



NA FALL BALL WEEK 10 RECAP

ACCORDING TO FENNIS DEMBO

2nd NIGHT OF ROUND OF 16 & QUARTERFINALS

On the second to last week of the 2015 season we experienced some cool temperatures, almost as cool shooting percentages and we said goodbye to 8 more teams. This morning we know who is in the final four Along with the crazy stat that this is three of the lowest ever seeds to advance to the Final 4. Only one other time did we have a #6 seed and we have never had a #9 or #13 get to this point. Lawrence becomes the only top 5 seed to get here and we can make a case New Mission is not a 6 seed and there is no way St. Johns should have been a 9. Cinderalla's shoe still fits as the leagues' top scorer Keith Brown is willing the Pythons to their highest spot ever. Before we talk about Championship night lets' take a look at the Week 10 happenings.

ROUND OF 16 NIGHT 2

CENTRAL CATHOLIC 69 SALEM 27. This may have been over before we even started. Central missing Fernandez, Pettway and Grillakis and Salem missing top scorer Griffin Curtis and resident tough guy Dodier but Central just said "**next man up**" and that was Jeremy Urena who put together a good stat line 15 points 8 assists and 5 rebounds. Salem had 20 plus turnovers and only 4 assists and you can't win like that. Salem goes home and CC moves on to the New Mission rematch game.

ST JOHN'S PREP 60 ST PETER MARIAN 31. It took the Guardians 8 minutes to score their first hoop and at that point the game was pretty much out of reach. SPM battles every night and I am not sure getting stuck in traffic was too blame but this team was out of sorts from the get

go. Harry O'Neil and Nate Hobbs led the Eagles and the Guardians failed to get a player in double figures

NORTH ANDOVER 50 WACHUSETT 33. This was a rematch from the last week of the season and the Knights won their 5th straight behind the Pace, Space and Defend philosophy. Couyoumjian, Rosenthal, Rogers and Fowler were terrific for the Knights and Tyler Burgess led Wachusett with 11

LAWRENCE 67 LOWELL 52. This game was not a thing of beauty but it did have the usual Lawrence/Lowell intensity to it. Lowell missing Bryan and Rivera but Sidi Diallo, Quest Harris and Tim "Salsa" Sousa held their own against the Lancers. In the end Lawrence 15 points better because of Benniammi Rodriguez 26 points and 14 rebounds.

QUARTERFINALS

LAWRENCE 52 NORTH ANDOVER 46. This was a very entertaining game as both teams made runs and both teams responded to runs. The NA offense is predicated right now knocking down outside shots and tonight they were 4 for 24 from three. The Lancers placed 3 players in double figures and Robbie Couymoudjian was very good for NA with 23 points.

PELHAM 73 ANDOVER 61. So what happens when the leagues' top player meets team enigma, you wonder if Enigma puts it together and they didn't as Pelham was just tougher, stronger and better and yes Keith Brown was a man among boys 34 points 9 rebounds 5 assists. Pelham becomes the lowest seed to ever get to the final 4

NEW MISSION 54 CENTRAL CATHOLIC 40. CC got Pettway back but their heart and soul Grillakis and Fernandez were in civies and the toughness was lacking. New Mission was much faster than The Raiders and they scored quickly. Raiders got down 18 and really could not put a dent into the deficit. Charles Mitchell was lethal for the Titans along with his brother Charlie. Raiders got nice outings from Carmichael and Hajjar but they needed more help.

ST JOHNS PREP 66 TEWKSBURY 64. This was a close in terms of score and yes both teams at times played very hard but an efficient game this was not. SJP like Andover is a complete enigma. With Tewksbury's Justin Derrah out with an injury the Eagles should have won by 20. Up 15 they go lazy and careless and that is all Nate Tenaglia needed to become a one man wrecking crew. Not one eagle could cover him and he scored 44 points. SJP was my pre-season pick to win this and they still may do that but one thing for sure Coach Dullea's hair will look like mine after this fall.



WEEK 10 RESULTS:

CENTRAL CATHOLIC 69 (JEREMY URENA 15)

ST JOHNS 60 (HARRY ONEIL 11)

NORTH ANDOVER 60 (ROB COUYOUMDJIAN 12)

LAWRENCE 67 (BENIAMMI RODRIGUES 26)

LAWRENCE 52 (JUAN FELIX RODRIGUES 13)

PELHAM 73 (KEITH BROWN 34)

NEW MISSION 54 (CHARLES MITCHELL 20)

ST. JOHNS PREP 66 (SPNCER DANFORTH 30)

SALEM 27 (CONNOR GREENFIELD 11)

ST PETER-MARIAN 31 (JAMES AMARILLO 7)

WACHUSETT 33 (TYLER BURGESS 11)

LOWELL 52 (SIDI DIALLO 17)

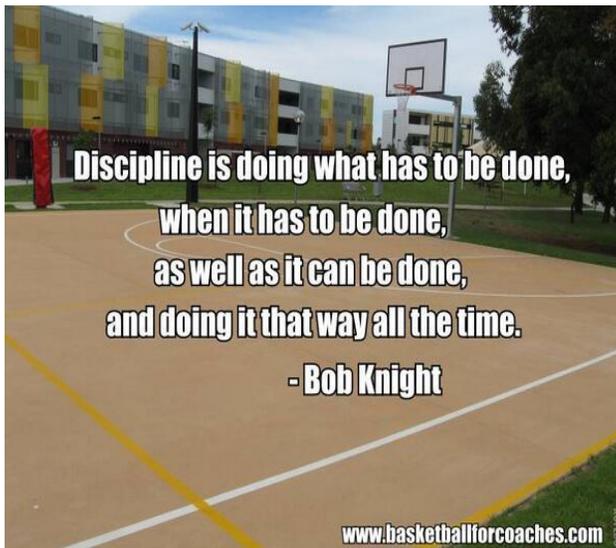
NO ANDOVER 46 (ROB COUYOUMDJIAN 23)

ANDOVER 61 (JON RODRIGUEZ 25)

CENTRAL CATHOLIC 40 (STEVE HAJJAR 13)

TEWKSBURY 64 (NATE TENAGLIA 44)*

- 7TH HIGHEST INDIVIDUAL TOTAL IN FALLBALL HISTORY



**UPDATED SCORES AND RESULTS ON THE WEBSITE AS WELL AS UPDATED BRACKET
WWW.NAFALLBALL.COM**

CHAMPIONSHIP NIGHT SCHEDULE – MONDAY NOVEMBER 23RD 2015

5:30 #13 PELHAM VS #9 ST JOHNS PREP

6:40 #2 LAWRENCE VS #6 NEW MISSION

20 MINUTES AFTER FINISH OF SEMI FINAL 2 THE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

AWARDS CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AFTER THE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

WHO WILL BE KING OF FALLBALL 2015

NUTS AND BOLTS:

- **DO NOT DRIBBLE BALLS DURING GAMES**
- **COACHES PLEASE UNDERSTAND THE PLAYING WITH 5 FOULS RULE, FEW TEAMS TOTALLY CLUELESS ON THIS**
- **THANK YOU TO STACHEYS PIZZA AND COCA COLA FOR TAKING CARE FO THE LAST NIGHT OF PLAYER APPRECIATION**
- **THANK YOU TO ST JOES, ANNA MARIA, ENDICOTT, SUFFOLK, FOR ATTENDING THIS WEEK**
- **AWARDS TO BE GIVEN OUT:**
 - 1. TJ MCEVOY MEMORIAL CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHY**
 - 2. BILL MOECKEL MEORIAL RUNNER UP TROPHY**
 - 3. PAT CONNAUGHTON MVP TROPHY**
 - 4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF FIRST TEAM ALL FALL BALL (PAPER AWARD)**
- **CHAMPIONS WILL ALSO RECEIVE LONG SLEEVE TSHIRTS AND REEBOK GIFT CARDS**

ZEBRAS THIS WEEK: TED SLATS, RICH NAPS, JULIEN SCOTT, TRACY MITCHELL, PHIL NANGLE, KEVIN BOUTILIER, BRIAN GLEASON, RALPH SULLY

GAME OF THE WEEK: NORTH ANDOVER VS LAWRENCE. Good game from start to finish, two hungry teams playing their butts off, game of runs and game of stops. Fun one to play in, coach and watch. In the end Lawrence a tad better right now

TEAM OF THE WEEK: Nominees, **PELHAM, NEW MISSION and LAWRENCE.** This week it is the **Titans of New Mission** as they are starting to look like what they should be. A team on a mission that knows what it has to do. Last year they were eliminated in final by Lawrence, next week they can get payback but only if they play like they did the last two weeks

DO YOUR JOB WINNER #10. Nominees – **CONNOR ROGERS (NA), JEREMY URENA (CC), TY LEE (NM), KYLE FRANK (P),** this weeks' winner is Pelham Junior guard **KYLE FRANK.** The team is known for KEITH BROWN and second scorer RYAN NYSTROM but point guard **Kyle Frank** is quietly doing what he needs to do; get guys shots, rebound from the guard spot, defend and

get buckets. This is just another kid that listened to the right people and got so much better since last winter. Congrats Kyle

BABY FACES? I DON'T THINK SO. Only one clear winner this week and its Lowell Freshman **QUEST HARRIS**. Kid can score, defend penetrate, get guys shots and rebounds. Kid has a real upside and the future is very bright for this young man

PLAYER OF THE WEEK #10. **NA ROBBIE COUYOUMJIAN** showed in two games this week that he might be MVC ALL CONFERENCE this year. **Tewksbury NATE TENAGLIA** willed his way to 44 points in a losing cause, **Lawrence BENNIAMI RODRIGUES** was so good against Lowell with 26 and 14. **CHARLES MITCHELL** was very efficient and pretty quick this week and as I said before he gets things done but in the end **Pelham KEITH BROWN** was a man among boys 34 points 9 rebounds, 5 assists, 4 steals and really trusted his teammates by involving his teammates in every aspect of the game and oh my some of those passes were elite status. Congrats **KEITH BROWN** with his 3rd Player of the Week in Fall Ball. Only Pat Connoughton was player of the week more times in one season (5). Tough to give the award to someone who didn't win but s/o to **NATE TENAGLIA** for dropping 44 this week. 7th highest amount of points scored in NA FALL BALL history

WEEKLY PET PEEVES FOR WEEK #10

MONDAY	TUESDAY
Unwilling to step in and take a charge but run with the offensive player because they are going to make a block only to end up fouling and a potential 3 pt play	Big guys that can't finish around the hoop while being covered by smaller defenders. Unacceptable use your size
Players that have actually regressed during the off season- self- induced or environmentally induced????	Players that actually choose not to defend. Two nights in a row and a seasons' problem down here. Head coaches taking notes
Players who pretend not to see an open player because they think they can get to the rack, then lose ball and turn to coach and say my bad.	Inefficient Play. So concerning that kids are not understanding how the game should be played. We all have a lot of work to do.
Players who chooses not to defend. This is a problem and the players don't know it	Ball sticking, players holding the ball and doing nothing productive with it
Players who don't step in to receive a pass and it gets intercepted and they point finger at the passer	Players who point fingers, whine about calls and have no clue on basketball rules. Grow up and buy a rule book

THE POWER RANKINGS WEEK 10

THIS WEEK	WEEK 9
1. LAWRENCE 9-1	TEWKSBURY 8-1
2. NEW MISSION 7-3	LAWRENCE 7-1
3. TEWKSBURY 8-2	CENTRAL CATHOLIC 6-2
4. PELHAM 7-4	NEW MISSION 6-3
5. ST JOHNS PREP 6-4	NORTH ANDOVER

- LAWRENCE & NEW MISSION HEADS AND SHOULDERS ABOVE OTHERS RIGHT NOW
- TEWKSBURY STAYS IN TOP 3 DESPITE LOSING TO SJP
- PELHAM WITH 3 STRAIGHT PLAYOFF VICTORIES
- SJP IN TOP 5 BECAUSE THEY HAVE SURVIVED AND ADVANCED
- CC DROPS OUT OF TOP 5 DUE TO BIG INJURIES

FACES IN THE CROWD:

Central Catholic Board of Trustees, Atty. Hajjar and the bride, The Carmichaels and Grampa, Lance Petka, Dan Halloran, Kevin Pettway, The Fraters, George Grillakis, Manny Sanchez, Kevin Fernandez, Rick Nault, Derek Murphy, NE Storm Hall of Famer Jimmy Zenevitch, Big Jim, Mr. Keegan, Mr. Mwaurah, Dean Colletti and Kelly, Rob Mclaughlin, Barb and Ken, the Curtis, Tyler Rodrigues family, Marcus Watson, SPM fan club, The Danforths, the O'Neils, Mr. X, George Yfantopolis, The Connollys, Mrs. Buresh, Myles and Robin, Don and Deb, Rich and Marcie, the Rogers, Fowlers and Cinserrulli's, the Whipples, Tashaun Watson, Matt Driscoll, The Martins, Tom Gibbons and Wachusett staff, Burncoat Head Coach, the very complimentary Wachusetts mother's club, Mr. Dion, Raymond Nunez and lady friend, the Lawrence Daycare center, Coach Bobby, Mr. Wennah, Salem and Haverhill teams, Johnny Bag o Donuts, Jake McElroy, Frankie Torres, St Louis Blues asst. Gm Coach McDonald, Frank Kenneally, Meet the Pelham Browns, Drew Brown, George Yorke and son in law, Matt Regan, Lt. O'Connell, Faz, Alan Hibino, Tom Labrie, The Wittens, Mr. Kim, Derrick Beasley, The Kalanzakos, Big Max Beatti, Connor Arnold, NE Storm Hall of Famer Mike Gorman, Paul Tanglis, Paul Tanglis Sr, Mass Hoop Hall of Famer Mike McVeigh, Corey McCarthy, New Mission videographer, Steve Grace, Tewksbury Board of Selectman, Mr. Conners, Phil Conners, Tewksbury staff, The Tenaglia's, The Giuggio's, Bill Brinklow, Stacheys delivery guy, all our college coaches,



This is the only thing that matters – RINGS, AND CUTTING DOWN NETS

FASHION OF THE WEEK: Alex Romano with the “lost in the storm outfit” with orange shorts sneakers and socks, Jim Yfantopolis with the “dress shirt” under the reversible look, Luke Richards with the casual slacks as well as defying the sitting etiquette ordinance, John Carmichael with the “church offering collection” look, Pepe Lepu with the customary “bank teller” look, Derrick Beasley with the “patriots practice” look, Marcus Watson always dapper with the “school administration” look, Tom Gibbons with the “Sly Stallone running in Philly” look, Benjie and Lowell volunteer coach both rocking the “clam diggers” but the winner is KELLY COLLETI with “female executive” look and very impressive boots. Congrats KELLY



HE SAID THAT? NO HE DIDN'T SAY THAT.. DID HE?

I Need more money to ref these games tonight Fennis – Tracy Mitchell and Ted Slattery

Let them play! this is just an old fashioned Lowell/Lawrence game – Lowell volunteer coach

Could be a long season for us...zero leaders – anonymous Head Coach,

How does this kid not have an NE 10 scholarship – Corey McCarthy

Why won't SJP guards give Harry O'Neil the ball – at least 10 people a night

WHO BROUGHT IT IN WEEK # 10 – BRING IT EVERY WEEK

NOTE: 12 teams were eliminated prior to this week and a number of guys played two games this week SO THE WHO BROUGHT IT LIST IS A BIT SHORTER THAN USUAL

Salem did not get much production this week from anyone, but **CONNOR GREENFIELD** continues to have a strong fall for the Blue Devils. This week he had 11 points and 7 rebounds. **DJ COLLETTI** was also solid with 7 points and 7 rebounds. Salem, remember this line 4 assists and 21 turnovers. You have worked so hard at taking care of the ball and moving the ball. Get back to it

St. Peter Marian was in a funk this week but they had a nice first year in the league, earning the #8 seed. Same stat line to you SPM 5 assists and 23 turnovers. Take care of the ball and move the ball. **DELLING BOETANG** with 6 points 3 assists, 4 rebounds. **JAMES AMARILLO** had 7 points and 4 rebounds. I was very high on **BOBBY LETOURNEU** in the first month. Bobby get back to doing what you do, make others better. Get back to being efficient and your future is very bright. **TJ DARTEN** struggled this week but as the Guardians leave us I would be remiss not to recognize the fall he had shooting the rock.

Wachusett was another fine addition to the league. Back to back losses against North Andover gives Coach Gibbons some things to work on with the mountaineers. **TYLER DION** is not a 100% but he had a great fall. NA did a nice job making other guys beat them by containing Tyler. **TYLER BURGESS** 11 points and 4 rebounds was productive. **JOEY NUTTHAL** had 6 points 2 assists and 3 rebounds. **NICK SCHMARE** and **ERIC BJORN** didn't score but both corralled 9 rebounds. **OWEN QUINN** had 7 points to help the cause

Lowell was missing some pieces but **SIDI DIALLO** was very good with 17 points and 6 rebounds. Freshman **QUEST HARRIS** is a stud, this week he had 15 points and 5 rebounds. **TIM "SALSA" SOUSA** had 14 points 2 assists and 3 rebounds

Pelham had another great night from "**PLAYER OF THE WEEK**" **KEITH BROWN**. **RYAN NYSTROM** was once again a major factor with 15 points, 2 assists and 4 rebounds. Our Do Your Job Winner **KYLE FRANK** was very good with 6 points, 6 assists and 6 rebounds. Guess we will start to call him the DEVIL 666. A very interesting double –double from the man known as **JOEY** as he had 11 points and 10 rebounds

ANDOVER continues the enigma title as they did not show up this week. **JON RODRIGUES** had 25 but is capable of doing even more. **DEVON BEASLEY** had 10 points, 4 assists and 3 rebounds but needs to take control more. **RYAN OCONNELL** has to lead more. He does do the little things such as a tem high 8 rebounds

NEW MISSION was very impressive forcing their will against CC. **CHARLES MITCHELL** was the best Titan tonight with 20 points. **CHARLIE MITCHELL** chipped in with 11. **TY LEE** was TY LEE with 8 points, 4 assists and 3 rebounds while controlling the whole game. Very impressed with

TRAHE QUALES this week with 9 points 6 rebounds and a real motor. My man **DARION JORDAN** where were you this week? Bring it next week or you will be hearing it from me.

TEWKSBURY was without **JUSTIN DERRAH** and that hurt big time. **NATE TENAGLIA** was VERY tough and hit some big time shots. 44 points any night against anyone is very impressive but need to dribble less and get his teammates involved more. One guy can't win a game and guys got used to standing around and when SJP finally slowed him down other redmen seemed out of it and were unproductive. **GIOVANNI CHAMPA** is going to be a good one 8 points and 4 rebounds and needs more touches. Give some love to guys that just board and **SEAN MOOSE** does that

North Andover started out 1-3 with losses to NEW MISSION, PREP and the good ANDOVER then rattled off 5 straight before being bounced by 6 in the quarters to LHS. **ROB COUYOUMDJIAN** is the Knights best player and he showed it this week with two great games. One of the better defenders in the league, he can score and his mid- range game and attacks are on point. **CONNOR ROGERS** is the point guard for the next two years as he has beat out all comers and is quietly becoming one of the most efficient point guards in this league. Has great size for a pg and makes people better, but more importantly he takes care of the ball. **MATT ROSENTHAL** will get votes for most improved as he has become a very good defender and lethal scorer. This week he had double figures in both games. **JACK FOWLER** will surprise this year as a poor mans' Justin Derrah. He has a nice shot and boards well. This week double figures in one game in scoring and good board work. **ALEX ROMANO** is the consummate team player. He may have played his best game the last game when he corralled 10 rebounds. Alex is a rim protector and defensive leader and will be more in the offense this winter.

Central Catholic is a bit of a MASH UNIT. **IAN CARMICHAEL** had a great fall. In two games this week he averaged 10 points and 8 rebounds all the while being the rim protector and shot blocker. Ian should have a great senior campaign. **TANAHJ PETTWAY** was only here for the second game but gets things done with 7 points 2 assists and 4 rebounds. Tanahj is a good one **STEVE HAJJAR** will make the all sophomore team and CC is going to love his work this winter. In two games this week Steve averaged 12 points and 4 rebounds. I would like to see a bit more time for **VIC MWAURAH** as I think he can be a major contributor in Kevin Fernandez absence. Two guys that had a mixed bag this week as they both had very good games against #14 Salem but were not effective against #6 New Mission. Both **COLIN BRADANESE** and **JEREMY URENA** can have significant roles this winter but must become more consistent especially against the iron. In the end when CC is healthy they are very dangerous

SJP wins two games this week and now take the title of TEAM ENIGMA from Andover. This team is too good to be limping into the final four, but they are here. **HARRY ONEIL** is SJP best player but we scratch our heads that his teammates do not realize it. Prep needs to get someone willing to get him the ball. **NATE HOBBS** was very effective in Mondays' game with 12 points and 3 rebounds. **TOMMY ONEIL** continues to show flashes of what he could become. We just need him to do it on a regular basis. **SPENCER DANFORTH** averaged 19 points a game in the

two games this week. Spencer is best when he doesn't try to do too much, especially over dribbling. Point guard **ALEX BURESH** gets things done and can play both positions. The best thing about Alec is he makes the right decision and averaged 5 assists a game this week **JUSTIN CONNOLLY** and **BRETT MCNIFF** in my mind are the two x factors. If they play to their capabilities it only makes SJP so much better.

Lawrence has only the Tewksbury game as a blemish on their drive to repeat as Fall Ball champions. **KEVIN VANDERHORST** had 23 points 6 assists and 17 rebounds in this weeks' two games. **JASON DESOTO** averaged 7 points 4 assists and 5 rebounds. **BENNIAMI RODRIGUES** in two games scored 38 points and had 17 rebounds. **JUAN FELIX RODRIGUES** has been the Lancers best player. In two game s this week he averaged 13 points 5 assist and 6 rebounds

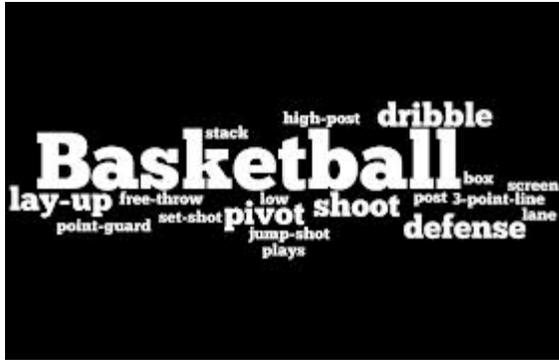


WE would like to see this more at fall ball

WHAT IS THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY SEASON RECAP? For ten years we have done a lengthy season ending recap. It will have the facts, some opinions, the usual ball busting, the ALMOST always correct Fennis Dembo Crystal Ball predictions along with every paper award imagined. Full disclosure the weekly recap takes 8 hours to write the GBU takes over 15 hours. It comes out anytime between the night before Thanksgiving and Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend. ENJOY



coming soon!



THE WEEKLY RANT: FOOD FOR THOUGHT OR FOOD

FOR THE DUMPSTER.....YOU DECIDE

REALISTIC EVALUATION = REALISTIC RECRUITMENT, UNREALISTIC EVALUATION = SCRAMBLE MODE

So this is the time of the year where we see a mix of emotions from parents, players, coaches and handlers. The emotions range from pride, exhilaration, satisfaction, relief, stress, panic, disbelief, and anxiety. This past fall we had a record setting **43** Division 2 and 3 colleges attend North Andover Fall Ball. A number of our better players have been receiving interest prior to the start of fall ball but this league opened up even more doors for those players. The league also provided “real” recruitment for another 14 players that had no interest at all prior to Labor Day. How do we place that many colleges in one setting for 10 -11 weeks? We do that by having a proven track record of having players that can play at the next level (**102 former NA Fall Ballers have gone on to play D1, D2, D3 college basketball**) along with a trusting relationship between those 42 schools and the people running this league. The trusting relationship is built on honesty, realistic evaluation and communication.. plain and simple. **We don't tell colleges what the kid is not! we tell him what he is and what he can be.** This didn't happen overnight this was built with sweat equity since 2004

It pains me to find out a number of kids in this league had nobody who is respected in the recruitment game being able to advocate for them. Many of our High School coaches are very instrumental in the process but unfortunately the MIAA restricts a lot of involvement in the off season which is vital to a players' “recruitment”. As you can see from past posts I have a lot of issues with the MIAA/NHIAA **because they handcuff the people WHO you would most want to be actively involved with your sons.** This leaves a lot of this up to some grass root programs, overblown showcases (please stick to the ones that actually bring coaches in to see your players like Hoop Mountain, All America Academic camp, Hoop Group, Adam Finkelstein etc.) and parents that can't deliver what they promise to do. This year alone I have had 9 players/families come to me and say my AAU program promised to get my son exposure but they didn't. Great news that most of those 9 have some interest from their fall ball games.

There are some great grass root organizations like Storm, Magic, Warriors, Wolfpack and others that do a very nice job with this. The sneaker sponsored programs do a great job with their elite players but that is the easy job. The level of D2 and D3 is much harder and very time

consuming. The reality is many programs can't get the job done when it comes to college recruitment. The respected programs I mentioned have their own distinct template. For us at the Storm it starts with a program parent / player orientation meeting where we conduct a 2 hour overview of the entire process. From there we hold (multiple) individual family meetings to come up with an appropriate individual plan. We then put together a spring and summer AAU season where our players get outstanding exposure. While this is going on we are networking with the college coaches and placing our players in appropriate exposure events (camps, showcases, college elite camps). Not all of our players play in the NA Fall League but by the start of that league our players already have major recruitment. Our fall is spent visiting schools, overnights, playing with teams prior to October 15th, observing practices and then attending games. We spend a lot of time on the academic and social pieces of this decision and at the end of the day our players end up in great situations. This is not rocket science but it is a proven product. Our kids end up in great places, have strong careers and with our first graduating class they excel on the court and in the classroom, stay at the same school and graduate on time



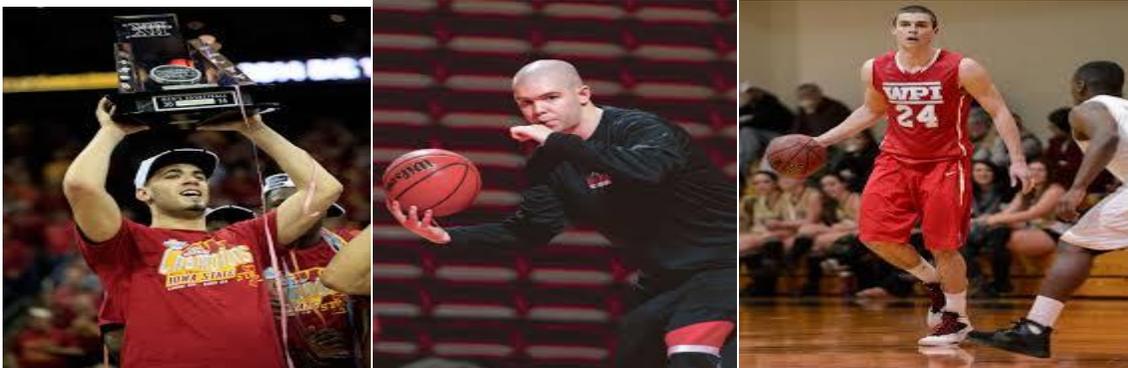
The problem that many kids are faced with besides not having the advocacy is that they have been unrealistically evaluated mostly by people who are not qualified to evaluate. You can't say some one is a scholarship player until they are offered a scholarship and even then you are not one till you sign your NLI. It is totally unfair to the kid to tell him he is something he is not. I have been accused of being a dream killer by these types. Hey I think it's great that 8th graders think they are going to be NBA lottery picks but if you are in your senior year and you have not been offered a scholarship you may want to give the D3's a little love. Some of these handlers can't stand to be wrong so they keep pushing it and when they don't get a scholarship they

blame the kid that he didn't work hard enough. One of those such kids is sharing his story with younger kids which maybe more effective than some of us saying it. A number of kids who don't get a scholarship will maybe try to go and do PG a year. A PG year is a great thing for some who need another year in the classroom, maybe young for your age and can be physically a plus or in some cases a kid needs a year to grow up. The mistake a number of kids make is they think it's going to guarantee a scholarship. Colby-Sawyer Head Coach Bill Foti told me a great story of a kid he chased his senior year who wouldn't give him the time of the day because in his mind he was a D2 player, flash forward 9 months the kid wasn't a scholarship player and was begging Coach Foti to show him the same interest he did the year before. Last few years I have tracked a few kids that thought they were better than they were and actually said they would never want to be a D3 player. All four are now playing or **sitting** on a D3 bench this month. One of them is a great kid who has been humbled who wants to talk to some kids that he said he was exactly like a very short time ago. I hope he does, peer feedback is powerful.

I have lived this as a coach, advocate and a parent, so to the Parents/Players a couple of helpful hints that you can digest or not it's entirely up to you

- Find a grass root program to play in the off season who has a proven track record of assisting kids in the recruitment process
- Make sure your son is attending a legit showcase. There are tons of them now! Find out which ones can actually get college coaches there
- It's good to have a version of a highlight film but also include a game film so coaches can see that you actually do make an occasional mistake lol and I have sat in coaches offices where highlight films are watched for a couple of minutes then thrown in the trash
- Understand the entire recruitment process from soup to nuts, There are a lot of people out there that do know what they are talking about and willing to help
- Instead of playing hundreds of meaningless games get your son into REAL skill development programs (do your homework on this, everyone is hanging a shingle these days). If the skill training is playing pickup it's not skill training
- The decision cannot be a basketball only decision. Academics, Social experiences etc. God forbid you tear your ACL you want to be in the right school
- Transfers at all three divisions are out of control. Find the right fit and the right level from the start.
- Parents be actively involved with the process so you can HELP your son with the process and any decisions that need to be made
- Go see a college D3 game, as a proud father of a former d3 player and one who is extremely knowledgeable of the level, most kids and parents have no clue how good D3 is. Every year I see kids who were 1000 point scorers in high school not get off the bench at D3. Go see a D2 game at Merrimack, Stonehill, Bentley etc. See if you can actually play at that level

- Don't buy the hype! Just because a kid scores 35 in a meaningless AAU game against weak comp it doesn't mean you are a college player.
- Parents don't live through your child, support your child, help them because at the end of the day they are kids and you are the adult....be the adult
- Be involved with programs that value your son and are committed to your son and actually make your son better. Don't involve yourself with programs that are always out replacing your son
- The cream always rises to the top. If your good enough the coaches will find you and that is true at all three divisions.
- Talk to your sons about their social media habits, colleges are following more than you know
- Include your high school coach in the process. As I said earlier these are the people you really want involved in your sons' life so include them
- Get opinions of your son from a variety of reputable people who will be honest in their assessment
- As stressful as the process is, you will get through this
- **TRUST THE RIGHT PEOPLE THEN TRUST THE PROCESS**



D1 ALL AMERICAN GEORGES NIANG, 3 YEAR KEENE CAPTAIN STEVE BOUDREAU, 3 YEAR WPI CAPTAIN AND ALL EAST REGION SELECTION SAM LONGWELL, D3 ALL AMERICAN BABSON JOEY FLANNERY. FORMER NOTRE DAME STAR & PORTLAND TRAILBLAZER PAT CONNAUGHTON. STONEHILL GUARD ADAM BRAMANTI

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