

TIME OUT



WISCONSIN BASKETBALL
WBCA
COACHES ASSOCIATION

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
WISCONSIN BASKETBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION
WISBCA.ORG

February 2023

WBCA CORPORATE SPONSORS



Fast Break Notes

From Jerry Petitgoue, Executive Director

- **Good Luck**
First and foremost, as we head down the tournament trail, I wish all coaches the best of luck!
- **All-Star Nominations**
Remember that all nominations are done on-line. [Click here](#) a rundown of the nomination process. Also, if your player is not nominated, they will not be considered for the games. Remember, also, that a coach must be a member of the WBCA to nominate a player. The deadline is: Feb. 24th
- **Individual Academic All-State**
All nominations will be done on-line. This is always a very competitive honor and we ask that you please nominate your student athletes by: Feb 24th. Find the link to nominate by going to www.wisbca.org or [clicking here](#).



Fast Break Notes cont.

- **Team Academic All-State**

This honor is by divisions for both boys' and girls' basketball. Once again, a coach must be a member to nominate a team. Do so by the deadline of: Feb. 24th. Find the link to nominate by going to www.wisbca.org or [clicking here](#).

- **Conference Championship and Coach Awards**

Did you know that every coach who is a WBCA member can receive a plaque if they win a conference championship and other honors if they reach a win milestone? To submit your information for these awards please visit the nomination forms page of wisbca.org

- **State Tournament Hospitality Rooms**

This is one of the most popular events that we sponsor for both the boys' and girls' tournaments. The boys' hospitality room will be held at the Nicholas Suites in the Kohl Center as it has always been. The girls' hospitality room will be in the same location in the Resch Center as it has been in the past also. Your membership card gets you and a guest into the rooms. For the boys' tournament and the upstairs hospitality suite for the girls' tournament, guests under 18 are allowed in the suites, but may not sit in the game viewing seats.

- **Concerns & Issues**

If you have basketball concerns or issues that you want to put on the agenda for the Coaches Advisory Committee, then contact Dan Witter of Wisconsin Rapids at: 715-213-8811

- **Memberships**

Join the WBCA before the state tournament so you can get into the hospitality rooms where you can get free drinks and food. It's a place where you will see all your coaching friends. Sign up online at wisbca.org.

- **Referees Corner**

- We have added referees to our WBCA Basketball Museum. We have established plaques with a referee's name, city and number of games officiated during their career. If you know of a referee who is retired, you should inform them that they should go to our website and send in their name and information. They can then be recognized with a nameplate on the museum wall. They must be a member of the WBCA to be recognized.

- **Lifetime Membership**

As a coach or referee, if you retire you can get a lifetime membership. However, if you decide to coach or ref again, then you need to apply for a new membership while you coach or ref again and then, upon final retirement your lifetime card will be active again. Friends of the game are also entitled to purchase lifetime memberships.

- **Hall of Fame**

New inductees for the 2023 WBCA Hall of Fame can be found in this newsletter.

Fast Break Notes cont.

- **College Coaches**

The WBCA has added a couple of new awards for college programs. In addition to “Coach of the Year” and “Player of the Year” for all levels, we have added “Newcomer of the Year” and an “Academic Excellence Award”. So, if your athlete has a 3.5 GPA, they will receive a beautiful certificate from the WBCA. As always, the coach has to be a WBCA member to receive any of these awards.

- **Petitgoue to Retire**

Yes, it's true! I will retire at the end of this season. I want to thank all the coaches in this state (Grade, High School and College) for being so kind to me. I thank you all. Yes, I will continue as Executive Director of the WBCA.

- **Important Dates**

WBCA All-Star Game Nominations (Deadline Feb. 24)
WBCA All-State Nominations (Deadline Feb. 24)
WBCA Team Academic All-State (Deadline Feb. 24)
WBCA Individual Academic All-State (Deadline Feb. 24)
Jim and Roberta Smallins Basketball Award (Deadline Mar. 1)
Girls' State Tournament (March 9-11)
Boys' State Tournament (March 16-18)
All-State/Academic All-State Player Banquet (April 2)
WBCA Virtual Clinic (May 1-2)
WBCA All-Star Games (Girls-June 28 and Boys-June 29)
WBCA Hall of Fame Banquet (Sunday, September 24)

- **UPDATING STATS WITH WSN**

Once again, the WBCA is using the WisSports.net stats database for our All-State, Academic All-State and All-Star game nomination forms.

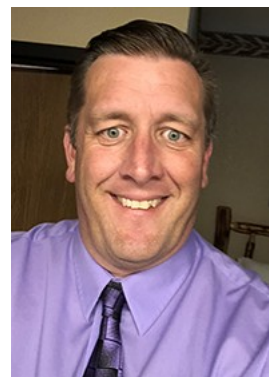
Regular season stats must be updated on WisSports.net by Feb. 24th. The stats that have been entered at this time will be used by the voting committee that decides these honors.

If you have any questions on how to update stats or to receive online access, please email WisSports.net at info@wssports.net



President's Message from Todd Hansen

It's hard to believe that we have already completed our regular season and we now head to the postseason. The season really flew by and now teams are hoping to make their way to the Resch Center and Kohl Center for the state tournament. The state tournament bracket reveal by the WIAA was outstanding for both boys and girls. It was great to see so many teams get together to see where they were seeded and who they would be playing. Our team got together and it was exciting to find out who we would be playing and potential match-ups each round. I'm sure we shared the same excitement as other teams did all across the state.



It's not too late to sign up to be a WBCA member if you haven't done so already. Remember, you must be a member to nominate a player for the all-star game and for all-state honors. Other benefits include state banners to state qualifiers that lost the first game of the state tournament, Conference Championship plaques, Head and Assistant Coach of the Year awards as well as many more honors/awards.

A reminder that nominations for the WBCA All-Star Game, WBCA All-State, WBCA Team Academic All-State and WBCA Individual Academic All-State are due by Feb. 24th. All nomination forms can be found on the WBCA website - wisbca.org

The basketball advisory committee will be meeting in early April, if you have any questions or recommendations please contact me or any member of the Executive Board.

Good luck to everyone this postseason!! Enjoy this wonderful time of year and make the experience for all the student athletes a positive one. Thanks again for being leaders in our schools. If you're not fortunate enough to qualify for the state tournament, try and attend the games in person in Green Bay and Madison. It's a great atmosphere for high school basketball in our state.

Congratulations to the recent WBCA Hall of Fame class that was recently announced, An incredible honor to all the new inductees. A special shout out goes to my good friends Dan Wandrey, Scott Herrick, and Troy Cullen, who were all elected. Congrats my friends!!

If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me at hansent@ksmd.edu

Yours in Hoops, Todd Hansen, Kettle Moraine High School, Head Girls Varsity Basketball Coach

2023 Hall of Fame Inductees

“High School Coach”

Scott Anderson, Stevens Point
Kevin Bavery, Middleton
Steve Board, Richland Center
Troy Cullen, Kimberly
Jim Doolittle, Fall River
Scott Herrick, Pius XI Catholic
Mark Lierman, Shullsburg
John Mielke, Antigo, Appleton
Paul Millan, Goodman
Dave Schultz, Waukesha West
Dan Wandrey, Brookfield Central
Dave Wenzel, Fox Valley Lutheran
“College Coach
Bosco Djurickovic, Carthage
Harold Olson, Ohio State*



“Assistant Coach”

Ron Kading, Potosi
Tony Servais, La Crosse Central

“Friend”

Ralph Davis, Milwaukee*
Dave Strasburg, Fall Creek

“Official”

Tallendra Carson, Milwaukee
Norm Knauf, Weston

“Girls Player”

Dr. Sue Bartz, Green Bay West
Sarah (Meyer) Gard, Lena
Meredith (Onson) Ottman, Oshkosh West
Kelly (Schwerman) Leibham, Kettle Moraine
Jan Zimmerman, Fall Creek

“Boys Player”

Brian Butch, Appleton West
Andy Chessier, Milwaukee Lincoln
Alex Compton, Madison West
Mike Johnson, Phillips
Steve Novak, Brown Deer
Tim Paterick, Janesville Craig
John Schell, Cumberland

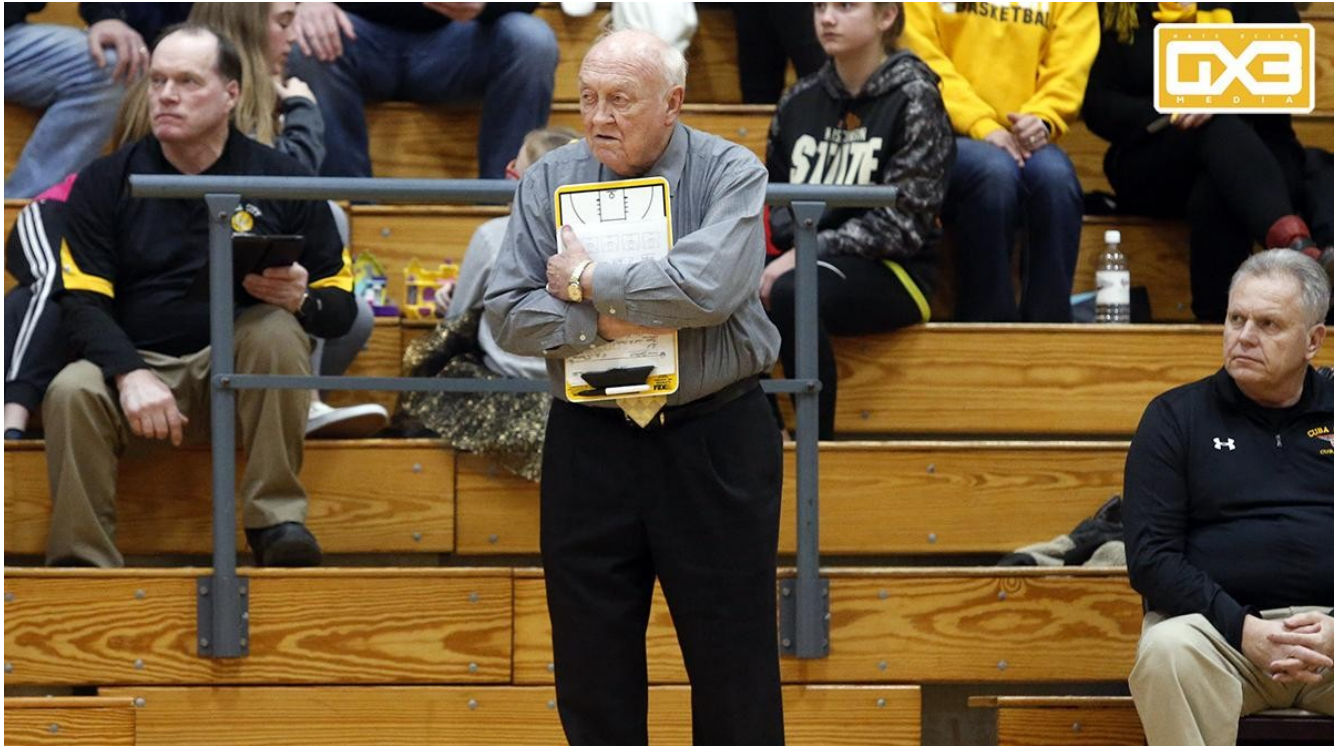


Photo courtesy of Nate Beier/GX3 Media

'It's been wonderful': Longtime coach Jerry Petitgoue reflects on coaching career before retiring

Courtesy of WKOW TV

After roughly 60 seasons total and 52 of those years with Cuba City, legendary head coach Jerry Petitgoue plans to retire at the end of this season. He's seen the game change in front of his very eyes. In response, he's made sure his coaching style evolved as well.

"I used to be kind of a fireball on the sidelines," Petitgoue said. "Now I'm pretty quiet, to be honest with you. The advantage of coaches that stay in it is kids make you young. They keep you young."

With a decorated resume, he'll finish as the all-time winningest coach in Wisconsin high school basketball history, with more than 1,000 career victories and three state championships with the Cubans.

You can read the full article by [clicking here](#).

Minutes of the January 15, 2023 WBCA Executive Board Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Executive Director, Jerry Petitgoue.

Attendance was taken by Joan Petitgoue, Executive Secretary. Those absent from the meeting were: John Miron, Jake Erbentraut, Jason Martzke, Kyle Rechitz, Matt McGraw, Tom Desotell, Kate Abiad, Nikki Seibel, Lee Rabas, John Cary, Derrick Washington, Mike Huser, John Fullerton, Greg Gard and Patrick Boughton.

The financial report was given by Jerry Petitgoue. There were handouts for the Hall of Fame Banquet, Fall Clinic, Milwaukee Clinic, Boys' and Girls' Showcases and the current bank balance for checking, money market and charities. There was also a comparison balance shown from 2020, 2021 and 2022.

The corporate sponsors report was given by Jon Nedelcoff and Jay Benish. They thanked Terry Erickson and Jim Scheidler for their input and asked the board to consider helping them if they could think of helping them come up with possible sponsor donors. They brought up the possibility of car dealerships and the Wisconsin National Guard.

Jerry introduced Luke Francois, Superintendent of Waterford Schools, who gave us some facts on the shot clock. He has talked to several people, both pro and con, on the issue. Our main issue should be what the kids want. The discussion involved shifting the game to defense as much as offense, cleaning up the end of the game, dispensing of those fans who are disgruntled by the stall and teaching all athletes the complete game.

The next issue discussed was the competitive equity debate among members of the board.

The last issue for discussion was adding two teams to the state tournament. Terry Slack, Superintendent of Wisconsin Dells Schools, presented information on this issue.

Jerry asked the executive board to then take a secret ballot vote on the above three issues to see where the board stands on them. The votes were as follows: Shot Clock: Yes-38, No-4=42 members present; Competitive Equity: Yes-23, No-17, Abstention-2=42 members present; Add 2 teams at state: Yes-39, No-3=42 members present.

Academic All-State Awards: Travis Wilson and Jerry Petitgoue are in the process of working on criteria for the academic all-state awards. They will be giving certificates to all athletes who enter with a 3.75 grade point average and will ask for added info if they wish to be considered for the top 15 elite winners. The board members will be asked to vote on the elite 15 choices. Ballots will be emailed to you at the appropriate time.

Dave Royston presented a HOF Museum Update. The boards have all been updated. He thanks Norb Durst and Travis Wilson for their help. Please send him any items you feel are worthy of being added to the museum.

There was a discussion with Jerry Petitgoue about adding some new awards for Academic All-State awards for colleges such as: Player of the Year and Coach of the Year in addition to what is already given. Jerry and Travis Wilson are working on some ideas.

Website Update: Jade Royston said that at present we have 3,872 members plus our lifetime membership (200) which would total between 4,000-4,100. There was a suggestion that we add head coaches' phone numbers for future membership sign-up.

Board Meeting Minutes cont.

Blast to the Membership: Travis Wilson stated that he is working on the all-star nominations update, the legacy award information updates and is adding coaches' job openings and games needed to the database.

All-State Boys' Selection: Travis Wilson and Jeff Boos are the co-chairs and will hold the selection meeting in early February.

All-State Girls' Selection: Norb Durst, Niki Sutter, Sara Rohde, Michelle Peplinski, Lora Staveness and Todd Hansen are part of the committee who will be holding a selection committee meeting in early February also.

Banquet Orders: All banquet ticket orders will be placed with Jade or Joan and may be accepted through Travis to be sent to Jade or Joan.

Website Update: Travis continues to work on updating the website and will continue to do so. If there are things to be updated that you see, please contact Travis about them.

Hospitality Rooms at State: Jerry states that we are all set with the hospitality at both the Resch and Kohl Centers.

President's Report: Todd Hansen handled this section of our meeting.

Boys' All-Star Games—They will be held on June 27-29 at the JAG. Teams/coaches will be staying at Chula Vista rather than the Great Wolf this year. The banquet will be held on Wednesday, June 28 at the Kalahari Convention Center. Selection by "zoom" will take place on March 12. Time :TBA

Girls' All-Star Games—They will be held on June 26-28 at the JAG. Teams/coaches will also be staying at Chula Vista rather than the Great Wolf this year. The banquet will be held on Tuesday, June 27 at the Kalahari Convention Center. Selection by "zoom" will take place on March 12. Time: TBA. W-7 will possibly stream the girls' games.

Mr. Basketball: Dennis Uppena will have a follow-up meeting with his committee on Sunday evening, January 29th to come up with the finalists' list and will have the winner available for announcement the week of regionals or before.

Miss Basketball: Jack Hervert and Norb Durst have gathered information and will soon have their final candidates for selection.

Legacy Award Update: Cliff Thompson and his committee met previously to the executive board meeting and came up with key details to help in the formation of their nominees for this year's selection. They will have the nominees' list by January 16th, they will vote on the 23rd and make their decision by the 30th. They will soon begin the process of nominations of boys and girls by their head coaches.

WIAA Update: Kate Abiad was unable to attend the meeting. Dan Witter passed along the information that the "June Jam" will be held on June 15-16 for the girls and June 22-23 for the boys. She will get a list of workers needed from the WBCA members. She also stated that the shot clock is still in transition and that the concerns about the electronic seeding came mainly from the lower seeds.

Board Meeting Minutes cont.

WBCA Virtual Clinic and Grade Clinics: Jon Nedelcoff and Jay Benish said that they will be held the 1st Monday in May. It will run three nights. They are working with mostly Wisconsin-based coaches.

Coaches Advisory Items: Dan Witter asked that you get items you want brought forth to him for the April meeting as soon as possible. The appeal for seeding not probably going to happen with electronic seeding.

Expanding Football Season: Kate sent a message that she is busy with conference realignment and the possibility of adding 2 additional games for the playoffs. Expanding the program will be discussed by the WIAA.

Possible 10 scholarships to Special Needs Students: Travis, Jerry and Ken will work on some criteria to follow concerning this. They will get a "Special Olympics" guideline to use on qualifications for this.

HOF Selection: Dan. Burreson stated that the HOF Selection Committee will meet on Sunday, January 29th at Trapper's Turn in the Dells to choose this year's candidates.

WBCA Showcase: Lee Rabas was not in attendance, but did say that the girls may have a better attendance if they were moved to a later date. It may work to alternate the sites for the boys and girls between the JAG and Appleton.

Jerry Petitgoue Invite: Lance Marifke (Boys) and Patrick Boughton (Girls) are working with Kyler Royston to set up dates for this.

WBCA Elections: Dennis Uppena had a discussion with the length of terms for president and will discuss the open slots at the next meeting.

New Business: Joan Petitgoue will be working with Megan Soderberg to set up sending a donation letter to former HOF inductees for possible revenue for all-star player scholarships and special needs students' scholarships. Patrick Boughton had brought up the possible dress code for coaches, but was not at the meeting to discuss anything pertaining to his concerns. Jerry asked if Tom Andres would be willing to be the liaison for Greg Gard and Kyle Rechlicz with bringing their concerns to the meetings that they are not able to attend. The Gender Equity Committee has asked for suggestions concerning accountability.

Next Meeting: A general consensus was that April 30th would be a good date for our next meeting at Trapper's Turn in the Dells at 9:00 a.m.

Motion to Adjourn: A motion was made by Jim Scheidler and seconded by Loren Homb to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Minutes: Joan Petitgoue, Executive Secretary (1-15-23)

Life Lessons on the Court

By Terry Erickson

Member WBCA Executive Board

Assignor Men's/Women's Basketball Officials Western Technical College

Assignor Men's/Women's Basketball Officials Emmaus Bible College

Assignor Men's/Women's Basketball Officials Viterbo University

February 2023

As a High School and NCAA Basketball Official for over 40 years, I have seen everything...the good, the bad, the ugly and the in-between.

I've see the overzealous parents, the helicopter parents, the spoiled player, the selfish player, the volatile coach, and the condescending coach. They are everywhere and at all levels. I have also seen the other side.

I have seen the unselfish players, the team-driven players, the encouraging coach, the respectful coach, and the appreciative and supporting parent. They are everywhere, too, and at all levels.

Recently, I was assigned a high school basketball post-season game. The experience supported my strong belief in the value of high school sports. Here's the story.

The home team had several players that were not able to participate due to COVID-19 exposure issues. Four of the players were seniors and played a significant role in the starting rotation. The team and coaches dedicated their final games to those seniors who were unable to play and forced to watch the games at home. I am not disputing the decision by the Administration regarding the players. That would be an unwelcome invasion into areas that are not of my concern. In fact, I fully understand and support the need to quarantine. So, on to the game.

Despite not having key players on the court, the coaches and players were full of enthusiasm and energy with the goal of advancing to the second round of the play-offs. If that were to occur, those quarantined players would be allowed to compete. Unfortunately, it was not a Hollywood ending to the story and the team did not advance. So, just like that the season was over. That's disappointing, but not the end of the story.

As witnessed in other gymnasiums, the attendance was limited to a relatively small number of fans. I noticed that in the bleachers were the parents of those players unable to participate. With Mom's proudly wearing their son's basketball jersey, their excitement, energy and support for the team was off the charts. That, in itself, sends a compelling message.

As the game neared the end, I witnessed some powerful emotions. As one of the senior starters left the game with just seconds remaining on the clock, I saw tears running down his cheeks. I saw a player that had given everything both mentally and physically that night, and throughout his career. I saw his coaches and teammates also at a high emotional level with tears of appreciation and tears of sadness for both him and the other senior student-athletes on the team.

Life Lessons on the Court cont.

As the clock hit 00:00, I witnessed a rousing standing ovation by parents and fans displaying similar tears of sadness and appreciation for the entire team. Their tears of heartache were also for those team members watching the game from afar. I can only imagine those emotional tears from the players' wanting so badly to be on the floor as the season came to an end.

Officials are asked to be stoic and impartial, and not to let the emotions of the game enter in. Well, that did not happen to me in this game. My heart also ached as I left the court with my eyes filled with tears. I saw something special that night in what may have seemed like an ordinary high school basketball game.

To be part of that experience is a defining moment in the life of an official. My appreciation for high school sports, for coaches, and for dedicated hard working athletes went to a new level after that game. The joy and the sadness, the sacrifices and the commitment, the connections and the caring, the effort and the energy, the courage and the character, the purpose and the passion, and the perseverance and fortitude are all important core values that matter in sports and in life.

For those teams that experience set-backs and never get to the top of the mountain, well, it's all about the big picture and lessons learned along the way. This quote, from the Book of Psalm, says it all, "Weeping may last through the night, but joy will come in the morning."



“Toughness” – Jay Bilas – ESPN.com

I have heard the word "toughness" thrown around a lot lately. Reporters on television, radio and in print have opined about a team or player's "toughness" or quoted a coach talking about his team having to be "tougher" to win.

Then, in almost coordinated fashion, I would watch games and see player upon player thumping his chest after a routine play, angrily taunting an opponent after a blocked shot, getting into a shouting match with an opposing player, or squaring up nose-to-nose as if a fight might ensue. I see players jawing at each other, trying to "intimidate" other players. What a waste of time. That is nothing more than fake toughness, and it has no real value.

I often wonder: Do people really understand what coaches and experienced players mean when they emphasize "toughness" in basketball? Or is it just some buzzword that is thrown around haphazardly without clear definition or understanding? I thought it was the latter, and I wrote a short blog item about it a couple of weeks ago.

The response I received was overwhelming. Dozens of college basketball coaches called to tell me that they had put the article up in the locker room, put it in each player's locker, or had gone over it in detail with their teams.

Memphis coach John Calipari called to say that he had his players post the definition of toughness over their beds because he believed that true "toughness" was the one thing that his team needed to develop to reach its potential. I received messages from high school coaches who wanted to relay the definition of toughness to their players and wanted to talk about it further.

Well, I got the message that I should expound upon what I consider toughness to be. It may not be what you think.

Toughness is something I had to learn the hard way, and something I had no real idea of until I played college basketball. When I played my first game in college, I thought that toughness was physical and based on how much punishment I could dish out and how much I could take. I thought I was tough.

I found out pretty quickly that I wasn't, but I toughened up over time, and I got a pretty good understanding of toughness through playing in the ACC, for USA Basketball, in NBA training camps, and as a professional basketball player in Europe. I left my playing career a heck of a lot tougher than I started it, and my only regret is that I didn't truly "get it" much earlier in my playing career.

When I faced a tough opponent, I wasn't worried that I would get hit -- I was concerned that I would get sealed on ball reversal by a tough post man, or that I would get boxed out on every play, or that my assignment would sprint the floor on every possession and get something easy on me. The toughest guys I had to guard were the ones who made it tough on me.

Toughness has nothing to do with size, physical strength or athleticism. Some players may be born tough, but I believe that toughness is a skill, and it is a skill that can be developed and improved. Michigan State coach Tom Izzo always says, "Players play, but tough players win." He is right. Here are some of the ways true toughness is exhibited in basketball:

Toughness cont.

Set a good screen: The toughest players to guard are the players who set good screens. When you set a good screen, you are improving the chances for a teammate to get open, and you are greatly improving your chances of getting open. A good screen can force the defense to make a mistake. A lazy or bad screen is a waste of everyone's time and energy. To be a tough player, you need to be a "screener/scorer," a player who screens hard and immediately looks for an opportunity on offense. On the 1984 U.S. Olympic Team, Bob Knight made Michael Jordan set a screen before he could get a shot. If it is good enough for Jordan, arguably the toughest player ever, it is good enough for you.

Set up your cut: The toughest players make hard cuts, and set up their cuts. Basketball is about deception. Take your defender one way, and then plant the foot opposite of the direction you want to go and cut hard. A hard cut may get you a basket, but it may also get a teammate a basket. If you do not make a hard cut, you will not get anyone open. Setting up your cut, making the proper read of the defense, and making a hard cut require alertness, good conditioning and good concentration. Davidson's Stephen Curry is hardly a physical muscle-man, but he is a tough player because he is in constant motion, he changes speeds, he sets up his cuts, and he cuts hard. Curry is hard to guard, and he is a tough player.

Talk on defense: The toughest players talk on defense, and communicate with their teammates. It is almost impossible to talk on defense and not be in a stance, down and ready, with a vision of man and ball. If you talk, you let your teammates know you are there, and make them and yourself better defenders. It also lets your opponent know that you are fully engaged.

Jump to the ball: When on defense, the tough defenders move as the ball moves. The toughest players move on the flight of the ball, not when it gets to its destination. And the toughest players jump to the ball and take away the ball side of the cut. Tough players don't let cutters cut across their face -- they make the cutter change his path.

Don't get screened: No coach can give a player the proper footwork to get through every screen. Tough players have a sense of urgency not to get screened and to get through screens so that the cutter cannot catch the ball where he wants to. A tough player makes the catch difficult.

Get your hands up: A pass discouraged is just as good as a pass denied. Tough players play with their hands up to take away vision, get deflections and to discourage a pass in order to allow a teammate to cover up. Cutters and post players will get open, if only for a count. If your hands are up, you can keep the passer from seeing a momentary opening.

Play the ball, see your man: Most defenders see the ball and hug their man, because they are afraid to get beat. A tough defender plays the ball and sees his man. There is a difference.

Get on the floor: In my first road game as a freshman, there was a loose ball that I thought I could pick up and take the other way for an easy one. While I was bending over at the waist, one of my opponents dived on the floor and got possession of the ball. My coach was livid. We lost possession of the ball because I wasn't tough enough to get on the floor for it. I tried like hell never to get out-toughed like that again.

The first player to get to the floor is usually the one to come up with any loose ball.

Toughness cont.

Close out under control: It is too easy to fly at a shooter and think you are a tough defender. A tough defender closes out under control, takes away a straight line drive and takes away the shot. A tough player has a sense of urgency but has the discipline to do it the right way.

Post your man, not a spot: Most post players just blindly run to the low block and get into a shoving match for a spot on the floor. The toughest post players are posting their defensive man. A tough post player is always open, and working to get the ball to the proper angle to get a post feed. Tough post players seal on ball reversal and call for the ball, and they continue to post strong even if their teammates miss them.

Run the floor: Tough players sprint the floor, which drags the defense and opens up things for others. Tough players run hard and get "easy" baskets, even though there is nothing easy about them. Easy baskets are hard to get. Tough players don't take tough shots -- they work hard to make them easy.

Play so hard, your coach has to take you out: I was a really hard worker in high school and college. But I worked and trained exceptionally hard to make playing easier. I was wrong. I once read that Bob Knight had criticized a player of his by saying, "You just want to be comfortable out there!" Well, that was me, and when I read that, it clicked with me. I needed to work to increase my capacity for work, not to make it easier to play. I needed to work in order to be more productive in my time on the floor. Tough players play so hard that their coaches have to take them out to get rest so they can put them back in. The toughest players don't pace themselves.

Get to your teammate first: When your teammate lays his body on the line to dive on the floor or take a charge, the tough players get to him first to help him back up. If your teammate misses a free throw, tough players get to him right away. Tough players are also great teammates.

Take responsibility for your teammates: Tough players expect a lot from their teammates, but they also put them first. When the bus leaves at 9 a.m., tough players not only get themselves there, but they also make sure their teammates are up and get there, too. Tough players take responsibility for others in addition to themselves. They make sure their teammates eat first, and they give credit to their teammates before taking it themselves.

Take a charge: Tough players are in a stance, playing the ball, and alert in coming over from the weak side and taking a charge. Tough players understand the difference between being in the right spot and being in the right spot with the intention of stopping somebody. Some players will look puzzled and say, "But I was in the right spot." Tough players know that they have to get to the right spot with the sense of urgency to stop someone.

The toughest players never shy away from taking a charge. Get in a stance: Tough players don't play straight up and down and put themselves in the position of having to get ready to get ready. Tough players are down in a stance on both ends of the floor, with feet staggered and ready to move. Tough players are the aggressor, and the aggressor is in a stance.

Finish plays: Tough players don't just get fouled, they get fouled and complete the play. They don't give up on a play or assume that a teammate will do it. A tough player plays through to the end of the play and works to finish every play.

Toughness cont.

Work on your pass: A tough player doesn't have his passes deflected. A tough player gets down, pivots, pass-fakes, and works to get the proper angle to pass away from the defense and deliver the ball.

Throw yourself into your team's defense: A tough player fills his tank on the defensive end, not on offense. A tough player is not deterred by a missed shot. A tough player values his performance first by how well he defended.

Take and give criticism the right way: Tough players can take criticism without feeling the need to answer back or give excuses. They are open to getting better and expect to be challenged and hear tough things. You will never again in your life have the opportunity you have now at the college level: a coaching staff that is totally and completely dedicated to making you and your team better. Tough players listen and are not afraid to say what other teammates may not want to hear, but need to hear.

Show strength in your body language: Tough players project confidence and security with their body language. They do not hang their heads, do not react negatively to a mistake of a teammate, and do not whine and complain to officials. Tough players project strength, and do not cause their teammates to worry about them. Tough players do their jobs, and their body language communicates that to their teammates -- and to their opponents.

Catch and face: Teams that press and trap are banking on the receiver's falling apart and making a mistake. When pressed, tough players set up their cuts, cut hard to an open area and present themselves as a receiver to the passer. Tough players catch, face the defense, and make the right read and play, and they do it with poise. Tough players do not just catch and dribble; they catch and face.

Don't get split: If you trap, a tough player gets shoulder-to-shoulder with his teammate and does not allow the handler to split the trap and gain an advantage on the back side of the trap.

Be alert: Tough players are not "cool." Tough players are alert and active, and tough players communicate with teammates so that they are alert, too. Tough players echocommands until everyone is on the same page. They understand the best teams play five as one. Tough players are alert in transition and get back to protect the basket and the 3-point line. Tough players don't just run back to find their man, they run back to stop the ball and protect the basket.

Concentrate, and encourage your teammates to concentrate: Concentration is a skill, and tough players work hard to concentrate on every play. Tough players go as hard as they can for as long as they can.

It's not your shot; it's our shot: Tough players don't take bad shots, and they certainly don't worry about getting "my" shots. Tough players work for good shots and understand that it is not "my" shot, it is "our" shot. Tough players celebrate when "we" score.

Box out and go to the glass every time: Tough players are disciplined enough to lay a body on someone. They make first contact and go after the ball. And tough players do it on every possession, not just when they feel like it. They understand defense is not complete until they secure the ball.

Toughness cont.

Take responsibility for your actions: Tough players make no excuses. They take responsibility for their actions. Take James Johnson for example. With 17 seconds to go in Wake's game against Duke on Wednesday, Jon Scheyer missed a 3-pointer that bounced right to Johnson. But instead of aggressively pursuing the ball with a sense of urgency, Johnson stood there and waited for the ball to come to him. It never did. Scheyer grabbed it, called a timeout and the Blue Devils hit a game-tying shot on a possession they never should've had. Going after the loose ball is toughness – and Johnson didn't show it on that play. But what happened next? He re-focused, slipped a screen for the winning basket, and after the game -- when he could've been basking only in the glow of victory -- manned up to the mistake that could've cost his team the win. "That was my responsibility -- I should have had that," Johnson said of the goof. No excuses. Shouldering the responsibility. That's toughness.

Look your coaches and teammates in the eye: Tough players never drop their heads. They always look coaches and teammates in the eye, because if they are talking, it is important to them and to you.

Move on to the next play: Tough players don't waste time celebrating a good play or lamenting a bad one. They understand that basketball is too fast a game to waste time and opportunities with celebratory gestures or angry reactions. Tough players move on to the next play. They know that the most important play in any game is the next one.

Be hard to play against, and easy to play with: Tough players make their teammates' jobs easier, and their opponents' jobs tougher.

Make every game important: Tough players don't categorize opponents and games. They know that if they are playing, it is important. Tough players understand that if they want to play in championship games, they must treat every game as a championship game.

Make getting better every day your goal: Tough players come to work every day to get better, and keep their horizons short. They meet victory and defeat the same way: They get up the next day and go to work to be better than they were the day before. Tough players hate losing but are not shaken or deterred by a loss. Tough players enjoy winning but are never satisfied. For tough players, a championship or a trophy is not a goal; it is a destination. The goal is to get better every day.

When I was playing, the players I respected most were not the best or most talented players. The players I respected most were the toughest players. I don't remember anything about the players who talked a good game or blocked a shot and acted like a fool. I remember the players who were tough to play against.

Anybody can talk. Not anybody can be tough.

1000 Point, 300 Win & 1000 Games Officiated Club

As part of the WBCA Hall of Fame we honor coaches, players and officials that have hit these landmark milestones.

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If you need more space please use back of sheet or attach another sheet. Each player, coach or referee requires a \$50 donation. Checks made payable to:

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Attn: Hall of Fame
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WISCONSIN BASKETBALL
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ANNUAL COACHING AWARDS FORM

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

Conference Championship
Awards
Can be picked up at
The Fall Clinic

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photo.*

*Please include
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100 & 200 Win awards can be
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Name: _____

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You must be a WBCA Member for the last 5 consecutive years.

35-Year Award
Can be picked up at
The Hall of Fame Banquet

Name: _____

School: _____

Total # of Years: _____

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enclose one
wallet sized
photo.*

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email address.*

NOTES: 1) Conference Championship awards will be handed out at the fall clinic. You must be there to pick up the award, if you cannot make the clinic please have someone pick up the award for you. No awards will be mailed.

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