



NA FALLBALL 2015 WEEK #1 RECAP ACCORDING TO

FENNIS DEMBO

The 11th year of North Andover Fall Ball kicked off this past Monday and Tuesday with a total of 10 games pitting 20 strong high school programs from Mass and Southern New Hampshire. The Barn was ready and the baseline seating was in full effect. Major crowds the first week as most folks could barely contain their excitement for the RETURN. Rich Napolitano had the zebras in mid-season form from the get go and the scorers' table was on point. Sniffles P, Pepe Lepu, Will the Thrill, Woody and the lovely Madeline are the staff this season and they have the passion. When we say the college coaches are in the Barn they are actually "IN" the Barn. A strong contingent of D2 and D3 coaches at week #1. The satellite site for two games on Mondays was legit. Brooks school aka the "McDOME" is a nice setting and everyone will play their once. Thanks to Lowell Sun Matt Langone for coming and doing a story on the league. Let's get to the facts!

CENTRAL CATHOLIC 56 METHUEN 49. The inaugural game of 2015 was a good one as the Barn was full capacity for this annual war. CC got out early setting the tone with a double digit lead which ballooned to 15 but the Rangers are scrappy and they battled back to close the game to two points before CC regrouped and took a 7 point win. Both teams did not shoot it well but the effort was there by both squads as bodies were flying and neither team backed down from the other. I like these teams

WACHUSETT REGIONAL 62 ANDOVER 52. The Mountaineers first ever fall ball game and they did not disappoint. The CMASS power played some nice team basketball and shot 49% from two and 58% from three. Tyler Dion ran the show and Tyler Burgess recorded a double-double. The Warriors will be missing some main pieces due to football but Jon Rodrigues 17 and Devon Beasley 18 were solid for Andover

WESTFORD ACADEMY 84 TRITON 42. This one was over early as the Grey Ghosts were impressive shooting 56% from two and 54% from three land. Coach Pags had WA playing with some pace tonight and got a total team effort with 4 guys in double figures and everyone in the scoring column. Triton missing some key components due to soccer but no excuses the Ghosts were huge tonight.

LOWELL 62 HAVERHILL 57. The Red Raiders played a poor first half but they battled back to take this one late. The Hillies are intriguing as I loved the effort and probably should have closed this one out when they had the chance. The backcourt of Sidi Diallo and Alex Rivera were huge for Lowell and Mike Battaini and Joey Fenderson were solid for Haverhill. Two energy guys in the game were Jesse Zanders for Lowell and Avery Ceron for Haverhill

ST PETER- MARIAN 63 CHELMSFORD 46. Two new teams in the league battled over at Brooks and as advertised the Guardians maybe young but they play hard and do not back down. All 10 players scored for SPM. The Lions were paced by Josh Sogade with 10 and Austin Chadwick with 17

SALEM 64 – BILLERICA 43. This outcome was a bit surprising in terms of the 21 point win for the Blue Devils. They played team basketball, shared the ball, ran some good Salem sets and defended. They were led by the big three of Matt Vartanian, Griffen Curtis and DJ Colleti. You can tell these guys have been in the gym. Billerica will be fine; too good of talent not to improve on tonight's performance as they are led by one of the most recruited players in the league Josh Bradanese plus a good supporting cast

LAWRENCE 48 STJOHNS PREP 41. Two heavyweights in the league did battle this week but for most of the game Lawrence exerted their will and SJP looked almost passive. SJP might be my prediction to win this but they came down to earth a bit in this one. Juan Felix Rodrigues scored well for Lancers and Beniammi Rodrigues was in beast mode on the boards. Alec Buresh 11 and Spencer Danforth 10 led the Eagles

NEW MISSION 59 PELHAM 38. This game was actually a lot closer than score indicates. The first half I would say the Pythons were playing very well. All League Keith Brown and Ryan Nystrom were knocking down shots and actually running with the Titans. As always New Mission pulls it together and were relentless causing Turnovers and too much production from Ty Lee, Charles Mitchel and Charlie Mitchell down the stretch

NORTH ANDOVER 70 PEABODY 41. The new look Knights looked very good. The new pace and space Knights shot 53% from the floor with 12 guys scoring and 9 guys registering an assist. Matt Rosenthals 5 three pointers led the charge. The Tanners are better this year and they have some nice pieces that just need to play more together. Tanners were led by Junior Estrella's 17 points

TEWKSBURY 73 LONDONDERRY 62. The Redmen blew this one open early with a 19 point lead but the Lancers did battle back and have a nice second half. Nate Tenaglia was terrific last night running the show and Justin Derrah had a double- double with 24 and 10. Giovanni Champa also had 19. Londonderry has lost a lot from the state championship team but Jake Coleman is still here and he had 18. Sophomore Cole Britting had a nice game with 10 points and 2 assists

RESULTS

CENTRAL CATHOLIC 56 (TANHAJ PETTWAY 11)	METHUEN 49 (ANDREW MARCELLINO 16)
TEWSKBURY 73 (JUSTIN DERRAH 24)	LONDONDERRY 62 (JAKE COLEMAN 18)
NORTH ANDOVER 70 (MATT ROSENTHALL 15)	PEABODY 41 (JUNIOR ESTRELLA 17)
NEW MISSION 59 (CHARLES MITVCHELL 12)	PELHAM 38 (KEITH BROWN 21)
LAWRENCE 48 (JUAN FELIX RODRIGUEZ 18)	ST JOHNS 41 (ALEC BURESH 11)
SALEM 64 (GRIFFEN CURTIS 18)	BILLERICA 43 (JOSH BRADANESE 18)
ST PETER – MARIAN 63 (TJ DARTEN 11)	CHELMSFORD 46 (AUSTIN CHADWICK 17)
LOWELL 62 (SIDI DIALLO 25)	HAVERHILL 57 (MIKE BATTAINI 15)
WESTFORD 84 (ISSAC KNIGHT 20)	TRITON 42 (WILL PARSONS 22)
WACHUSETT 62 (TYLER BURGESS 18)	ANDOVER 52 (DEVON BEASLEY 18)

TEAM OF THE WEEK: In consideration North Andover, Salem, Tewksbury, Westford, Wachusett. All five had very good week number 1's and each could probably win this but we are going with **SALEM**. The way they played, how they executed, how they defended and beating a good Billerica squad by 21 earns them the honor. Congrats Blue Devils

GAME OF THE WEEK: Keeping it real not a lot of options as we saw some serious separation in week one performances but I am going with **CENTRAL CATHOLIC V METHUEN**. I know Nault and Faradie are not happy with a number of things but one thing they can't question is effort and intensity. The game took the longest due to yes fouls but, bodies flying etc. This is what we call in the MVC an absolute ROCK FIGHT. I am high on CC and as someone who helped coach Methuen for 12 years I love the "no back down attitude"

DO YOUR JOB WEEK 1 WINNER: Jessie Zanders, Beniammi Rodrigues, Avery Ceron,, Bobby Hartmann, Andrew Marcellino all nominated but today it goes to **ALEX ROMANO** of NA, Rebounded, set screens, talked on defense, made the extra pass and yeah took 4 charges!

PLAYER OF THE WEEK: Drumroll please. Nominees are **CONNOR ROGERS (NA), MATT ROSENTHALL (NA), TY LEE (NM), JUAN FELIX RODRIGUES (L), MATT VARTANIAN (S), SIDI DIALLO (LO), ISAAC KNIGHT (WA), TYLER DION (W), TYLER BURGESS (W), NATE TENAGLIA (T), JUSTIN DERRAH (T) ANDREW MARCELINO (M)**. Each one of these guys could take this but one guy was a notch above and let me tell you why. **NATE TENAGLIA** of Tewksbury has had some nice nights down here but he did a lot of things tonight to help his team win in a more efficient manner. He did not shoot it very well but he did penetrate to get teammates good shots, he took care of the ball with only 2 turnovers, He scored 15 points, had a week leading 7 assists and had 6

rebounds from the guard spot. The most noticeable thing that made me and the college coaches who chimed in happy is that he did not over dribble, his efficient use of the dribble tonight was huge and he trusted his teammates helping Justin Derrah and Gio Champa 24 and 19 respectively. Congrats Nate.

NEXT WEEKS GAMES – WE WONT BE POSTING IT AS PART OF RECAP SO PLEASE FAMILARIZE YOURSELF WITH SCHEDULE SECTION OF WEBSITE-

STANDINGS: - WE ALSO WON'T BE POSTING STANDINGS ON THE RECAP. PLEASE FAMILARIZE YOURSELF WITH SCHEDULE SECTION ON WEBSITE –

ZEBRAS IN WEEK #1 – BRIAN SCHAUFENBILL, KEVIN BOUTILIER, RICH NAPOLITANO, JULIEN SCOTT, BRENDAN SALACH, TRACY MITCHELL, RALPH SULLY, JAMES SLATTERY, TED SLATTERY, BRIAN GLEASON

COLLEGES IN THE BARN. Impressive crew to start week 1: **BRIDGEWATER, ANNA MARIA, STONEHILL, COLBY SAWYER, ST JOSEPHS, WESTFIELD, MERRIMACK, ST ANSELMS, RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE, ENDICOTT, ROGER WILLIAMS, FITCHBURG, LESLEY, WHEELOCK, EMMANUEL, DEAN COLLEGE, WENTWORTH.** WE HAVE COMMITMENT FROM 40 COLLEGES THAT THEY WILL ATTEND. EACH COLLEGE COACH RECIEVES A COMPLIMENTARY COMPREHENSIVE PACKAGE. COLLEGE COACHES THE ROSTER ADDENDUM WILL ALSO BE INCLUDED WITH WEEK #2. COLLEGE COACHES PLEASE SIGN IN EACH NIGHT YOU COME AND ADD YOUR SCHOOL TO THE WHITE BOARD

NUTS & BOLTS:

- LEAGUE SHIRTS NEED TO BE WORN EACH NIGHT- NO SHIRT NO PLAY
- PARKING CAN BE TIGHT FOR FIRST GAMES, THERE IS STREET PARKING AND PARKING ALSO ON MILK STREET
- WE DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO THE YOUTH CENTER TILL 5PM OR BROOKS TILL 7PM SO IF YOU ARRIVE EARLY YOU WILL HAVE TO STAY OUTSIDE
- COACHES MAKE SURE TEAMS ARE ON TIME AS GAMES ARE ON TIME. MAKE SURE GPS WORKING AND TAKE IN ACCOUNT 495, 93, CITY TRAFFIC, ETC
- PLEASE HAVE YOUR PLAYERS PICK UP BENCH AREA AFTER GAME
- ONLY INDOOR MEETING AREAS IS FRONT AND BACK STAIRWELL AND GAME ROOM. OF COURSE USE OUTSIDE
- RESERVED COACHES SECTION IS FOR COLLEGE AND HIGH SCHOOL COACHES ONLY. NO PARENTS PLAYERS, GROUPIES AND THAT LIFETIME MIAA PASS DOESN'T WORK IN THE BARN
- IF YOU HAVE NOT SQUARED AWAY WITH THE ACCOUNTING OFFICE PLEASE DO
- OUTSIDE COURT IS RESERVED ON MONDAY AND TUESDAY NIGHTS FOR FALL BALL TO MEET, WARM UP ETC. FOR THE NEW FOLKS IT IS LOCATED ON OTHER SIDE OF BUILDING

- **MAKE SURE YOUR COACHES KNOW THE RULE ON 5TH FOUL. IF YOU CONTINUE TO PLAY A PLAYER AFTER 5TH FOUL AND HE PICKS UP A SUBSEQUENT FOUL, THE OPPOSING TEAM GETS ONE FOUL SHOT AND POSSESSION OF THE BALL. YOUR Call, LIVE WITH THE RESULTS**

FACES IN THE CROWD: Tom Labrie, Tom Gibbons, former Methuen coach Matt Curran, Roger Hardy, former BC Star Tyrone Scott, former Lowell star Mike Grillakis, The Carmichael extended family, Atty. Scott Hajjar, Johnny Bag of Donuts Mcelroy, former Lawrence star Manny Sanchez, the Tewksbury board of Selectman, Phil Conners, Mrs. Tenaglia, Nate Stanton, Mike Dunham, former fall baller Alex Larosa, Don Mr. Technology Romano, Myles Couyoumjian, The Rosenthals, Thad Broughton, the Liberty Tree Mall Board of Regents, Eric Frank and his better half, Meet The Browns, Cory McCarthy, Mrs. Danforth, Dash Riprock, John Dullea, Tribune Sports Director Bill Burt, Lowell Sun's Matt Lagone, Raymond Nunez, Dr. O'neil, George Yfantopoulos, Rob Mclaughlin, former Suffolk star Dean Colletti, IAABO Honcho Bill Boots Boutilier, Rick Nault, Rapper Stevie Martinez, Marc Bradanese, Marcus Watson, Mike Trovato, Dave Clay, former SJP coach Dan Letarte, The Parsons, John Warden, Tom Coffey, The Hartmann's, Faz, newlywed Alan Hibino, congrats buddy. We will get to know the famous faces on our new teams very shortly

FASHION OF THE WEEK: YOU ARE ALWAYS BEING WATCHED SO YOU GOTTA BRING IT EVERY WEEK. With the craziness of the first week the eyes weren't critiquing the way we will be going forward. **THE FIRST WINNER OF THE STACHEYS SMALL PIZZA IS "ALEX LAROSA"** Alex was rocking what we call the "first day of school outfit". Nice pair of haggard slacks from Bob's, button down shirt that was pressed earlier in the day, loose fitting tie that looks like he might need a tutorial on tying a tie and nice pair of Italian shoes by Lombardi. Congrats Alex!

WHO BROUGHT IT IN WEEK #1 – YOU WANT TO BE MENTIONED BRING IT EVERY NIGHT!

For Tewksbury we talked at length about **NATE TENAGLIA'S POW** performance. I was impressed with **JUSTIN DERRAH**, He has had some big nights before but 24 points, 10 rebounds, hit 4 threes, was 50% from two point land and was a beast on boards and setting a real physicality tone. **GIOVANNI CHAMPA** has been on my radar for a while and should be a big part of what the Redmen do this year. He scored 19 with 4 threes. Londonderry is rebuilding but they still have **JAKE COLEMAN**, after a slow start Jake was impressive with 18 points on 50% shooting 6 rebounds and 3 assists. **COLE BRITTING** was the Lancers second best player with 10 points, 2 assists and some ball hawking defense. Only week #1 but the Lancers need other players to step up and fast.

North Andover had 12 players in the scoring column and 9 players registering at least 1 assist. The new pace and space, share the ball philosophy is in its beginning stages but looked good tonight. **CONNOR ROGERS** was terrific running the point. This heady, high IQ, pass first point

guard is just what NA needs. Tonight Connor had 11 points, 5 assists, 2 rebounds. Connor has some nice size and had 3 steals on the defensive end. **ROBBIE COUYOUMJIAN** was very good as the heart and soul of this team 11 points, 3 steals and a real physical presence. **MATT ROSENTHAL** played with confidence and hit 5 out of 6 three pointers for a team high 15 points. **JACK FOWLER** might be one of the most improved players in the area. Tonight Fowler had 8 points and 11 rebounds. Kid is getting better every day. Peabody will be stronger this fall and they have some interesting pieces. **JUNIOR ESTRELLA** had 17 points but needs to let the game come to him a bit more. **BEN SHMASE** I like the big fella can step out and hit the three, also had 5 rebounds.

New Mission is back and according to Cory they are here to finish what they didn't last year. 9 guys in the scoring column. **TY LEE** with some relentless defense to go with his 11 points and 3 rebounds. **CHARLES MITCHELL** 12 and twin **CHARLIE MITCHELL** 11 do what they gotta do. They play hard, listen and make things happen. First look at the big guy **ISAIAH LAUREAT**. I like what he can bring to this team. Tonight 6 points 6 rebounds and 3 blocks. **ALONZO COOPER** is a good one, tonite 7 points, 2 assists and a number of deflections. Pelham's **KEITH BROWN** had a lot of d2 and d3 coaches watching him tonight. Keith scored 21 points had 8 rebounds and some nice dimes. Keith has to do a lot as the returning NH D3 state champs lost key players but needs to take care of the ball better as Titans pressure forced uncharacteristic turnovers. **RYAN NYSTROM** shot the ball well and hit 3 three pointers to relieve some pressure on Brown.

Lawrence got a strong team effort with a lot of new faces from last year. **JUAN FELIX RODRIGUES** was very good scoring with 18 points. **BENIAMMI RODRIGUES** was very productive on the boards with 8 rebounds. **MARCOS GERMOSSEN** was active as he always is using his length. **JAYSEN DESOTO** also chipped in with 8 points. St Johns just has to chalk it up as a bad night. We will be writing a lot about this entire team this fall but tonight the teams' best player was **ALEC BURESH**, 11 points, 3 rebounds, 2 assists but mostly because he played harder than anyone. **SPENCER DANFORTH** had 10 points and although we have seen him play better, he always gives the effort. **JUSTIN CONNOLLY** is one of the most improved Eagles and tonight he showed real flashes

Salem was our team of the Week. **MATT VARTANIAN** is the blue devils best player. The returning all -state selection does it all. Tonight besides his motor had 17 points, 3 assists, 5 rebounds and hit his foul shots. **GRIFFIN CURTIS** had a great spring and he could be exactly what they need this winter, the lanky swingman had 18 points, 2 assists and 3 rebounds. **DJ COLLETI** can score. He had 16 tonight including 4 three pointers. **MATT MCLAUGHLIN** also chipped in with 5 points, 2 assists running the point. Like the Prep, Billerica has to move on to week 2. **JOSH BRADANESE** led the Indians with 18 points and 4 boards and is one of the top forwards in this league. **JOHN BALTAYAN** had 11 points to help the cause but Billerica needs more from a few guys that I know will as we proceed.

St Peter Marian, another one of our new teams is young but hungry. They will battle every night as Chelmsford found out in week 1. **TJ DARTEN** led the balanced team scoring with 11 points.

JUAN ZORILLA had 8 and **RUDY MARTINEZ** 7. Really looking forward to watching this team in week 2. Chelmsford will be alright. Coach Micol's kids will improve each week. In week 1 they got 17 from **AUSTIN CHADWICK**, **JOSH SOGADE** scored 10 and did some work on the boards.

Coach Bobby was not happy with Lowell's first half against Haverhill but they did come alive before it was too late. **SIDI DIALLO** was scoring at will ending up with 25 points but most impressive for me was his ability to make things happen. **ALEX RIVERA** ran the point and scored 14 points. Alex only a sophomore but has a seniors game. I expect him to have a strong fall. **JESSE ZANDERS** get a nod for being the one red raider that was relentless from the tip off. **AP WENNAH** was strong on the boards but he will do a lot more as season progresses. Haverhill first game in our league and I like the Hillies. They take on the personality of their head coach and they play hard. The more they play together the better they will play. **MIKE BATTAINI** had 15 points and 3 assists directing the squad. **JOEY FENDERSON** with a nice scoring night with 13 and I like the play of **AVERY CERON**, only 4 points but active, very active. **MARQUS DOWNER** also contributed 10 points

Westford was very entertaining this week. **BOBBY HARTMANN** is just a grinder and does it without fanfare. 18 points 7 rebounds, 1 assist. **JON GLIDDEN** had his best fall ball game, the junior was aggressive, played hard and scored 15 points. First look at sophomore **ISAAC KNIGHT** and I like what I saw. Scored 20 points but I was impressed with composure all night. **PAT COFFEY** is becoming a big time player for Westford as he can score (13), distribute and board and has a toughness to his game. Triton will be fine as long as Coach Clay can get his fall athletes there. The only Viking that stood out was sophomore **WILL PARSONS**. Outstanding effort with 22 points, 3 rebounds, 2 assists. Very bright future for this young man.

Our first look at Tom Gibbons Wachusett squad and I like what I see, **TYLER DION** was very good directing this team, 8 points, 5 assists, I have seen Tyler on the aau circuit and he will have a good fall here. **TYLER BURGESS** our other double/double guy tonight with 18 points and 11 rebounds. The mountaineers also got 8 points from **EVAN CUDMORE** 9 points from **MATT BERMAN**. Andover missing some guys but a few guys will benefit with increased roles. **JON RODRIGUES** could have a great senior season, totally up to him. Tonight he had 17 points and 4 rebounds. **DEVON BEASLEY** was impressive running the point and scoring 18. **TIMMY KALANTZAKOS** can stretch the floor with his range chipped in with 12 points.

Central got a late scare from the Rangers but the Raiders will be legit. **KEVIN FERNANDEZ** is the heart and soul of this team and fully expect a strong junior campaign from this guy. **TANAHI PETTWAY** is a scholarship player. First game back from injury and he looked good leading the team in scoring with 11. **COLIN BRADANESE** is coming along. The long sophomore had 10 pts and 5 rebounds. **STEVE HAJJAR** is another sophomore who is starting to feel comfortable out there, Watch this guy! **VICTOR MWUARH** has a silky smooth feel to his game. Methuen's **KEEGAN LANNON** is one tough hombre, always making doubters believers. Can defend, knock down threes and has no ego. Tonight he has 11 points. **ANDREW MARCELINO** was special tonight. A high motor kid and he produced with 16 points and 7 boards. **DANTE RIVERA** is

coming along after a good spring looks to be the Rangers point guard. **DAVID DIZZAZO** chipped in with 10 points. David can get into the lane and can help this team this year.

Don't rest on your laurels boys, Week 1 is in the rear view window On to week #2

THE WEEKLY RANT- FOOD FOR THOUGHT OR FOOD FOR THE DUMPSTER YOU DECIDE

This entry is a reissue with new thoughts and comments which was previously issued in September 2013

I have been running this fall league for 11 years and coaching various high school and aau teams for another 15 years before that and I am amazed how sluggish high school teams look at the start of fall and how the issue is getting worse every year. Some of the sluggishness has to do with what I call the "get away from hoop" the last 2-3 weeks of August. Summer leagues, weekend tourneys and AAU wind down and some high school coaches even recommend a break to get the head clear and rejuvenated. I actually can understand the approach and in many cases like a team that has had a bad summer, or some kids that are showing real signs of needing a break, getting away might be the best thing for the player and the team. I always looked at my own life with my wacky schedule that the last two weeks of August was my family vacation time. In week 1 we saw that a number of teams are just reconvening now and it shows. The good thing is they will get better with every passing week.

There are also a number of other reasons that people need to open their eyes to because it may be affecting your teams more than you know. The first is the **personal work ethic** of certain players. I am very impressed with the kids that even though they have a few weeks off from the team they stay in shape instead of laying on the couch. They do some cross training, get in the weight room, go for a run or even just get to the park and work on some individual skill development. The problem is with the overwhelming % of kids who literally do nothing then expect to come out the first week of fall ball and be productive and reality is they really can't be.

Secondly we have **team chemistry and drive**, a few of our teams have not skipped a beat and have great team chemistry right from week #1. Captains or leaders continue to get the squad together to establish some chemistry or even some early goals. Even after one week of fall ball I can see which teams have that player leadership to be ready to go and then unfortunately a couple of teams that got spanked this week have met since the first game to say we can be better. I along with a number of the high school coaches find fault with the MIAA. It would be nice if our coaches weren't so handcuffed in actually have some relationship with their players in the off season. The fact is the same in the summer and in the fall as it is in the winter, if you have good team chemistry your chances for success improve.

Thirdly we have the **AAU factor**. Full disclosure most people know I run a very successful AAU program and there will always be people that love AAU or hate AAU. It is what it is! In terms of this rant it is tough to have chemistry with your team when a number of your kids are playing AAU all summer and they are not playing much with the kids they will play in the fall with. I

think the experience and exposure is important for the best players, I don't think it is for some kids whose ceiling will be varsity basketball. The ironic thing is 10 kids got more college exposure the first week of fall ball than they did all spring and summer with their AAU programs. The fact here is when many of your guys are coming and going all summer it is difficult to build anything resembling team chemistry until they start playing in fall with their teammates and maybe not till our high school coaches get them in December.

Next up is the **panic syndrome**. This is for players that are going to be seniors and their parents. Everyone is stressed about recruitment. Players become stressed, parents become anxious. They are pressing and feeling they have to impress by doing stuff that maybe they can't do. We have built a college recruitment exposure piece into the league and sometimes I wonder is it all great? but the advantages far outweigh the disadvantages and we ask our coaches to talk to the kids about just going out and playing and not necessarily worrying about the guys in coaches row. Unlike some of these exposure events that don't and can't put players in front of college coaches we do. We believe that this is huge for our kids. Yes over 40 schools have committed to attend once again, but we would be lying that in some cases it could add to the sluggishness especially in the first two weeks.

Finally is the **blow up** factor. We as adults and anyone working in this great grass root field must be realistic in working with players. When some players get unrealistically blown up they tend to forget in fall ball it's about your high school team and how you are in that team setting. Let's get you exposure, don't get expose! Kids have a hard time understanding that the college coaches like the high school coaches that attend want to see you play with your high school team, they want to see how you handle all aspects of THE game. With my 30 years of working with kids and my community psychology background it pains me to see kids get unrealistically blown up only to then deal with confidence issues. Relax and just play; in the end the cream always rises to the top. So yeah this is another factor that is part of the sluggish start.

So in closing, yes there are a number of issues that lead to the first couple of weeks of fall ball sluggishness but the great thing is with each passing week that these guys play together, get on the same page, work on pre-season goals and get psyched for the winter it will all be good.

SO AS WE SAY IN FALL BALL

DON'T GET TOO HIGH, DON'T GET TOO LOW, IT'S FALL BALL