

# THE WORLD ACCORDING TO FENNIS DEMBO



## 2016 NORTH ANDOVER FALL BALL SEASON RECAP

The annual **GOOD, BAD and UGLY** is just a review from those running the league, input from coaches, volunteer coaches, refs, college coaches and Gym Rats that support and watch fall ball games. Take this information as food for thought and then you can file it in your mind or throw it in the dumpster. We hope you can roll with the information. Remember the information, performances, paper awards etc. are based on 11 weeks of Fall Ball only. Remember humor is a good thing. We have tried all fall to shed positives as well as constructive criticism on the teams and players that make up this league. We hope you enjoy the **GOOD, BAD and UGLY**. As my good friend Colonel Jessup once said "You need me on the wall"



**THE 2016 CHAMPS – LAWRENCE**  
**TJ MCEVOY MEMORIAL CHAMPIONS**



**2016 RUNNER-UPS – NORTH ANOVER**  
**BILL MOECKEL MEMORIAL RUNNER-UPS**

**THE AWARDS:**

**PAT CONNOUGHTON MOST VALUABLE PLAYER**

**JUAN FELIX RODRIGUES – LAWRENCE HIGH- “SWEETEST SHOT IN THE MVC”**



**Final Votes by Selection Committee**

**Juan Felix Rodrigues- LAWRENCE – 18**

**Jake Coleman – LONDONDERRY- 13**

**Connor Rogers – NORTH ANDOVER- 9**

**Nate Hobbs – SJP- 7**

**Alex Delarossa – NEW MISSION – 5**

**Tommy O’Neil – SJP – 3**

**FIRST TEAM ALL –FALLBALL**

**JUAN FELIX RODRIGUES – LAWRENCE**

**JAKE COLEMAN – LONDONDERRY**

**NATE HOBBS – SJP**

**TOMMY ONEIL – SJP**

**ALEX DELAROSSA – NEW MISSION**

**SECOND TEAM ALL FALL BALL**

CONNOR ROGERS – NA

GIO CIAMPA – TEWKSBURY

ERIC BJORN – WACHUSETT

GRIFFIN CURTIS –SALEM

CHARLES MITCHELL – NEW MISSION

**THIRD TEAM ALL FALL BALL**

KYLE FRANK – PELHAM

JUAN ZORILLA – SPM

DAVID GIUGGIO – TEWKSBURY

WILL PARSONS – TRITON

ALEX RIVERA - LOWELL

**HONORABLE MENTION:** KEVIN NUNEZ (NM) JOEY NUTTALL (WACH) ANDREW MARCELINO (M), DANTE RIVERA (M), BOBBY LETOURNEAU (SPM) SHAMMAR SIMMS (SPM), MIKE MAKEIJ (A), MATT RELIHAN (SJP), COLIN BRADAENSE (CC), NAVIN CRUZ (HAVERHILL), JOE FENDERSON (HAVERHILL), COLE BRITTING (LON), AUSTIN CHADWICK (CHELMS), KEVIN SWEENEY (CHELMS), JON GLIDDEN (WA) JUNIOR ESTRELLA (PEA), MATT ROSENTHAL (NA), WILL MELANSON (BUR), MARIANO RODRIGUES (BUR) MIKE DEMARTINS (BUR) AHIAN RODRIGUEZ (LAW)

**STATCHEYS ROOKIE OF THE YEAR ( FRESHMAN )** This grade is going to be great to follow: Christian Ovalles (Methuen), Shamar Dennis (SPM), Drew Brown (Pelham), Nate Siow (Lowell), Carlos Nunez (Lowell), Kyle Rocker (Andover), Jardel Snow-Guzman (SJP), George Smith (CC), Jack Anderson ( Londonderry), Suubi Nkuqya (Chelmsford), Jack Barisano ( Westford), Sammy Batista ( Peabody), Ryan Fitzpatrick (Burlington) Trevor Diminico ( Salem).

The winner is Sammy Batista of Peabody with runner – ups Kyle Rocker, Drew Brown and Jardel Snow Guzman



**SAMMY BATISTA - PEABODY**

**ALL FALL BALL FRESHMAN TEAM:**

SAMMY BATISTA / KYLE ROCKER / JARDEL SNOW-GUZMANN/ SHAMAR DENNIS/ DREW BROWN

**ALL FALL BALL SOPHOMORE TEAM:**

BOBBY LETOURNEAU (SPM), JOEY NUTTALL (WACHUSETT) SAM DION (WACHUSETT) MIKE MAKEIJ (ANDOVER) KEVIN CONSTANT (CC) ETHAN GARAFOLO (LONDONDERRY) ETHAN MAY (LONDONDERRY) CHUBUKUM ONWUOGO (PEABODY)



**SPM BOBBY LETOURNEAU**

**TEAM SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD: TRITON REGIONAL VIKINGS:** This was a tough year for the Vikings in the league but they always represented their school well. Their volunteer coach was a terrific role model who did a lot of teaching through hard times

**PLAYER SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD:** It is always great to see young men who act the right way in good times and in bad times. This young man is a credit to his high school community and his family. He will go down as one of my favorite kids that ever played in the NA Fall League. The winner of the Individual Sportsmanship Award is Central Catholic's **VICTOR MWAURAH**



**VICTOR MWAURAH - CC**

**DR. DUNKENSTEIN:** The Holy Trinity of high flyers in this league has always been **Pat Connaughton, Romeo Diaz and Justin Reyes**. This year we had a number of guys who have developed their dunking games but only one is making a push to make the **Holy Trinity the Four Horseman. NATE HOBBS** athleticism and ability to throw it down violently and beautifully is very impressive. The junior still has a year to see if he can even surpass Pat, Ro and Justin.



**NATE HOBBS-HIGH FLYER**

**PAT CONNOUGHTON CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARDS.** Chubukum Onwuogo, Andrew Marcelino, Kevin Sweeney, Eric Bjorn, Robbie Hudson Colin Bradanese all averaged double figures but the clear winner was St. Peter-Marian **SHAMMAR SIMMS** who was terrific all season. Never shied away from relentlessly going after balls and he did it against everyone

**MOST IMPROVED PLAYERS:** This group is long: **CONNOR ROGERS, KEVIN NUNEZ, ERIC BJORN, DANTE RIVERA, KYLE FRANK, NATE HOBBS, DOM KEEGAN, COLE BRITTING, KEVIN SWEENEY, ROBBIE HUDSON, JON GLIDDEN, DAVID GIUGGIO**. All of the guys on this list could win this and nobody would have a problem with the selection. This year we honor Chelmsford's **KEVIN SWEENEY**. He averaged 16 points per game and 11 rebounds per game. He played every possession and although his game is not a thing of beauty he gets things done. Congrats Kevin



**FOOTBALL PLAYERS THAT WILL HAVE THE MOST IMPACT ON THEIR TEAMS:** A number of teams have football players that will have roles on their basketball teams. The three most profound are **EJ PERRY at Andover, JAKE MCELROY at North Andover, BRETT EDWARDS at CC**

**JAMES SLATTERY BEST OFFICIAL AWARD:** This years' award goes to **CHRIS BENNETT**. Great mechanics, and ability to interact with players and coaches alike. **RALPH SULLY** you are getting closer my man.



**RALPH SULLY FOREVER A BRIDESMAID**

**JOEY MCINTYRE NEW KID ON THE BLOCK REF AWARD:** **KENNY PIGEON** was an outstanding new addition to the zebra crew

**AMERICAN AIRLINES LONG DISTANCE SHOOTERS:** THIS CREW CAN FILL IT UP: **JUAN FELIX RODRIGUES, JAKE COLEMAN, MATT ROSENTHALL, WILL MELANSON, DAVID GIUGGIO, CHARLES MITCHELL, ALEX DELAROSSA, SAM DION, DANTE RIVERA, ALEX RIVERA, TIMMY KALANTZAKOS, DOM KEEGAN, JOEY FENDERSON, ETHAN GARAFOLO, AUSTIN CHADWICK, WILL PARSONS, MIKE DEMARTINS,**



**MATT ROSENTHAL -NA**

**DIKEMBE MUTOMBO BLOCK PARTY:** **TOMMY ONEIL – ST JOHNS PREP**, Tommy's size and length is very impressive and his block numbers were more than impressive but the number of shots he altered through the course of the fall was mind boggling

**BEST DRESSED VOLUNTEER COACH:** Week in and week out this guy had no peer in the category of best dressed. Can anyone wear a pressed shirt like this cat: **LONDONDERRY: MIKE DUNHAM**

**FASHION NOT THE FIRST THING ON THEIR MIND:** **ANDOVER-PAGS, SALEM-BENJI,**

**ED SCOLLAN BEST DRESSED HEAD COACH:** **TOM GIBBONS – WACHUSETT**, George Clooney has nothing on TG

**BEST FRESHMAN CLASS:** **LOWELL:** RUNNERUPS – **METHUEN, BURLINGTON,**



**GEORGES NIANG YOU DON'T PASS THE EYE CANDY TEST:** **MANNY SANCHEZ – CC, NICK CLARK-METHUEN**, Both guys were productive when given the minutes to show. Both guys can have roles on their team this winter.

**CHAFF VENDING 6<sup>TH</sup> MAN AWARD: SHAQ MURRAY – NEW MISSION**



got better and better each week

**TEAM HUSTLE AND EFFORT AWARD:** It wasn't always pretty but **METHUEN** always gave great hustle and effort. They also feed off the bench interaction. The Rangers have bought into this culture



**MOST VOCAL BENCH:** This year there is a tie, the two most vocal benches were **CC and Methuen**

**THE GLOVE – GARY PAYTON AWARD:** With 2.87 steals a game **CHARLIE MITCHELL** of New Mission was our thief of the year.

**THE ALL COAL FOR CHRISTMAS RECIPIENTS (ZEBRAS PRESENTING):** You know who you are and we do too. Clean it up now or technical this winter! A ref has never changed a call because you didn't like it

**THE ALL ENIGMA TEAM:** For the second year in a row the winner is **ANDOVER**. For the first time in their fall ball career they started out 0-4 then won three in a row being giant killers.



They then dropped last game and didn't have the best playoff performance. So we don't really know who Andover is but we do know they will be fine when they get Faz everyday



**CHAMPIONS THROUGH THE YEARS:**

2005 -METHUEN	2010 – ST JOHNS PREP	2015 – ST JOHNS PREP
2006 -SALEM	2011 – CENTRAL CATHOLIC	2016 - LAWRENCE
2007 - ANDOVER	2012 – CENTRAL CATHOLIC	
2008 - LAWRENCE	2013 – CENTRA CATHOLIC	
2009 –NORTH ANDOVER	2014 - LAWRENCE	

**FALL LEAGUE TEAMS THRU THE YEARS:** NA, METHUEN, ANDOVER, LAWRENCE, SJP, CC, WESTFORD, SALEM, LONDONDERRY, BISHOP FENWICK, ST. MARY’S, WHITTIER TECH, PELHAM, MEDFORD, PEABODY, TEWKSBURY, NEW MISSION, TRITON REGIONAL, LOWELL, HAVERHILL, CHELMSFORD, BILLERICA, ST. PETER-MARIAN, WACHUSETT REGIONAL, BURLINGTON

**STATE TOURNEY BERTHS:** Over 84% of our teams over the history of NA FALLBALL have qualified for the state tourney. IS THIS THE YEAR EVERY TEAM IN FALLBALL MAKES THE TOURNEY?

**ADRIAN DANTLEY PLAY BIGGER THAN YOU ARE:** **ANDREW MARCELINO-METHUEN.** Undersized 4/5 man that gets after it especially around the hoop. **GIO CIAMPA – TEWKSBURY** always covered the biggest kid and never let his size alter how he played the game.





**BEST SCHOLARSHIP PLAYER IN ANOTHER SPORT: DOM KEEGAN – CC (VIRGINIA TECH – BASEBALL) SAM LARA – CC (ST. JOHNS – BASEBALL).** Congrats to both young men

**NA FALL BALL DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR – **KYLE FRANK – PLEHAM**- relentless in your shirt, no possessions off**



**DEEPEST BENCH: ST. JOHNS PREP EAGLES**

**FALL SURPRISE TEAM: NORTH ANDOVER SCARLET KNIGHTS,**



**PRE-LEAGUE FAVORITE:** I once again had **St. Johns Prep** and if you are an eagle you will look back at this and say you let this one slip away

**OSCAR THE GROUCH GARBAGE MAN AWARD:** We have a lot of guys that do the dirty work but hands down the OSCAR goes to: **RYAN PUGLISI - ANDOVER** Honorable Mention: **CHUBUKUM ONWUOGO, AHAIN RODRIGUES, BRETT MCNIFF, KEVIN SWEENEY, AUSTIN CHADWICK, CHARLIE MITCHELL, JOE PANTALEO,**

**COACHES ROW:** This year we saw 34 D2 /D3 COACHES sit on coaches' row this year. The Top ones they came to see: **JAKE COLEMAN, GRIFFIN CURTIS, KEVIN NUNEZ, ALEX DELAROSSA, CHARLES MITCHELL, CHARLIE MITCHELL, SHAQ MURRAY, CONNOR ROGERS, AUSTIN CHADWICK, ERIC BJORN, JUAN FELIX RODRIGUES, TOMMY ONEIL, NATE HOBBS, BRETT MCNIFF, KEVIN FERNANDEZ, NAVIN CRUZ, JOEY FENDERSON, JON GLIDDEN, WILL MELANSON, DJ COLLETI, ANDREW MARCELINO, JUAN ZORILLA, KYLE FRANK, TIMMY KALANTZAKOS,**

**KEVIN DURANT OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:** **GRIFFIN CURTIS – SALEM**

**RAY ALLAN FREE THROW CHAMP:** **TOMMY ONEIL 91.67%**

**TEAM FREE THROW CHAMPIONS:** **LONDONDERRY LANCERS 74.29%**

**TEAM THAT NEEDS TO PRACTICE FREE THROWS:** **PEABODY TANNERS 43.59%**

**TEAM FG% CHAMPIONS:** **ST JOHNS PREP EAGLES 44.65%**

**INTERESTING FACT:** **13 OF THE 20 TEAMS SHOOT LESS THAN 40%. WE NEED SHOOTERS!**

**JOHN STOCKTON BEST ASSIST GUY:** **CONNOR ROGERS – NA, HONORABLE MENTION: KYLE FRANK, COLE BRITTING, DANTE RIVERA, BOBBY LETOURNEAU**



**NA FALLBALL FAN OF THE YEAR:** **JERSEY JIM CONNOLLY: RUNNER-UP JOHNNY BAG OF DONUTS**

**2016 FALLBALL JOHN PAGNETTI COACH OF THE YEAR:** Pags always in the running but this year clear winner was **NORTH ANDOVER STEVE BOUDREAU**. The former Knight was always

prepared, his in game coaching was excellent and his out of time out sets were pretty darn good. Some high school should get this kid and fast



**BILL RUSSEL CONSUMMATE TEAM PLAYER: BRETT MCNIFF –SJP** The kid does whatever his team needs to win

**FENNIS HIGH FIVE NEW IMPACT PLAYERS THIS YEAR:** Every year we do this and its eery how on point we are: **JOEY NUTTAL – WACHUSETT, MATT RELIHAN –SJP, MIKE MAKEIJ –ANDOVER, ETAHN GARAFOLO-LONDONDERRY, CHRIS CANELLA – PEABODY,** Look for these guys to make some noise

**2016 SENIOR CLASS SELECTION** – Most likely to have the most productive college career: **JAKE COLEMAN –LONDONDERRY**

**“WE MAY NEVER PASS THIS WAY AGAIN”;** Easy Ed Scollan is a big Seals and Crofts fan and we play this song as we say goodbye to all the seniors. We wish you all the best in your senior year. Enjoy every minute of it. Time goes by fast

**OUR THANK YOUS:**

- **TO Rich Napolitano for assigning the officials. The guy does not get enough credit**
- **TO all the high school and college refs we had this year. You are all a credit to the game**
- **TO all of our sponsors: TOWN OF NORTH ANDOVER, STACHEYS, T’S PRINTING, This league could not happen without you**
- **TO the best scorers’ table in the biz: PEPE LEPU, WILL THE THRILL, MICHIGAN KID and JUSTIN BARRY**
- **TO an amazing group of volunteer coaches who do it for the right reasons**
- **TO my good friends the High School Varsity coaches who wholeheartedly believe we are doing a great thing**
- **TO all the college head and assistant coaches who made it to coaches’ row this year.**
- **TO all the fans of fall ball who make the event so special. There is no faces in the crowd, no fashion of the week but most importantly there is no league without you**

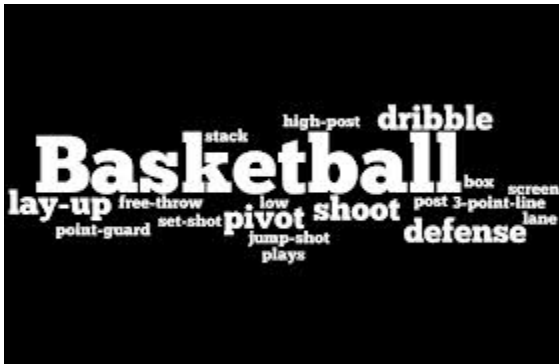
## **2016 PET PEEVES: THESE ARE THE PET PEEVES WE DISCUSSED THIS FALL AT LENGTH**

- **INABILITY TO PROPERLY FEED THE POST**
- **TECHINCAL FLAWS WITH SHOOTING TECHNIQUE**
- **PLAYERS PLAYING TOO FAST THAT CAN'T PLAY FAST**
- **PLAYERS NOT PLAYING IN A STANCE**
- **COMPETE LEVEL**
- **BALL STOPPERS**
- **NO BOXOUTS**
- **UNWILLIGNESS TO TAKE A CHARGE**
- **DISAPPEARING ACTS WHEN THE LIGHTS ARE ON**
- **BODY LANGUAGE**
- **BAD TURNOVERS**
- **BAD CLOSEOUTS**
- **NOT BASKETBALL STRONG**
- **PLAYERS WHO HURT THEMSELVES BY NOT SHOWING HANDS**
- **PLAYERS CLUELESS IN RECOGNIZING PERSONNEL**
- **PLAYERS/TEAMS CONTENT WITH SLOW STARTS**
- **OVER DRIBBLING**
- **ANTICIPATION CALLS BY ZEBRAS**
- **TIME AND SCORE**
- **WHAT DO I DO WHEN THE BALL IS NOT IN MY HANDS**
- **EFFICIENCY**
- **BIGS WHO HAVE LIMITED PERIMETER SKILLS WHO REFUSE TO EMBRACE PLAYING INSIDE**
- **PLAYERS EMOTIONALLY IMMATURE TO THEIR TEAMMATES**
- **SHOT SELECTION**
- **PALMING/CARRYING THE BALL**
- **PLAYERS HUNTING SHOTS**
- **PLAYERS WHO WARM UP LIKE IT'S A MODEL SHOOT FOR A TEEN MAGAZINE**
- **PASSING/PASSING/PASSING**
- **WHEN THINGS DON'T GO YOUR WAY, YOU POUT**
- **BIGS THAT DON'T PLAY BIG**
- **BBALL IQ**
- **PLAYERS THAT DON'T UNDERSTAND URGENCY**
- **INABILITY TO USE WEAK HAND**
- **UNWILLING TO REBOUND**
- **CLUELESS ON HOW TO AND WHEN TO JUMPSTOP**

## THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS WISHES FOR THE 20 HEAD COACHES OF NA FALL BALL

- To **Faz** I hope team enigma gets guys back from the inactive list and an a extended Semester break for EJ Perry as well as a raise for Alan Hibino
- To **Soulymane Wane** of Haverhill I wish a smooth start. Anytime a new coach comes on board it takes time. Lets' hope the Hillies rally around their new coach
- To **Ricky Nault** I wish some strong leadership from upperclassmen as they start a new day. I also wish the front court realize they may be the biggest front court in the MVC and that football QB Brett Edwards can come in and run the point
- To **Raymond Nunez** I wish their off season success carries over to the season and that Sweat Shot Juan Felix Rodrigues ices his arm down every day
- To **Anthony Faradie** I wish that his culture that he has built continues over with a team that is battle tested and hoping new additions embrace the process
- To **Paul Tanglis** I wish a healthy season after brutal health season last year and that the Knights continue to trust the process which has boded well for them in the off season
- To **Chris Bramanti** I wish that the proven vets and the nice young talent can mesh to do very well in central mass
- To **Marcus Watson** I wish patience and sticking to his guns as this young and talented team will require it
- To **Tom Gibbons** I wish we can still do the conversation on offense and that he fits in the pieces that can complement Bjorn, Nuttal and Dion
- To **Charlie Micol** I wish for a third consistent scorer after Chadwick and Sweeney. Continued hard flex cuts and always being in games with lion toughness
- To **Phil Connors** I wish complete support from the Burlington community to get behind a new day on rt. 128. Been saying it since week 1 I like what this program can become
- To **Rob McLaughlin** I wish that he finds those extra pieces that can work with the three seniors to be competitive. I also will throw some advil in as some of his frosh and sophs learn the varsity game
- To **Nate Stanton** I wish a healthy year for the big four of Coleman, Britting, May and Garafolo and the complement of at least four players that can give him the depth to make a long run
- To **Corey McCarthy** I wish a short memory of what happened in fall ball. This Titan team has the makings of another state championship run in your final campaign
- To **Bobby Micalzyk** I wish patience and confidence to play some of these young guys who I think can be pretty good and become the basis of the Red Raider future.
- To **Mike Larson** I wish for a swing man and a 5 man to enroll this week. Kyle Frank and Drew Brown is going to be a nice scoring backcourt but needs to get some frontcourt help

- To **John Dullea** I wish for little tweaks here and there with a very good roster and patience in coaching the point guard position
- To **Thad Broughton** I wish the ability to pull some very intriguing pieces together. This Tanners team is the best team we have seen them have since coming here and could do very nicely in the northeast conference
- To **Dave Clay** I wish another short memory of going winless this fall and look at this past few months as great experience for his kids as they head into the Cape Ann league
- To **Tom Bradley** I wish that somehow some way they find some height to go along with a number of pretty good guards



**The Weekly Rant: FOOD FOR THOUGHT OR FOOD FOR THE DUMPSTER....YOU DECIDE**

Thank you all for the great emails, texts, direct messages and personal conversations about the **WEEKLY Rants**. I knew it would be well received but had no idea I would be hearing from people I never met, organizations that believe in the messages relayed, as well as the people asking permission to publish and reprint. I also want to thank those that have forwarded me topic suggestions that are near and dear to them.

**SO IT'S TIME TO SAY GOODBYE TO ANOTHER FALL BALL SEASON – BEST OF LUCK TO EVERYONE THIS WINTER & ENJOY THE HOLIDAYS – ONE MORE TIME**

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

**SEE YOU IN 2017**