

NA FALLBALL 2016 WEEK #9 RECAP ACCORDING TO FENNIS DEMBO

A great start to the chase for the TJ MCEVOY TROPHY. Monday night we had three preliminary games that were entertaining and guys knew it was Win or Go Home. After night one we said goodbye to WESTFORD, PEABODY and TRITON but we had our round of 16 set. The first night of the round of 16 saw some nice matchups and a couple of expected large wins. On Tuesday we had to say goodbye to CHELMSFORD, ANDOVER, WACHUSETT and SALEM. The first four teams to the ELITE 8 are #1 SJP, #3 CENTRAL CATHOLIC, #6 NORTH ANDOVER & #7 LONDONDERRY. The second night of the ROUND OF 16 takes place Monday November 14th. We are now down to 12 remaining teams in the hunt. Lets' review week #9



PRELIMINARY GAMES:

#18 PELHAM 54 #15 WESTFORS 52 OT: Scary that 29 hours prior Fennis accurately predicted the outcome of the game and who was the difference. This was a fun game as both teams knew they didn't want their fall to end. Frank for Pelham and Glidden from Westford were the senior leaders and they did not disappoint. It was also nice to see role players for both teams step up and as predicted Freshman Drew Brown was the difference with 26 points and 7 three pointers. Pelham up 2 with seconds left fouled Westford on a three point attempt. Only two free throws were made to force overtime and in OT Pythons were just a tad better

#14 WACHUSETT 66 #19 TRITON 30: Wachusett probably should not have been in prelim round but the tie breaker scenarios dictated it. This was all Wachusett as expected. James Coffey had a team high 15

points and Eric Bjorn was terrific with 14 points and 17 rebounds. Triton leaves us winless but a great fall for their one man machine Will Parsons who finished the season with 19 points and the leagues' second leading scorer.

#17 CHELMSFORD 65 #16 PEABODY 42: This was an interesting game. Peabody was up fourteen early, playing well and very emotional but in an instant Chelmsford went on a 20-0 run and literally won this running away. Kevin Sweeney was terrific with 12 points and 16 rebounds and Chelmsford had 5 players score between 9 and 13 points each. For Peabody Chubukum Onwuogo with an interesting line 3 points and 20 rebounds.

ROUND OF 16 (FIRST NIGHT)

#7 LONDONDERRY 62 # 10 SALEM 43: This was only close for five minutes as the tide turned fast and body language for the Blue Devils was not good. The Lancers never panic and they play very good offensively, defensively and smart similar to how we saw Virginia the last couple of years. The big four of Londonderry is very good with Coleman, Britting, Garafolo and May. Griffin Curtis fine fall ended this night. Griffin was leagues' leading scorer this fall. The Lancers are on to the elite 8

#3 CENTRAL CATHOLIC 72 #14 WACHUSETT 56: The final score is not indicative of how close this game was and how good this game was. Wachusett Eric Bjorn caused CC trouble on the boards and his athleticism. Joey Nuttal might be a future MVP of this league and Coffey and Dion have gotten so much better. CC main guy tonight was Dom "Buckets" Keegan. The Virginia Tech baseball commit hit big shots at the most important times. He also is CC Toughest player. Mwaurah, Sanchez, and Bradanese also had big moments. The Raiders are on to the elite 8

#1 SJP 71 #17 CHELMSFORD 45: Another interesting game as Prep did their usual yawning in the first half falling behind by 12 before waking up and going on a 26-4 run. Prep got big games from Nate Hobbs, Tommy O'Neil and Brett McNiff. McNiff is the vocal leader of this team. Kevin Sweeney and Austin Chadwick end nice falls down here. Eagles are on to the elite 8

#6 NORTH ANDOVER 60 # 11 ANDOVER 43: This is another game that the final score is not indicative of how close and good this game was. The Knights had a 4 point lead with 6 minutes left but the Golden Warriors could not get closer as the Knights ended on another great run. Connor Rogers has gone from a virtual unknown outside Turkey town to a final 8 MVP candidate. Tonight he was best player on floor again with 11 points 11 assists and 9 rebounds. Knights also got great games from Fowler and Rosenthal. A child became a man tonight as Freshman Kyle Rocker of Andover had a team high 15 points. The kid is going to be good



POP and TIM / COACH and PLAYER



GAME OF THRONES FANS KNOW –

WINTER IS COMING

WEEK 9 RESULTS

CHELMSFORD 65 (DEVIN FERICANO 13)

PEABODY 42 (CHRIS CANELLA 19)

PELHAM 54 (DREW BROWN 26)

WESTFORD 52 (JON GLIDDEN 24) OT

WACHUSETT 66 (JAMES COFFEY 15)

TRITON 30 (WILL PARSONS 18)

LONDONDERRY 62 (JAKE COLEMAN 18)

SALEM 43 (MATT MCLAUGHLIN 11)

CENTRAL CATHOLIC 72 (DOM KEEGAN 18)

WACHUSETT 56 (JOEY NUTTALL 17)

ST JOHNS PREP 71 (NATE HOBBS 15)

CHELMSFORD 45 (AUSTIN CHADWICK 13)

NORTH ANDOVER 60 (JACK FOWLER 16)

ANDOVER 43 (KYLE ROCKER 15)

2ND NIGHT OF ROUND OF 16 MONDAY NOVEMBER 14

5:15 #8 TEWSKBURY V #9 METHUEN

6:25 #2 SPM V #18 PELHAM

7:35 #4 NEW MISSION V #13 BURLINGTON

8:45 #5 LAWRENCE V #12 HAVERHILL

ELITE 8 – QUARTERFINALS WILL TAKE PLACE TUESDAY NOVEMBER 15

TEAM OF THE WEEK: The nominees this week are **NORTH ANDOVER, PELHAM, LONDONDERRY, CC**. This week we are honoring the team that had the toughest matchup of the week **NORTH ANDOVER**. Such a growth in this team to handle runs better, exert their will better and play to their strengths. Their defense during a stretch in first half was the best all fall. Congrats **KNIGHTS**



GAME OF THE WEEK:

Nominees this week: **PELHAM V WESTFORD , CC V WACHUSETT, ANDOVER V NA**, Pelham v Westford was a fun one for two teams trying to earn respect. CC v Wachusett was very entertaining but the **ANDOVER V NORTH ANDOVER** had it over both. Great guard play, big shots being made, bodies flying, two excellent volunteer coaches, the emergence of a future star, humble and hungry players and two head coaches counting down the days til the Monday after Thanksgiving

DO YOUR JOB WINNER WEEK #9 WINNER:

This week nominees are **VICTOR MWAURAH (CC) KEVIN SWEENEY (CHELMSFORD) WILL PARSONS (TRITON), KYLE FRANK (PELHAM) JON GLIDDEN (WESTFORD), ERIC BJORN (WACHUSETT) JOEY NUTTAL (WACHUSETT) CHUBUKUM ONWUOGO (PEABODY) CHRIS MCCARTHY (CHELMSFORD), COLE BRITTING (LONDONDERRY) MANNY SANCHEZ (CC), COLIN BRADANESE (CC) BRETT MCNIFF (SJP) JACK FOWLER (NA), MIKE MAKEIJ (ANDOVER)**. So many good Do Your Job winners this week but we are going with **PEABODY CHUBUKUM ONWUOGO** who does all the dirty work every game and had 20 rebounds this week

BREAK OUT PERFORMERS OF THE WEEK #9:

Chelmsford **Chris McCarthy** had two nice games this week. It is becoming very clear he will be in the Lions rotation this winter. Westford **Erik Bibbo** is emerging for the Grey Ghosts. **Jack Anderson** of Londonderry with his most confident game this fall. **Manny Sanchez** filling in for

Sam Lara had 14 points. **Jack Connaughton** of Prep was very solid with 8 points and 6 rebounds but the **CO WINNERS THIS WEEK ARE WACHSUETT JAMES COFFEY** with 15 and 13 points this week. His offense gave the mountaineers another player to be reckoned with. **ANDOVER KYLE ROCKER** was fabulous with the big lights on scoring 15 points. Congrats Kyle and James



BREAKOUT PLAYERS

WEEK 9 PLAYER OF THE WEEK:

The nominees this week are **Londonderry Jake Coleman** who is just flat out good every night, **Central Catholic Dom Keegan** showed why he is on the floor, toughness and makes buckets, **Londonderry Cole Britting** had the best passes of the week and really ran this team, **SJP Tommy O'Neil** who scored in every stat category and with his pure presence is just a major factor but the two best performances this week were **PELHAM** freshman **DREW BROWN** with 26 points and 7 threes and none bigger than the ones that gave Pelham the lead in regulation and the one that was huge in OT. **NORTH ANDOVER** senior **CONNOR ROGERS** was special with 11 points 11 assists 9 rebounds and excellent defense. People still don't know who he is and the Knights are fine with that. **CONGRATS CONNOR AND DREW**



CONNOR ROGERS / DREW BROWN

PAST 2016 PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

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

WEEK #6 SAM LARA – CENTRAL CATHOLIC, DAVID GIUGGIO – TEWKSBURY

WEEK #7 MATT ROSENTHAL – NA, JUAN FELIX RODRIGUES – LAWRENCE

WEEK #8 MARIANO RODRIGUES – BURLINGTON

WEEK #9 CONNOR ROGERS – NORTH ANDOVER, DREW BROWN -PELHAM

THE FINAL REGULAR SEASON STANDINGS ARE ON THE SITE NOW. PLAYOFF BRACKET IS UP

ZEBRAS: In week #9 we had, James Slattery, Paul Slattery, Kevin Boutilier, Chris Bennett, Brian Schaufenbil, Tracy Mitchell, Richie Naplitano. Not everyone is going to agree with the calls but a solid job this week once again

COLLEGES IN THE BARN. This week we saw ANN MARIA, ST JOSEPHS, ENDICOTT, COLBY-SAWYER. We have now seen 34 different colleges. THE SIGN IN LOBBY WILL ALWAYS LET YOU KNOW WHO IS HERE

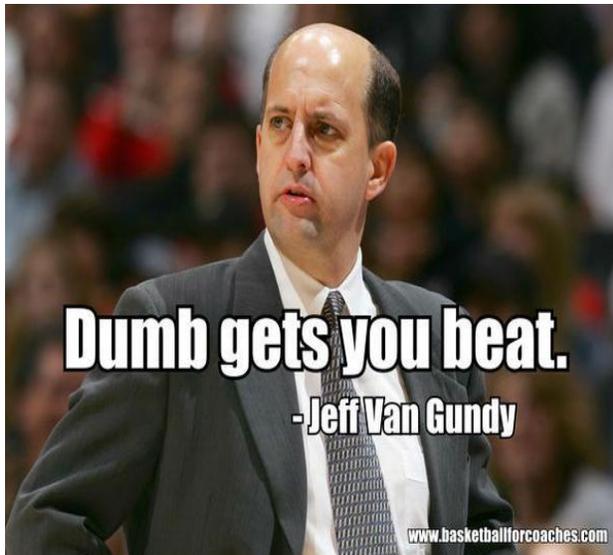
Every year NA FALLBALL does more to help players get appropriate and realistic college exposure. When we say coaches are here they are here!!!



FACES IN THE CROWD DURING WEEK #9: MVSPORTS chief Dave Ruffen, Chad Downer, Steve Downer, former Anna Maria star Junior Delahoz, Trainer Wilkins Victor, Lawtown legend Stevie Martinez, Ricky Nault, George Yorke rocking the Brand, Chris Bramanti and top aide John Warden, Buffalo Bill Rob Ryan, Fundamental Hoops guru Josh Peters, The Crowleys, Meet the Browns from Pelham, Stonehill star Adam Bramanti, Pags wearing the Al Davis look, Johnny Bag o Donuts, Tom Gibbons, Charlie Micol, Former Georgetown head coach Teddy Ballgame, Jim Testa Builders, Dave Clay aka the Rock, Mike Dunham, old man Dunham, Mike Larosa, Alex Larosa, Nate Stanton, Political star Ken Bone, Discreet Mr. Britting, The Garafolos, Mr. Coleman first time this fall, The very appreciative Wachusett parents, Tom Coffey, The Grinder Steve Boudreau, Lukey Richards, The Poulins, Rob Mclaughlin, his better half and his daughter, Former Suffolk star Dean Colleti, The Curtis', Sam Homsey, Mrs. Lewis, Manny Sanchez sr. The Dions, Mrs. Nuttall, Mr. Bjorn, The SJP Board of Trustees, an Unhappy Johnny D, Bill Burt (did he have some work done?) Mr. Silva, The Turkey Town Moms in the hallway, Undercover Detective Rogers, Rich Rosnethal, Julie Whipple, up and comer in the youth ranks Henry Whipple, Frank and Amy Kenneally, Faz, Alan Hibino, The Wittens, animated Mr. Rocker, Mr. Kim, the Franks of Python land, a nervous Carl Nystrom, Mike Larson, Lynne Parsons, Triton moms, Justin Barrasso,



Adam Bramanti, Mike Dunham, Brad Stevens



Week #9 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. TELLING YOUR TEAMMATE/PLAYER TO POST UP & SCREAM SO EVERYONE KNOWS WHAT YOU WANT TO DO. This is not youth basketball and you have a team with one big kid against the lollipop kids. **Post ups come out of action I repeat Post ups come out of action!!!!**

4. PLAYERS WITH BAD BODY LANGUAGE: Got a lot of guys that don't handle adversity well and then we have players who honestly believe they are better than they are and show off a funny body language. Boys handle the adversity, focus, be hungry, be humble and please **GET BETTER**

3. BAD TURNOVERS: So the game is always going to have turnovers but this week we had teams with 28-32 turnovers and some were really bad unforced turnovers. Three times this week we had 5 turnovers in a row between both teams!!!! Wow!!!! **PROTECT THE BALL, POSSESSION IS GOLD**

2. BAD CLOSEOUTS: The technique is a bit of the problem but the biggest problem is control. A lot of 4 point opportunities this week and one bad closeout almost decided the game. **BE SMARTER**

1. NOT BASKETBALL STRONG: Strength training is a big part of hoop development now but it amazes me how many guys are not basketball strong. We have thin, wiry guys in this league who are flat out basketball strong and we have guys that look strong but get balls ripped from them like Johnny Bag o donuts ripping jellies from the DD box. **UNDERSTAND WHAT BASKETBALL STRONG IS AND THEN GET BASKETBALL STRONG**

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 #9: - THESE GUYS DID!

These Guys Did!!!





North Andover **Connor Rogers** was co-player of the week with 11 points 11 assists and 9 rebounds to go along with some stellar defense. **Matt Rosenthal** continues his hot shooting with 13 points. **Nick Martin** had some big moments with 6 points and **Jack Fowler** was huge with 16 points and 11 rebounds. First mention for reserve **Wade Whipple** who came off the bench to score 7 points.

Andover was led by breakout freshman **Kyle Rocker** with 15 points. Kyle has solidified he can be part of the rotation. **Mike Makeij** finished his fine fall with 9 points and 13 rebounds. **Brandon Witten** did a lot of things nice this week with 7 points 3 assists and 6 rebounds.

Westford was led by their best player **Jon Glidden** who scored 24 points had 2 assists and 4 rebounds. **Robbie Hudson** was solid with 10 points. **Erik Bibbo** is emerging with 9 points and 5 rebounds and Freshman **Declan Morse** chipped in 5 points 4 assists and 4 rebounds.

Pelham was led by co Player of the Week **Drew Brown** who had 26 points and 7 three pointers. Drew is really shooting the ball well and has become Pelham's second best player. **Kyle Frank** does not want his team to go home. The kid battles every possession and this week had 17

points 5 assists and 7 rebounds. **Joey Pantaleo** had 9 rebounds and was a force physically for Pelham.

Triton did not win a game this year but they are better for playing this schedule. **Will Parsons** finished a phenomenal fall with 19 points 2 assists and 4 rebounds

Peabody was very improved this fall but bow out in the preliminary round. **Junior Estrella** is one of the leagues' most athletic players, this week he had 11 points and 10 rebounds. **Chubukum Onwuogo** had 20 rebounds for the Tanners this week. The kid can rebound. Peabody's best player has become **Chris Canella** and this week he scored 19 points and grabbed 5 rebounds

Londonderry was led by their stud **Jake Coleman** with 18 points and 11 rebounds. **Ethan Garafolo** has emerged as their second scorer with 11 points this week. **Ethan May** is a grinder; this week he had 9 points 2 assists and 4 rebounds. Freshman **Jack Anderson** with his best game with 5 points and 2 rebounds. The key for me this week with Londonderry was point guard **Cole Britting** who had 4 of the best passes we have seen this fall leading to direct scores. His line this week was 10 points, 9 assists and 6 rebounds. Kid has developed into being a major player.

Salem did not play well this week and end the fall on a down note. The three seniors need to take some more leadership with their young players. **Griffin Curtis** had 7 points and 7 rebounds, **Matt McLaughlin** had a team high 11 points and **DJ Colleti** chipped in 7 points for the blue devils.

St. Johns had their usual slow start but then came on like gang busters. **Nate Hobbs** has a chance to be special. Tonight he was team high scorer with 15. **Brett McNiff** is the Eagles voice. He was impressive tonight with 14 points and 11 rebounds. **Tommy O'Neil** is a major factor in every game with his size. This week he had 13 points 5 assists and 6 rebounds. **Colin Lomsaney** came alive this week with 8 points and 6 rebounds. I thought **Jack Connaughton** was impressive with 8 points and 6 rebounds.

Central was led by **Dom Keegan** with 18 points 4 assists and 5 rebounds. **Victor Mwaurah** is a must have on your team. Love how he plays and how he carries himself. Vic with 11 points 4 assists and 4 rebounds. **Manny Sanchez** filled in admirably with 14 points this week and **Colin Bradanese** finished around the hoop for 16 points. **Kevin Constant** is coming along. This week Kevin had 7 points 3 assists and 4 rebounds. **Jose Lara** still needs to get in basketball shape but was a factor with 4 points and 8 rebounds.

Chelmsford was a great team to have in the league because they came to play every night, never complained and only looked to be more competitive each week. **Austin Chadwick** finishes his career with us with two games this week. In the prelim round he had 6 points and 7 rebounds and in the elimination game scored 13 and grabbed 11 rebounds. **Kevin Sweeney** was one of the most improved players in the league and in two games this week he averaged 11 points and 13 rebounds a game. Sophomore **Alex Silva** has not shot it well this fall but he will

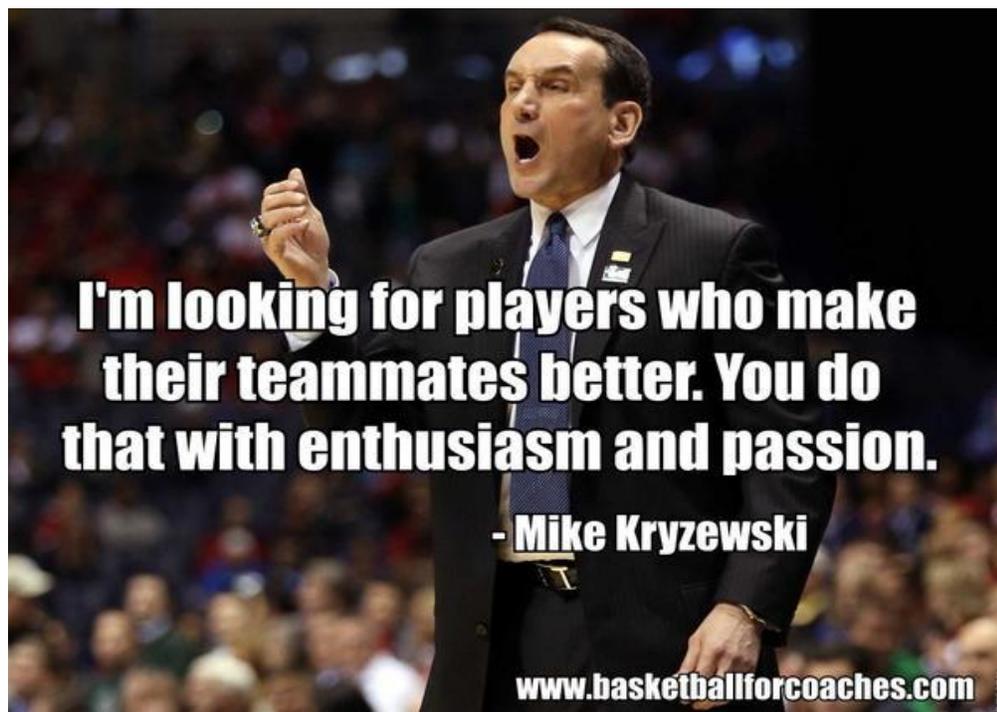
be fine this winter and this week was productive. **Devin Firicano** had a nice two games this week averaging 9 points and 6 rebounds. A very nice week for a new surprise in **Chris McCarthy** who did a lot of nice things.

Wachusett as I predicted got better every week. **Eric Bjorn** was terrific this fall and this week he played two games averaging 12 points and 16 rebounds a game. Going to look forward following him this winter. **Joey Nuttall** is only a sophomore but plays like a four year varsity player. His final two games this week he averaged 15 pts. 3 assists and 3 rebounds. **Sammy Dion** is no longer Tyler little brother, he is his own man. Sam averaged 10 points and 3 rebounds in two games this week. **James Coffey** came alive these last three weeks and he played very well this week adding another threat as he averaged 14 this week

YOU WANT TO BE MENTIONED, BRING IT EVERY WEEK

FASHION OF THE WEEK:

Pags with the Al Davis Raiders look, **Kyle Pepe Lepu** with the bank tellers look. **Adam Bramanti** with the young professional look, **Guy Britting** with the "Serpico" look, **Mr. Dunham** can really rock the beige 1980's members only jacket from Tellos, **The Browns** always repping the Gulls with the Endicott gear. **Stevie Martinez** with the hybrid "hitting the games then the club look" **Wilkins Victor** has every color imaginable for Wilks Skill Development shirts. **George Yorke** just one of many adults and kids wearing the brand this week. Does anyone wear stretchy pants better than **Johnny Bag o Donuts**? Impressive week by a lot of people but this week we go with Andover Power Couple **The Wittens**. Husband and Wife team always dressed for the occasion and deserves the slice this week



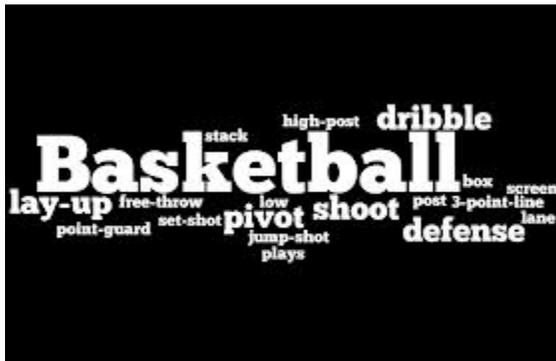
POWER RANKINGS – AFTER WEEK TWO WE ESTABLISH THE WEEKLY POWER RANKINGS. YOU NEED TO BRING IT EVERY WEEK. I REPEAT EVERY WEEK!!!

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK
1. ST JOHNS PREP 9-0	1. ST JOHN'S PREP 8-0
2. CENTRAL CATHOLIC 8-1	2. CENTRAL CATHOLIC 7-1
3. NEW MISSION 6-2	3. NEW MISSION 6-2
4. NORTH ANDOVER 7-2	4. NORTH ANDOVER 6-2
5. LAWRENCE 6-2	5. LAWRENCE 6-2

OUTSIDE LOOKING IN: ST PETER-MARIAN 7-1, LONDONDERRY 6-3,



HMMMMMM



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

Are we moving forward or stuck in quicksand?

This past weekend I had the pleasure of putting on the annual Youth Travel Coaches clinic over at the Ryan school in Tewksbury for the Merrimack Valley Boys League and The River Valley Girls league. We had 101 coaches from grades 4 thru 8 attend who got to listen to great presentations from Bishop Guertin head coach Matt Regan, Former Merrimack College head coach Bert Hammel, North Andover girls head coach Meg Ryan and IAABO State Interpreter Bill Boutilier. As the coaches and administrators mingled during the pre- clinic coffee and donuts much talk centered around the tryout process, selection process, parent expectations and

player expectations. Having been part of travel basketball for thirty years I have heard it and seen it all. Yes the process is not perfect but believe me when I say to you that the process is much better than it was in the 80's and 90's.

There are people that believe coaches should pick the teams, there are people that believe independent evaluators should pick the teams and still others believe knowledgeable people who have no present agenda that know the community and players should pick the team. Some communities who do the independent evaluators want to go by the letter of the scoring results, other communities want to use it for transparency purposes and others want to use it as a tool in making the selections. I have worked closely with three communities that do it very different. One community has independent evaluators and the results determine who makes travel and make A or B. Another community has their coaches run the evaluation and pick the teams. This is a bit troubling to me as they are also parents and friends with a number of kids' parents. To me this is not the best process. The third community has independent evaluators running the tryout, doing the independent evaluators but also allows the coaches to be silent observers during the tryouts. The results are then used with the coaches input to make final decisions. This is a process I really like but in the end this process was not totally perfect. So in terms of this process I think we are making some progress. We need to continue to look in the mirror on this and continue to move forward. My only hope is that kids are given every fair opportunity to earn a travel spot.

Now comes the quicksand. I didn't love the process in the 80's and 90's but one thing was for sure parent involvement, criticism, expectations, unrealistic opinions etc. were not as open or extreme. In the last few weeks I have heard horror stories of opinions, threats, etc. when it comes to where junior falls or doesn't fall. Lets' be clear some of the complaints have validity but many do not. Every parent thinks their children are travel players because there son/daughter plays grassroots hoops, trains with gurus, watches hoop on tv, and then when the results comes in the excuses abound with "just had a bad tryout", "got screwed over by the system" "coach doesn't like my child" etc. and the biggest problem comes down to the 'stigma' that you made the B team and not the A team. I have heard first hand from parents that think the sky is falling with this news and that their child will be psychologically scarred for life.

If you have an A/B structure not everyone can be on the A team. The system has to make sure a B player next years has a real opportunity if they work hard to make the A team and the system needs to make it clear that making an A team is not a lifetime appointment.

A couple of real stories that as Acton-Boxboro Head Coach Rick Kilpatrick wrote in his blog **"Such results should not and will not dictate their long term basketball future"** I had the pleasure of coaching a very talented youth team in Methuen for five years that fast forward had 4 college basketball players 1 college baseball player and 2 college football players but of the 12 kids I had as 4th graders only 5 were with me as 8th graders. Kids got better and earned a spot on the A team and some kids never got better and became successful members of the B team. One kid I did not select because he was not as good as other kids, was not in shape went on to

be a MVC All-Conference player as a junior and a three year varsity player. People joked I missed on this kid but the kid himself says he wasn't ready and it made him hungrier to be who he became.

This past Tuesday we said good bye to Chelmsford and one of their best players Kevin Sweeney. The Chelmsford Boys Hoop twitter site retweeted my comment on Kevin and quotes **"4 YEARS AGO KEVIN WAS A TRAVEL B PLAYER. THE WORLD DOESN'T END WHEN YOU ARE PLACED ON THE B TEAM. MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR OPPORTUNITY, KEV DID"**

Not sure anyone can say it better than that. So in the end I think we are changing the landscape slowly. I hope communities continue to look at process and always find ways to improve. On the other side we still have a lot of work to do on expectations, perception and need for instant gratification but those in the trenches will continue to fight the good fight.

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

