



Goals as SWOA Basketball

What can we accomplish in the next two years?

By: Tom Kaster

SWOA Basketball VP

Summer is winding down and the 2010-2011 basketball season is approaching. Preparations are being made for this season's camp and meetings. For those of you that I have not had the opportunity to spend much time with, I would like to take a few minutes to introduce myself.

I have been officiating basketball for 16 years. I started as a freshman in college when the athletic director from my home town (Highland WI) asked me if I would be interested in officiating 7th and 8th grade games. That was all it took. After graduating, I moved to Madison and starting working YMCA Saturday morning and Tri-County games. I was in Madison for four years before I attended my first SWOA meeting. I only became aware of the SWOA through Radar asking me several times if I would come to "this Monday's meeting." I am appreciative for his persistence. The first meeting I attended, Greg Blum was the VP. Greg took the time to personally introduce himself and discuss my

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Have you Started Getting Ready for the Season?

It is time to start thinking about the round ball again.

Have You Started Getting Ready for 2010-2011 Season?

Are you ready for the season? Right now is a good time to take inventory and prepare. Below are some thoughts to consider.

- **Check your contracts.** Cross reference your contracts with any spreadsheet or calendar that you are keeping. Be proactive now to find needed subs. There is nothing more frustrating for an assigner than having to find a sub at the last moment. If you do have to drop off a game, provide a reliable substitution to the assigner when you communicate.
- **Update your official finder.** The official finder is only as good as the information you load into it. It can be easy to accept a game and forget to update the site. Countless athletic directors, commissioners, and other officials use this first class tool to fill games. If you are looking to fill your schedule, the official finder will help!
 - Use official finder to take a step back and analyze your season. Be aware of your officiating / work / life needs. If you have a busy schedule for a stretch of time, consider closing out dates to make sure you have time to spend with your family.
- **Get in shape.** If you wait until the season to start working out, it is too late. Start the season strong and confident. Take time now to prepare yourself for the rigors of the long, intense season. The better in shape you are when the season starts, the more you will hold up in February and March.

officiating goals with me. In addition to Greg's time, Dave Kelleher made sure to introduce himself and offer a hand of assistance if needed. I realized I had found an organization that could help me develop as an official and reach my goals. I remember those first meetings when I see new officials join the SWOA. I try to provide the same warmth and support that I received.

Throughout the years, I have met some outstanding officials and have learned from them all. One of my fundamental principles in regards to networking for officiating and my professional career is:

"It is not about who you know. It is about who knows that you can do a great job."

If you are open and willing, you will find plenty of opportunities to receive constructive feedback from other SWOA officials. The feedback will help you improve as an official. The key is to be open and to never stop learning and improving.

Another fundamental officiating principle of mine is:

"Ignore the crowd (unless absolutely necessary), manage the coaches and enjoy the kids."

As officials, we invest a great deal of our time and emotion in reaching our goals and getting assigned the "big games." It can be easy to forget that we are a small part of the game. The game is for the kids, not us. Enjoy being a part of helping young men and women learn and grow through fair and safe competition.

Enough about me. In the next two years, my primary goal as VP is to make each and every interaction a learning and growth opportunity for all officials. We are very lucky to have a wealth of talent, experience and resources in and out of our association. In the near future, you will be receiving a survey that will be designed to elicit your ideas, thoughts and needs, from a basketball officiating standpoint.

I am very excited about this opportunity and look forward to working with you in the future.

- **Brush up on your mechanics and rules.** Consider reading NFHS' High School Basketball Rules by Topic. It is an excellent way to remind and refresh yourself on all those small details and situations that you may face during the season. Also, look for a late October, early November opportunity to officiate and practice your mechanics.
- **Check your gear.** You may have forgotten that your shoes are shot, your jerseys are getting a bit ragged or that all your whistles are missing their peas... Now is a good time to start looking for replacements.
- **Set 2010-2011 goals that pertain to your performance.** Think about specific calls, mechanics, and game management concepts you want to improve on. Write down what you want to work on and what steps you will take to make the improvements.

Dates and Locations

Preliminary dates for the 2010-2011 SWOA Basketball meetings are below.

November 15th

December 13th

January 10th

February 7th (The next Monday in Feb is the 14th, let's keep that open for the family)

The meeting location will be the Coliseum Bar off of John Nolan drive. Location may change based on room availability and meeting agenda topics.

SWOA Basketball Clinic Update:

Details and information on the 2010 camp are currently being worked on. Information will be communicated as soon as possible.

Recruiting Corner

A membership committee has been assembled to focus on recruitment and membership needs. The committee members include: Scott Wilson, Rich Fronheiser, John Horn, Kent Holmquist, Dave Jameson, Mike Car, Jack Albrechson, Tom Kaster and Duane Ives. As you can see, the committee is comprised of individuals who possess a range of experiences, including perspectives from both basketball and football.

Despite the best efforts of any committee or program, the best method to recruit members and continue the SWOA's legacy of strong competent officials is through your word of mouth. No matter what level you work, you will come into contact with other officials who can benefit from being a SWOA member. Be persistent. Talk to co-workers who show an interest; or recent graduates who may be looking for an opportunity to stay connected to the game. Attached to this newsletter is a document that explains the steps it takes to start officiating. Sometimes the biggest obstacle is knowing how to get started. Feel free to copy and send this information to anyone interested in becoming an official. This doc will also be posted on the SWOA site.

When concentrating on recruiting new members, it is easy to overlook maintaining current membership. One of the best ways to maintain membership is to make sure people who attend the SWOA meetings feel welcomed and supported. We are all responsible for stepping out of our established peer groups to help new members feel welcomed and appreciate. Let's all make sure we introduce ourselves and provide support and guidance.

In addition to maintaining membership, ensuring the time spent at SWOA events is a worthwhile investment, is equally as important. Taking up four nights during an extremely busy time of the year, away from family and other obligations can be a sacrifice. My goal is to make each outing a worthwhile investment of our time.

World Transplant Games

This past August, Madison had the opportunity to host the National Kidney Foundation, U.S. Transplant Games. Athletes from all over the country who have been recipients of organ transplants came to compete in many events, as their family members and the families of donors cheered them on. As you are aware, the SWOA's own John Horn played a major role in organizing and managing this huge event. John did an amazing job and the U.S. transplant games were a great success. I personally appreciated John's persistence in communicating the officiating opportunities available to SWOA members. As a result, the SWOA had an outstanding presence in the basketball tournament.

I speak for us all when I say that the benefit received from officiating the U.S. Transplant Games went far beyond any monetary compensation. Having the opportunity to be a part of such an inspiring experience, and witnessing the courageous athletes compete, reminded me of why I officiate. I met an athlete who received a heart transplant 15 years ago and now at the age of 51 had more hustle on the court than I could have. His team won gold in the Men's 3 on 3 tournament. Other athletes competed at extremely high levels after having received lung, kidney as well as many other transplants. They were all amazing!

Almost as inspiring as the athletes, were the thousands of fans who cheered them on. Family members and loved ones were there to provide enthusiastic support. Family members of individuals who donated organs were also there to cheer and support the athletes who their loved ones saved through being a donor.

Overall, the U.S. Transplant Games were an amazing opportunity for Madison and the SWOA. If you have the opportunity, take the time and thank John Horn for helping engage the SWOA in the event. Listed below are the names of the SWOA officials who had the opportunity to work with the athletes. Great job everyone!

John Fullerton	Tim Haldiman	Bob Fasick
Taylor Devalk	Joe Coyle	Jim Meyers
Dan Prohaska	Tyrone Cratic	Gary Harris
Scott Wilson	Craig Fenrick	Dorie Prochaska
Chris Jenny	Tom Kaster	Roy Splinter
Dave Brost	Jared Flesch	