

**Wild Card-89**  
 PLAYER: Fennis Dembo  
 Guard  
 D.O.B.: 1/24/66  
 HT.: 6'3"  
 WT.: 216  
 COLLEGE: Wyoming

	Field Goals			Free Throws			Pts.	Avg.
	Att.	Made	Pct.	Att.	Made	Pct.		
1985	309	151	489	130	90	212	350	13.0
1986	420	227	540	161	129	229	577	17.0
1987	400	240	612	171	131	441	609	20.3
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1129</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>802</b>	<b>1606</b>	<b>17.1</b>

COLLEGIATE SUCCESS PRODUCTS  
 Will Card  
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## NA FALLBALL 2016 WEEK#5 RECAP ACCORDING TO FENNIS DEMBO

We have reached the midpoint of NA Fall Ball. As I said early on; this season will go by fast and **REMEMBER WINTER IS COMING**. This was the first week the barn was all buttoned up as the fall air is turning colder. Too bad because the colors outside the YC are always top notch and gives some of the non -junkie fans a chance to do some leaf peeping instead of watching the action. Coaches row was still busy and with Monday being a holiday we saw some great crowds. Lets' recap the Week 5 action in the Barn and at the McDome



FOR THE 2<sup>ND</sup> WEEK IN A ROW HIGH FLYER NATE HOBBS DID HIS THING

**NEW MISSION 67 NORTH ANDOVER 53:** This was a terrific game. The Knights played very well in the first half as the game went back and forth. As in every game this fall the Titans just wear you down but this was still a 4 point game with 4 minutes left. Knights continue to play well despite missing two potential starters all fall. I repeat the Titans are the team to beat after week 5. Matt Rosenthal and Connor Rogers shined for Knights and Kevin Nunez and Alex Delarossa are a scary 1-2 scoring punch for Titans

**CENTRAL CATHOLIC 75 WACHUSETT 63:** The Raiders continued their winning ways leading for almost the entire game. CC had a number of runs but was very impressed that Wachusett did not fold, they battled back each time. I loved some new toughness I saw from the Mountaineers. Ricky Nault has a fun team here that has depth. If a player does not bring it each game they will sit you and bring someone else in because they can. Kevin Fernandez once again top dog and 15 Raiders scored in this one.

**LAWRENCE 53 WESTFORD 39.** This game lacked some real intensity as Westford slowed down the Lancers with their zone defense. Once again I worried if the Grey Ghosts would score but after major droughts they did put a few runs together. The Grey Ghosts did not have an answer for new Lancer Luis Reynoso who dominated many times. Jon Glidden continues to have a great fall with 16 for WA

**METHUEN 64 TRITON 34:** Rangers who had played the toughest schedule came out slow and lethargic actually trailing the Vikings for 6 minutes before Methuen woke up and went on a 15-0 run. Methuen got great contributions from 9 guys. Triton was once again led by do everything junior Will Parsons. John McCarthy was back to help Will but honestly other Vikings need to start playing

**LONDONDERRY 73 CHELMSFORD 48:** The Lancers may not “look” like a dominating team but they play the best together of any team. Jake Coleman had another great MVP performance with 37 points 4 assists and 7 rebounds. Cole Britting knows how to run the lancer offense. Chelmsford battled as they always do but just not in the same class as Londonderry right now.

**ST PETER-MARIAN 55 PEABODY 43:** This game was played before the smallest fall ball crowd ever. There were actually more college coaches than fans. The Guardians decimated by injuries only had 5 players but they remained undefeated with a grind it out win. Juan Zorilla and Shemar Sims were very good. Peabody played hard but did not play like they had the last two weeks. They got away from what was making them relative

**ST JOHNS PREP 47 HAVERHILL 31.** Only way to describe this game was ugly and physical. Bodies were flying and shooting % set basketball back 50 years. At one point SJP was shooting under 30% and Haverhill was shooting 18%. There was a big crowd but lets’ just say most were on their phones. Eagles remain undefeated but will have to play a lot better next week

**LOWELL 58 PELHAM 46:** I am glad the Red Raiders are reading the recap because they actually came out and played better this week. They had more energy and did not lay down. This was close throughout but the key was a 9-0 run by the Red Raiders that the Pythons could not come back from. Alec Rivera awoke after a couple of sub bar weeks to show he is in the MVP discussion with 24 points & 16 rebounds. Kyle Frank is the heart and soul of the Pythons

**ANDOVER 84 SALEM 65:** Over at the McDome, Andover put to rest the rumors they are dead with an impressive win over Salem. The Golden Warriors hit for 15 yes 15 three pointers. Tim Kalantzakos had 6 of them. The Golden Warriors get in the win column and must build on this. The Blue Devils need to look in the mirror on this one

**TEWKSBURY 65 BURLINGTON 50:** The nightcap over at the McDome saw the Redmen go above .500 with a 15 point win over Burlington. Gio Ciampa was Gio Ciampa but Connor Brinklow stole the show with 17 points.



GAME OF THRONES FANS KNOW –

**WINTER IS COMING**

**WEEK 5 RESULTS**

**NEW MISSION 67 (KEVIN NUNEZ 22)**

**NO ANDOVER 53 (MATT ROSENTHAL 18)**

**CENTRAL CATHOLIC 75 (KEVIN FERNANDEZ 15)**

**WACHUSETT 63 (SAM DION 18)**

**LAWRENCE 53 (LUIS REYNOSO 18)**

**WESTFORD 39 (JON GLIDDEN 16)**

**METHUEN 64 (ANDREW MARCELINO 17)**

**TRITON 34 (WILL PARSONS 17)**

**TEWKSBURY 65 (CONNOR BRINKLOW 17)**

**BURLINGTON 50 (WILL MELANSEN 13)**

**ANDOVER 84 (TIM KALANZAKOS 21)**

**SALEM 65 (GRIFFIN CURTIS 20)**

**LONDONDERRY 73 (JAKE COLEMAN 37)**

**CHELMSFROD 48 (AUSTIN CHADWICK 22)**

**ST PETER-MARIAN 55 (JUAN ZORILLA 20)**

**PEABODY 43 (JUNIOR ESTRELLA 17)**

**ST JOHNS PREP 47 (NATE HOBBS 11)**

**HAVERHILL 31 (AVERY CERON 9)**

**LOWELL 58 (ALEX RIVERA 24)**

**PELHAM 46 (KYLE FRANK 12)**

**NEXT WEEKS SCHEDULE: PLEASE REFER TO WEBSITE [WWW.NAFALLBALL.COM](http://WWW.NAFALLBALL.COM)**

**Game to watch in week 6 NEW MISISON VS CENTRAL CATHOLIC**

**TEAM OF THE WEEK:** Nominees: New Mission, Central Catholic, Andover, Londonderry. 3 of the 4 are here every week but this week we honor **ANDOVER**. First time they have ever started 0-4, they have actually looked really bad, but we saw signs of life last week and this week a resounding 19 point win. They showed resiliency and they are on their way back. **CONGRATS GOLDEN WARRIORS**

**GAME OF THE WEEK:** Games this week were a mixed bag. Some good ones, some mediocre ones and some bad ones. The only two nominees this week are **NORTH ANDOVER VS NEW MISSION** and **CENTRAL CATHOLIC VS WACHUSETT**. We are going to give the slight nod to **NEW MISSION vs NORTH ANDOVER** with the Knights solid game plan and the Titans ability to never really get rattled and eventually wear teams down. Congrats Knights and Titans

**DO YOUR JOB WINNER WEEK #4 WINNER:** The nominees are Gio Ciampa, Shamar Sims, Connor Rogers, Matt Rosenthal, Cole Britting, Colin Bradanese, Kevin Sweeney, Kyle Frank, Charles Mitchell, Victor Mwaurah, Sam Dion, Joey Nuttall, Matt McLaughlin, Jon Glidden, Dante Rivera, The nominees all had impressive weeks but the two that shined above everyone else were **SHAMAR SIMS OF SPM 14 points 14 rebounds & MATT ROSENTHAL OF NORTH ANDOVER who scored 18 points 4 assists 4 rebounds. Congrats Shamar and Matt**

**NEW COMER OF THE WEEK:** After week 5 we highlight a player that may have been quiet the first four weeks who has taken their game to a new level now. The nominees are **CONNOR BRINKLOW, SAM DION, JACK FOWLER, ROBBIE HUDSON, NICK CLARK, DREW BROWN**. This week we honor Methuen sophomore **NICK CLARK**. Nick has come a long way. Still has work to do but this week he did some very nice things with 9 points and 11 rebounds. Congrats **NICK**



METHUEN'S NICK CLARK



**CO PLAYER OF THE WEEK KEVIN NUNEZ – NEW MISSION**

**PLAYER OF THE WEEK:** The nominees are **KEVIN NUNEZ, LUIS REYNOSO, ANDREW MARCELINO, TIM KALANTZAKOS, JAKE COLEMAN, JUAN ZORILLA AND ALEX RIVERA.** Tim K hit 6 threes to help warriors win their first. Luis Reynoso showing that if he puts it together he is a scholarship player, Andrew Marcelino and Alex Rivera showed they are their teams' best player. Juan Zorilla is having a very good fall but the two that shined above the masses were **JAKE COLEMAN** of Londonderry 37 points 4 assists and 7 rebounds and **KEVIN NUNEZ** of New Mission with 22 points 8 rebounds and the way he made everything look easy. Congrats **JAKE AND KEVIN**

**WEEK #1 ALEX RIVERA – LOWELL**

**WEEK #2 TOMMY ONEIL –SJP**

**WEEK #3 ALEX DELAROSSA – NEW MISSION**

**WEEK #4 JAKE COLEMAN – LONDONDERRY**

**WEEK #5 JAKE COLEMAN – LONDONDERRY, KEVIN NUNEZ – NEW MISSION**

**STANDINGS:** PLEASE GET USED TO SEEING THE UPDATED STANDINGS ON THE WEBSITE [WWW.NAFALLBALL.COM](http://WWW.NAFALLBALL.COM) YES TOTAL TRANSPARENCY TO KNOW WHERE YOU STAND

WE TRY TO GET THIS UPDATED BY NOON ON WEDNESDAY

**ZEBRAS:** In week #4 we had, James Slattery, Julien Scott, Paul Slattery, Ted Slattery, Kevin Boutilier, Ralph Sully, Brian Schaufenbil, Tracy Mitchell, Stormy Napolitano. Zebras did a nice job again this week. Not everyone is going to agree on every call but folks should be pleased with the caliber officials we have week in and week out. Please note we should have most of our college refs for the next few weeks



TOP OFFICIAL – JAMES SLATTERY

**COLLEGES IN THE BARN.** This week we saw **SALEM, TRINITY, MT IDA, UNE, KEENE, ANNA MARIA, POST UNIVERISTY, ENDICOTT, ST. JOSEPHS, CURRY.** We have now seen 32 different colleges. The college season begins this week so we may see numbers down but they will still be coming throughout the season. 4 new ones are slated for next two weeks

#### **THE SIGN IN LOBBY WILL ALWAYS LET YOU KNOW WHO IS HERE**

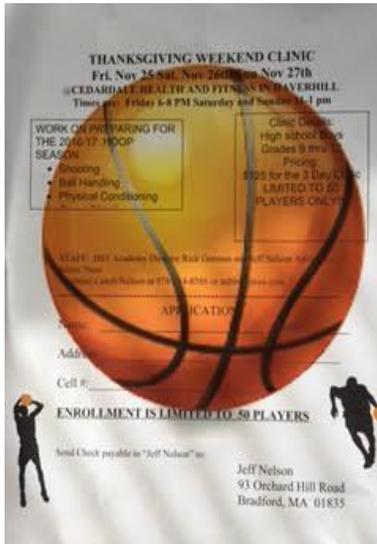
**Every year NA FALLBALL does more to help players get appropriate and realistic college exposure. When we say coaches are here they are here!!!!**

**Nice to see some kids getting REAL exposure IN WEEK 5: stock risers this week: **CONNOR ROGERS, MATT ROSENTHALL, TIM KALANTZAKOS, ANDREW MARCELINO, JON GLIDDEN, ERIC BJORN****

#### **NUTS AND BOLTS:**

- **HIGH SCHOOL COACHES PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO SCHEDULE & REMIND YOUR PLAYERS DATE AND TIME. ALSO WE ARE SEEING LOW ROSTER NUMBERS. PLEASE DO YOUR BEST TO HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH PLAYERS EVERY NIGHT. PLEASE ALSO REMEMBER THIS IS A VARSITY LEAGUE**
- For parents/fans, schedules and fall ball articles are at the front desk. Please sit in designated areas. You cannot sit on coaches row
- Remember BURLINGTON AND LOWELL SWITCHED SCHEDULES
- College coaches please see Rick for comprehensive college coaches' package as well as rosters package. These are not for the public, only coaches
- PARKING is in the YC Lot or you can park on Johnson or Milk streets
- Teams you do not have access to YC till 5pm and Brooks till 7:45pm
- Players Know the Rule: **NO 2016 LEAGUE REVERISBLE, NO PLAY, NO NEGOTIATIONS**

- Teams please pick up bench area when game is over
- All live tweets and player of game pics posted on **@fennisdembo87**
- Games need to start on time. Teams coming from a distance, please plan accordingly. **THIS WEEK A FEW GAMES STARTED A BIT EARLY.....BE THERE**
- Volunteer coaches please make sure you know the rules of engagement. See Rick if you have any questions **ESPECIALLY PLAYING WITH 5 FOULS RULE**
- Meeting areas for teams is front and back stairwell, first floor game room and outside



**ANNUAL FINAL TUNEUP THANKSGIVING WEEKEND.**

**PROGRAM WILL SELL OUT FOR 6<sup>TH</sup> STRAIGHT YEAR. Clinic held at Cedardale Athletic Club in Haverhill**

### **FACES IN THE CROWD ON WEEK #5**

Chad and Sue Downer and their lovely daughter, Johnny Bag O Donuts, The Rosenthals and Grampa Rosey, Detective Rogers and the Mrs. The Cinserrulli's, Don and former Knight Alex Romano, Former Fall Ball great Tyler Dion, Cory McCarthy, Rick Nault, Kevin Murphy Builders, Tom Coffey of Mass Select, former Lawrence balla Manny Sanchez, Mr. Lewis, Knight Footballers Jake McElroy and Darren Watson, Mr. and Mrs. Dom Keegan, CC Board of Trustees, George Yorke and Meet the Smiths, The Dions, an appreciative Mr. Bjorn, Ray Nunez, Dave Duzklewski, Westford Cable Television, Adam Bramanti, The Gliddens, Ryan Middlemiss, Dante Rivera extended family, Mayara's boyfriend, Lindsay Scarpa, Leah Hurley, Uncle Marcelino, Roger Hardy, Mr. Parsons, Rob McLaughlin, Faz, Tennis guru Alan Hibino, Nick Napps, Bill Brinklow, Rob Ryan of Bills fame, Trainer Wilkins Victor, John Dullea, Mike Larson, the Franks, The Garafolo's, Nate Stanton, Mr. Stanton who works the crowd like a politician, old time Lawrence fan, Westford parent that snuck upstairs, Post U and Harrisons Roast Beef fanatic Justin Lang, Coach Bouda, Paul Tanglis Sr. Hockey Fanatic Justin Barry, Injured Colin Lee,

### **FASHION OF THE WEEK:**

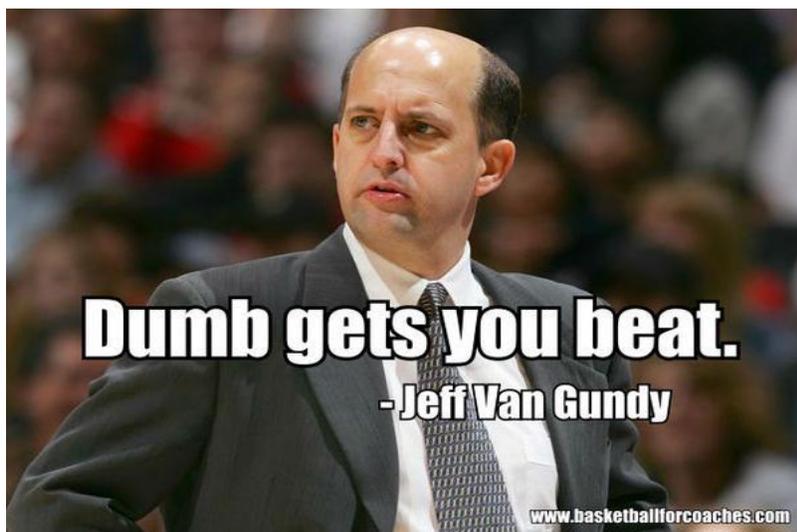
The boots are back and Fennis is very pleased. Salem HC Chris Harvey violated the sitting etiquette and was fined. UNE HC Ed Silva was embarrassed for Coach Harvey. We found out the woman that dresses like a nurse really is a nurse and does sport a variety of nurse ware. Stormy Napolitano continues to never be in the running for fashion of the week. Lindsay Scarpa rocks the Indian moccasins every week. Johnny Bag O donuts has made stretch band waist chinos fashionable again. Rob Ryan still looks like Rob Ryan. Mr. Parsons with the first time we have seen him dressed down. The winner this week was CENTRAL CATHOLIC parent and former NA Star CHAD DOWNER. He was first accused of wearing the same clothes the day before at the Girls fall ball game. It was confirmed he wore different boxers and a different color fleece. The look was one of confusion; from waist down shorts no socks, shoes and shorts from waist up a late fall fleece. Chad has already picked up his free slice from Stacheys



**ROB RYAN has been a fixture at FallBall**



**SALEM STATE CHRIS HARVEY FINED FOR VIOLATING SITTING ETIQUETTE**



**Week #5 TOP 5 PET PEEVES:** Every week we highlight our pet peeves. Yes we are perfectionists so we expect the game to be played the right way. Effort mistakes are tolerable but many of these throughout the fall will give true basketball people angina

5. **PLAYERS HUNTING SHOTS:** We have a few players that consciously or unconsciously hunt shots. Efficiency is not in their vocabulary and the biggest offenders need to understand they are not good enough shooters to hunt shots anyways

4. **INABILITY TO MAKE A POST ENTRY PASS:** Amazes me that kids don't know how to make the pass and where to make the pass from. Players are being cheated by teammates that can't make the entry pass. TEACH POST ENTRY

3. **EMOTIONAL BASKET CASES:** Understand refs are not going to make every call correctly just like you are not going to be a perfect player. Shut up and get back on defense AND BY THE WAY IT'S A GAME

2. **PLAYERS WHO WARM UP LIKE IT'S A MODEL SHOOT FOR A TEEN MAGAZINE:** Hey Giselle college coaches actually take note of this. Warm up like you're a basketball player

1. **SETTLING FOR JUMPERS WHEN YOU HAVE A CLEAR ADVANTAGE INSIDE:** **Pretty** self - explanatory and thank God a few teams figured it out after their coach called timeout and said the same thing

**GET BETTER.....GET BETTER.....GET BETTER**

Don't be upset with the results you didn't get from the work you didn't do.

WHO BROUGHT IT IN WEEK #5: - THESE GUYS DID!



Andover is our team of the week as they brought it in week # 5. **Tim Kalantzakos** was very good with 21 points and hitting six of fifteen Warriors three pointers on the night. Freshman **Kyle Rocker** got some burn and he responded with 15 points and two threes. **Emmet Kim** is rounding into the Andover flow and had 15 points with three threes. The most consistent warrior this fall has been **Mike Makiej** and he continued with 12 points and good rebounds. Reserve **Kevin Labrie** had his best fall game with 7 points. Salem struggled this week and got

Andover at the wrong time. First thing the Blue Devils need to do is defend the perimeter. **Griffin Curtis** had 20 points this week. **Matt McLaughlin** had a good second half scoring 16 of his 18. **DJ Coletti** was steady with 10 points. Andover needs to build on this week and Salem needs to say "On to week 6"

Tewksbury is quietly above .500 with a 3-2 record. **Gio Ciampa** continues to be a very consistent player and one guy that all the other 19 teams would love to have. Tonight he had double digit boards and 15 points. Big night for sophomore **Connor Brinklow** who had a career high 17 points. **Adam Pacheco** and scorer **David Giuggio** continue to get buckets. Burlington was once again led by **Will Melansen** with 13 points. **Hurley** chipped in with 10 points and **Justin Fitzpatrick** who has a huge upside had 8 points.

**Kevin Nunez** of New Mission was our co-player of the week with 22 points and just a great ability to slow the game down in his mind. **Alex Delarossa** is very, very good. Tonight he had 17 points 2 assists 4 rebounds and 3 steals. **Shaq Murray** was efficient in his shot attempts scoring 10 points. The **Mitchell twins** are just flat out winners and are the consummate team players. **Charlie** with 2 points 3 assists and 10 rebounds. **Charles** with 8 points 6 assists and 6 rebounds. **Matt Rosenthal** was great for NA tonight. When Matt does what he does well and only what he does well he is efficient and productive. This week 18 points 4 assists 4 rebounds. **Connor Rogers** just gets it done every week 13 points 4 assists 9 rebounds 3 steals and many hockey assists. **Jack Fowler** is back and getting it done at the 4 man spot. 6 points 3 assists and 6 rebounds. I was impressed with big man **Ben O'Connell** with 4 points 4 boards and some great rim running and playing out of the room.

Central Catholic had 15 different players in the scoring column. **Kevin Fernandez** minutes have been shortened but still very effective 13 points 3 assists and 3 rebounds. **Victor Mwaurah** is so under the radar but love how he can help this team and his leadership on the bench is awesome. Tonight 7 points 5 assists 4 rebounds. **Colin Bradanese** is becoming a double-double guy. He had 11 rebounds tonight. **Sam Lara** 9 points 4 rebounds does his job. **Dom Keegan** 7 points and **Matt Downer** 6 points can stretch the defense. **George Smith** is a good looking freshman with one of the highest bball IQ on the team. First mention for **Manny Sanchez** as he contribute 7 points and 3 rebounds. Wachusett **Sam Dion** with his best game with 18 points 5 assists and 2 rebounds. **Joey Nuttall** is my guy 13 points 5 assists and 2 rebounds. **Eric Bjorn** continues his strong fall with 12 points 9 rebounds. **James Coffey** with his first mention with a productive night 7 points 4 rebounds.

Westford is getting a great season from **Jon Glidden**, the tough guard scored 16 points and had 3 assists. **Robbie Hudson** was solid with 6 points and 10 rebounds. **Erik Bibbo** with a first mention had 6 rebounds and **Armen Almaisani** is a presence out on the floor each week. Lawrence is always led by **Juan Felix Rodrigues** but he sat out the second half but still managed 9 points and 9 rebounds in the first half. **Luis Reynoso** was a problem with Grey Ghosts as he was unstoppable at times. He finished with 18 points and 7 rebounds. **Chris Ruiz** was strong with 10 points and 3 rebounds. **Jaden Castillo** contributed 4 assist and 5 rebounds

Methuen after a slow start was impressive and they had a big four tonight. **Andrew Marcelino** was a work horse with 17 points, 2 assist and 9 rebounds. **Dante Rivera** was very good with 10 points, 7 assists and 6 rebounds. **Kash Solomon** with his best night 9 points 4 assists and **Evan Hardy** had 13 points and 3 assists. Methuen also had the new comer of the week in **Nick Clark** who had 9 points and 11 rebounds. Feeling bad for **Will Parsons** who does everything for the Vikings. Tonight he had 17 points, 4 assists and 8 rebounds. **John McCarthy** was a good second scorer tonight with 13 points and 6 rebounds but only one other Viking cracked the scoring column

Londonderry is good and **Jake Coleman** is special. Jake had 37, 4 assists and 7 rebounds to earn co-player of the week. **Cole Britting** is a vet. The prototypical point guard had 8 points 8 assists and 6 rebounds and really ran the offense to a T. **Ethan May** is a tough kid that does all the dirty work that does not show up in the scorebook. **Ethan Garafolo** did not shoot it well this week but love how he is not afraid to take a shot after he has missed a few. **Austin Chadwick** leads Chelmsford every night and this week he had 22 points 3 assists and 7 rebounds. **Kevin Sweeney** is productive. This week 13 points 2 assists and 9 rebounds. Soph **Alex Silva** is a good one. This week he had 3 points 3 assists and 5 rebounds.

Peabody was not great this week, started to get away from the things that were keeping them very competitive. They need to get back to the last few weeks type of play. Didn't love **Junior Estrella** shot selection but he does play hard. He had 17 points and 9 rebounds again. **Chris Canella** is very intriguing with 12 points and 4 rebounds. **Will Diezmann** contributed 6 rebounds. **Juan Zorilla** was very good with 20 points and 6 rebounds. Love **Shamar Sims** 14 points and 13 rebounds. **Peter Hao** with his best game 6 points and 6 rebounds and **Keone** had 9 points and 8 rebounds

Prep wins an absolute ugly one to keep them undefeated. **Nate Hobbs** 11 points and 2 very nice dunks. **Tommy O'Neil** had 8 points and 5 rebounds. **Matt Relihan** was the player of the game with his best outing (10 points 10 rebounds) Freshman **Janelle** was solid at the guard spot. Haverhill was offensively challenged tonight but they did play hard. **Avery Ceron** had 9 points and 4 rebounds. **Joey Fenderson** had 5 points 3 rebounds and 3 assists. Haverhill missed Navin Cruz who picked up second technical in first half

Lowell brought it tonight after not bringing the last two weeks. **Alex Rivera** was special with 24 points and 16 rebounds. **Tim Sousa** was a nice second fiddle with 9 points and 4 rebounds. **Carlos Nunez** another very good freshman has 13 points and 4 rebounds. Pelham was led by **Kyle Frank** with 14 points 8 assists and 5 rebounds and **Joe Pantaleo** with 15 points and 8 rebounds. **Blake Woekel** contributed 9 points and Drew Brown had 8 points and 4 rebounds



**POWER RANKINGS – AFTER WEEK TWO WE ESTABLISH THE WEEKLY POWER RANKINGS. YOU NEED TO BRING IT EVERY WEEK. I REPEAT EVERY WEEK!!!**

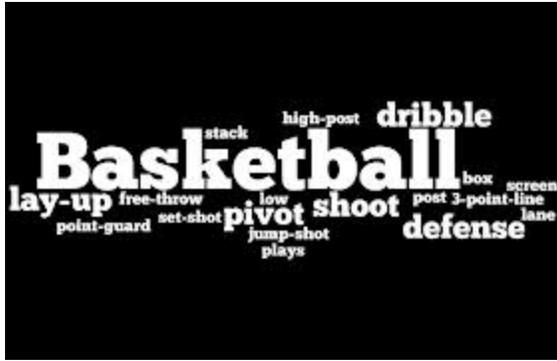
THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK
<b>1. NEW MISSION 5-0</b>	<b>1. NEW MISSION 4-0</b>
<b>2. ST JOHNS PREP 5-0</b>	<b>2. SJP 4-0</b>
<b>3. CENTRAL CATHOLIC 4-1</b>	<b>3. CENTRAL CATHOLIC 3-1</b>
<b>4. LONDONDERRY 4-1</b>	<b>4. ST PETER MARIAN 4-0</b>
<b>5. ST PETER-MARIAN 5-0</b>	<b>5. LONDONDERRY 4-1</b>

**OUTSIDE LOOKING IN: LAWRENCE 3-2, NORTH ANDOVER 3-2, TEWKSBURY 3-2**

**How good will this freshman group be?** Been doing this a long time and this league has a good number of freshman that when it is all said and done this could be a great senior class. Another good one is CC Freshman George Smith. We will be doing an upcoming piece on the baby faced futures



**GEORGE SMITH**



## THE WEEKLY RANT: FOOD FOR THOUGHT OR FOOD FOR THE DUMPSTER.....YOU DECIDE

### Revisiting the Lost Art of Passing!

This is not the first time I have talked about the lost art of passing and I know for sure it won't be the last time either. We are now five weeks into Fall Ball and I am wondering if this is actually the worst year of passing I have witnessed. I shake my head with the number of unforced passing turnovers I have witnessed as a player throws the ball out of bounds this fall. A couple of the repeat offenders at least do mutter the words "My Bad" this year. I have sat courtside and watched our best shooters reach over their heads or reach down to get a ball at their ankles because a poor passing teammate cannot give it to the shooter where he needs it. I watched closely as two of our best shooters Jake Coleman and Juan Felix Rodrigues miss out on great shot attempts because of poor passing. Some coaches are so frustrated that guys are being taken out of the game or better yet not allowed to pass which might even be more insulting. So who or what is to blame?

Fundamentally the art of passing is not taught enough! This is a fact. We need to value the pass as much as the shot in shooting drills and shooting skill development. In our shooting drills we take points away for poor passing. Go into any gym and watch kids practicing shooting with other people the passing is atrocious.

Working on Passing at the youngest ages. We tend to spend a lot of time with our youngest kids on ball handling and all the great ball handling games. We need to incorporate the same energy and commitment with passing

Basketball IQ. Do the math; some of the worst offenders are not the highest BBall IQ players. Defenders are better, more aggressive, longer, relentless these days so you have to be a skilled passer and a high IQ passer. Some naturally have the IQ, others develop it and still others never do

Just Lazy passers: I touched on this last year but it's very true. You can teach these guys all you want but in the end some kids are just lazy passers, receivers, turnover kings. If you fit this bill you would have a hard time playing for me

The Passer who pays the penalty for his teammate not stepping to the ball: I feel bad for the passer who makes a decent pass and his teammate does not step to it, the ball gets stolen and some yahoo in the stands says watch your passes

Some kids don't know how to make the right pass and when to make the right pass and where to make it from: This is broad but encompasses the whole enchilada. When to make an air pass, when to make a bounce pass. When the jump stop pass is best and when leaving your feet to pass is appropriate. Embracing one hand passes and the vaunted baseline pass where you are actually making pass in the air out of bounds. This week I gained more grey hairs with the complete inability to make a post entry pass. Guys making weak telegraphed passes from the wrong angle. I could write five pages on this alone.

Turnovers are once again this year very high and passing turnovers make up the majority

Before we think the sky is falling we do have some very good passers in this league who clearly have been trained and coached by the right people.

Lets' make the game better by really teaching the art of passing and valuing passing as much as we do the guy who can put the ball in the bucket

Good friend Andy Van Horn @knightspeedstr turned me on to Game of Thrones a couple of months ago with a comment that "Take any character from GOT and you can find their corresponding personality in all the worlds we work in". So I binged watched 6 seasons and not only do I think it's a very good show but his words were more than true. I have begun to work on a blog entry on how GOT might have gotten inspiration from some parts of the grassroots bball landscape. Much more to follow but clearly a lot of Heroes, Villains, Frauds, Alliances, Missions, Beheadings, Unknown forces, mythical characters, old sages, fireside chats and hopefully when it ends a clear win for good over evil. SO REMEMBER WINTER IS COMING



DON'T GET TOO HIGH, DON'T GET TOO LOW.... IT'S FALLBALL