies only had 3 assists as a team which was vastly different from last week.



The Weekly Rant – Food for Thought or Food for the Dumpster – You Decide!

Every Fall I sit in the customary seat the scorers' table and watch intently each game. The last couple of years I have watched with amazement the difference in **WILLINGNESS TO COMPETE OR THE COMPETE LEVEL** among players and teams. Lets' be honest here I think this league has great kids, we have very few problem players and every one of them plays in the fall because **they love hoop and they want to play for their school team this winter**. With that said that is the only thing every one of these kids has in common. Some players play every possession like they have something to prove, some players play every possession with an intensity that epitomizes their hunger to get better. Some players are so overwhelmed with confidence issues that the willingness to compete is compromised. Some players say they want to compete but don't know how to and then there are the players that don't compete cause they don't think

they have too and those reasons are always interesting. Why is this the case? And why does this bother me so much.

The reason this bothers me so much is that I have trouble with anyone that is not passionate about every possession and anyone that disrespects the game when it comes to effort, desire, hunger and love. Basketball is a beautiful game and anything less than 100% effort cheats the game and cheats yourself. So lets' take a closer look at why there are so many levels of **COMPETE?**

1. **FIGHTING FOR A NON GUARANTEED SPOT VS KNOWING THE LIMITED NUMBER ISSUES GUARANTEES A SPOT!** We have a real mix in this league, some of our smaller schools actually have numbers issues and others like some bigger schools have more numbers than they can service. I love watching our teams that every fall is an absolute **dog fight** to earn a roster spot. Teams show up with 15+ kids and have a waiting list of kids waiting by the phone for the call. Kids compete just to see if they can earn a coveted uniform. There are the teams where nobody knows where they are in the pecking order so the opportunity to compete is right there. I am coaching the NA entry and there are probably only 3 definite and clear spots determined as of September. I love how they are all competing to not only make the team but to make the rotation. Then I look at a few teams where unless the kid gets hit by the bus he probably has a spot locked up just because he has a heartbeat. I don't see the fight, the compete level, some kids actually go through the motions, actually heard one kid say "I will play harder this winter" Not one to keep my mouth shut I addressed the issue with a comment and the kid pleaded for me not to say anything. Buddy your secret is safe with me kid but do you think for one minute your coach doesn't see what you are saying/doing?
2. **EVERYONE'S HUNGRY BUT NOT EVERYONE KNOWS HOW TO HUNT.** Love the kids in this league that just play every possession like it could cost their team the game. I look closely at why some kids have that and some don't. Some were taught this early on, some were never taught it but more of just who they are and what their makeup is, some were never promised anything and feel they need to earn everything they can. You can't coach effort. You either have it or you don't. Some of these players are very good players and some are not very good. I tell you the ones who aren't very good would still probably make my team because they know how to hunt!
3. **READ TOO MANY PRESS CLIPPINGS.** We have a faction (albeit a small faction) down here that believes they don't have to work hard. They feel their better, more skilled and don't have to work hard or at least they remember someone saying that to them. They take possessions off, they don't warm up with a purpose. They play hard on offense sometimes and defend when they want to, Body Language is so evident but this sample is clueless that not only am I watching this but everyone else in the barn notices also.

Stop listening to people tell you how good you might be and start listening to those that tell you what you need to hear and it all starts with effort and a competing mindset.

4. **THE TOO COOL FOR SCHOOL LOOK.** An off shoot from #3 we have this category which makes me actually chuckle. This is never more evident than in the warm up lines. Go through the motions, look in the glass window to see if the hair looks good, accessorize with more padding than the over accessor Dwayne Wade. Go in for a layup off balance, dipsey do, travel. Try to dunk when you have no chance to ever dunk. The only one that is mildly impressed is the kids' girlfriend who claps when they make eye contact. Two college coaches came up to me this fall and said they wouldn't recruit a certain kid that fell into this category. Do the math for the too cool for school look. It's never how you look, it's how you play and whether you can be productive!

5. **NEVER MIND WINTER! FALL IS ASKING WHAT YOU DID ALL SUMMER.** Then we have the kid that was on the couch all summer but announces he is locked in now. Instead of fighting for a spot they whine it's not fair, or team already picked or I am a senior it's my turn. These kids fall into they don't know how to compete because they never really did compete. You Tube "My Coach Sucks" and you will see this kid have a conversation with a smarter friend

6. **WE MAY NEVER PASS THIS WAY AGAIN.** We have a number of seniors that competed since they were 9th graders and we have seniors that know it's almost over so competing takes on an even higher level. I love seniors that value this last year of fall ball, this last year of high school ball, the last year of wearing the name, they want to compete and even more so most know they may never pass this way again so as Al Pacino said in "Any Given Sunday" they fight, scratch and crawl for that one inch

7. **I CAN MAKE THIS SQUAD JUST BY WORKING HARDER, HUNGRY AND HUMBLE, NEVER TOLD THEY WERE GREAT.** The last group is a smorgasbord of players that do know how to compete because nothing was ever promised and they know they have to prove themselves or they will just be a number at tryouts. Some at the end of the day won't be good enough to make the squad but they earn our respect for effort and the goal of wanting to be here more than some others seem to want to be that may be a bit more talented

In the end there will always be different levels of compete but as coaches, trainers and teachers we must only accept one level of compete and we need to hold players accountable or we are

cheating the game, cheating ourselves and cheating the player who one day will realize what we are saying

As we say in Fall Ball, Don't Get too High Don't Get too Low...It's Fall Ball

