



President's Message *by Jaime McCaig*

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

To celebrate Black History Month in February, Canada Basketball profiled a select group of significant contributors to the sport of basketball in Canada on www.basketball.ca. The Ontario Association of Basketball Officials are extremely pleased to announce that Nadine Crowley (Ottawa) and Paul Carter (Windsor) were honoured for their commitment and dedication to the game. Please go to the Canada Basketball website to view their online profile and bios. Nadine and Paul are truly outstanding individuals and certainly deserve the honour of recognition for all they have done for the game of basketball.

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

The Membership Survey is now available on-line at www.oabo.org or you can go direct to the survey by using the following link <<http://doodle.com/xeruz-pgw74quiwgbf>> The Survey entitled "What are you getting for your fees?" is to determine if you as members are getting value for your fees locally, provincially, nationally and internationally. The results will be shared with the Local Board Presidents at our annual meeting on May 2nd. It would be greatly appreciated if you could influence your members to take part in the 4 question survey which will take very little time to complete.

OABO WEBSITE

We are very close to launching a brand new look for the website. Tino has just completed the archiving of very old files and is working with our Web provider EPI to develop the new template. It is our plan to officially launch the new look website at the Presidents' Meeting in May. I would also like to thank the 19 Local Boards that have provided their website links to the OABO Website. I encourage all Local Boards who have their own websites to contact Tino Decastro to ensure you are linked to the OABO Website. It is great for communication

IAABO

The IAABO Conference Calls were completed on Sunday, February 8/2009. My appreciation to those Local Board Interpreters who were regular participants.

FIBA

I was very pleased to attend the most recent York Region Membership meeting where Dawna Townsend made an excellent presentation on the Philosophy of FIBA, the different Rules and Mechanics and her most recent experience at the Summer Olympics in China.

OABO SEMINAR

The 2009 OABO Seminar will be hosted by the Bay of Quinte Board in Belleville Friday, Sept. 25 and Saturday, Sept. 26 at the Fairfield Inn Marriott Hotel. The 2009 OABO AGM will be on Sunday, Sept. 27.

I am pleased to announce the 2010 OABO Seminar will be hosted by the York Region Board Friday, Sept. 24 and Saturday, Sept. 25. The 2010 OABO AGM will be on Sunday, Sept. 26.

ONTARIO BASKETBALL

Ontario Basketball in conjunction with OABO is currently evaluating their Young Player Development Rules. They have asked us to provide officials at tournaments across the Province to evaluate these rules concentrating on the following:

1. What areas of the rules need further clarification?
2. How can the rules be modified to encourage more officials to be supportive of them and enforce them?
3. What are the crowd reactions to Young Player Development infractions being called or not called?
4. What is the best plan of action for our Site Convenors and your officials to work together to get these calls properly?



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International Officials from Ontario, Dawna Townsend, Nadine Crowley and Rich Stehlik. The remaining 2 hours from 3:00pm to 5:00pm will see an in depth presentation from your Provincial Interpreter Ted Montgomery on the National Officials Certification Program.

COMMITTEE ROOM 1 – 1:00PM TO 5:00PM

PRESIDENTS MEETING

- The Afternoon Session will have the following items:

- Presentation from Doug Gore, Program Manager for The Ontario Trillium Foundation on how OABO can fit into the Grant Process and apply for educational and developmental funding. He will walk us through "How to Write a Grant Proposal"
- Presentation from the Constitutional Committee on the status of Amendments and By-laws
- Presentation on the 2009 OABO Seminar in Belleville
- Update on OABO Website
- * Wall of Fame Awards Dinner
- OFSAA Local Board Tracking Sheet
- Discussion of Voting Procedures at 2009 AGM
- Update on Vice-Presidents Project
- Discussion of Membership Survey
- Regional Reports from North and Central-West Representatives

If you have any questions in the meantime please don't hesitate to contact me at anytime

PRESIDENT'S REPORT continued

SUMMER CAMPS

The OABO Summer Camps are filling up quickly. Please go on-line and complete an application ASAP if you wish to secure a spot. Please don't forget there are also Camp Scholarships available as well. JDP and Female Officials Camps are full.

PRESIDENTS' MEETING

– 10:00am to 5:00pm SAT., MAY 2ND

INTERPRETERS' SESSION

– 1:00pm to 5:00pm
– TORONTO CITY HALL

I recently communicated to all Local Boards the tentative agenda for the 2 sessions this year. The schedule is also available on the OABO website. A final agenda will be provided by the middle of April.

I am pleased to announce that the following Basketball Partners have confirmed their attendance.

1. **CABO**
 - President
 - Don Cline
2. **Ontario Basketball**
 - President
 - Ken Urbach
3. **IAABO**
 - Coordinator of Interpreters
 - Peter Webb
4. **Trillium Foundation**
 - Program Manager
 - Doug Gore.
5. **OUA**
 - Executive Director
 - Ward Dilse

I am still awaiting confirmation from OFSAA, OCAA and Canada Basketball.

It is my goal to have all 32 Local Boards represented at this meeting which will take on a somewhat different format in 2009 in not just having all the Local Board Presidents in attendance but as well as the Local Board Interpreters and our Provincial, National and International Partners in Officiating. This is being accomplished by the granting of \$10,000 from Ontario Basketball through their Trillium Funding Grant. My sincere appreciation to Michele O'Keefe, Executive Director of Ontario Basketball for their generous contribution.

TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR THE DAY

COMMITTEE ROOM 1 – 10:00AM TO 12 NOON

PRESIDENTS MEETING - The morning session from 10:00am to 12 noon will be reserved for discussions with Ontario Basketball, OFSAA, OCAA, CABO and IAABO. There will also be a brief overview of the National Officials Certification Program however this topic will be presented more in depth at the Interpreters Session. All Interpreters are welcome to join the morning session.

LUNCH - 12:00 to 12:45pm - Will be provided for everyone in Committee Room 1.

COMMITTEE ROOM 2 - 1:00PM to 5:00PM

INTERPRETERS SESSION –

The first 2 hours will be reserved for presentations by our 3 FIBA Carded



Supervisor's Report *OFSSA Boys' Rosters 2009*

Boys' 'A'

Seaway - Jim Fourney
 Seaway - Charles Freeman
 Seaway - Alan Greig
 Seaway - Michael Perras
 Seaway - Rosanne Rasenberg
 Seaway - Alain Roy
 Seaway - Lewis Stanley
 Seaway - Joey Vanloon
 Ottawa - Ian Hunter
 Ottawa - Brian Peet
 Renfrew - Vic Navickas
 Quinte - Stephen Jones
 Quinte - Darrell McGrath
 Brockville - Geremiah Geldart
 Kingston - Jim Pereira
 R/C - Rob Ferguson
 Assistant - Eric Kane



Boys' 'AA'

Timmins - Louis Clausi
 Timmins - Rick Cornell
 Timmins - Peter Guarda
 Timmins - Angelo Lia
 Timmins - John Elliott
 Timmins - Mike Spencer
 Thunder Bay - Rod Miller
 Sault - Jeff Bussineau
 Sault - Brian Seccareccia
 Sudbury - Gary Miller
 Sudbury - Stu Fairwell
 Barrie - Michael Greene
 Peel - Bill White
 Toronto - Jason Dawkins
 Hamilton - David Margetts
 R/C - Dennis Herbert
 Assistant - Charlie Ketter

Boys' 'AAA'

Ottawa - Tony Forde
 Ottawa - Greg Ward
 Ottawa - Brendan Byrne
 Ottawa - Sarwar Qureshi
 Ottawa - Steve Ashfield
 Ottawa - Andrew Sorowka
 Ottawa - Brad Irwin
 Ottawa - Julien Raynaud
 Seaway - Mike Doyle
 Brockville - Mark Lewis
 Brockville - Tim Wilson
 Kingston - Ken Pennell
 Kingston - Andy Ledoux
 Peterborough - Brady Taylor
 Cobourg - Tom Langford
 Toronto - Frank Bettencourt
 R/C - Chester Graham
 Assistants - Ray Holder / Bill Magnus

Boys' 'AAAA'

Windsor - Geoff Astles
 Windsor - Barry Cullen
 Windsor - Daniel Golding
 Windsor - Kevin Greenwood
 Windsor - David Krndija
 Windsor - John McKibbon
 Windsor - Rob Merritt
 Windsor - Mary Rondeau
 Hamilton - Malcom Huber
 Toronto - Mike Falloon
 Peel - Dennis Windsor
 Durham - Dave Jackson
 York - Tim Laurain
 Niagara - Mike Zazon
 London - Gord Clifford
 Kent - Ken Muir
 R/C - Doug Harris
 Assistant - Robin Holbrook / Greg McCullough / Rick Middleton

Provincial and National Appointments 2009

The following officials were selected to work the tournaments as listed:

OCAA Men: Algonquin College

Chris Delaney - Peel
 Phil Lawn - Toronto
 Gary Schauer - London
 Tony Forde - Ottawa
 Greg Ward - Ottawa
 Sarwar Qureshi - Ottawa
 R/C Bruce Covert

OCCA Women: Sheridan College

Joan Green - Kingston
 Vince Pileggi - Toronto
 Anthony Chapman - Peel
 Phil Baca - Peel
 R/C - Sandy Bibeau

CIS appointments

OUA East Women:	OUA West Women:
Dawna Townsend	Penny Wright
John Sertic	Tony Turnbull

OUA East Men:	OUA West Men:
Mike Currie	Al Robinson
Bruce Covert	Geoff Astles

CCAA Men: British Columbia

Phil Lawn - Toronto
 Gary Schauer - London

CCAA Women: Quebec

Joan Green - Kingston
 Vince Pileggi - Toronto



Provincial Interpreter

By Ted Montgomery



Closely Guarded

Although the high school season is done, officials cannot put aside the NFHS rule set. Basketball Ontario plays by FIBA rules, with some modifications for age groups and gym schedules. When there are no 24-second shot clocks in use, then the NFHS closely guarded rules are applied. So, now is an especially good time to review the closely guarded rule and how it should be applied.

The rule says that if the offensive player is holding the ball or dribbling the ball while being closely guarded for more than five seconds, it is a violation and the defense is awarded the ball for a throw-in. A player who is holding the ball and is closely guarded is entitled to a new five second count when the dribble begins or ends. If there is a switch of defenders on the ball but the closely guarded situation remains, the same five second count continues even though it is a different defender.

In order properly to assess the situation, the official has to focus on where the defender is and what the player with the ball is doing. What the defender must do to be deemed to be closely guarding the player with the ball is not by basketball defense standards a high standard at all. The defender simply has to be within 6 feet and in a guarding position, which is to say, not just nearby but facing. No aggressive play is required of the defender.

Far too often, officials look at this play entirely the wrong way. Officials are reluctant to “reward” the defense when they are not playing hard defense, not trying to steal the ball or pressure it at all. The official who does this misses the point of this rule completely. It is not a rule about the defense. It is a rule about the offense. The rule is designed to make the offense play. That is why the standard for the defense is so relatively low. The onus on the defense is minimal. The onus then switches to the offense to do something with the ball. The official is not rewarding weak defense, but punishing inactive offense.

Although the main focus is on the defensive player to be sure that the player is within six feet, if you think of closely guarded as a rule about what the offense has to do, you are far more likely to make the right call.

There was a time when the official would step in and command the defense to “play ball” but that has changed to what is now in place. The offense has to “play ball” and this rule is the way of sending that message. Don’t undermine the principle and intent of the rule by requiring a higher standard of the defensive players than what is established by rule. If the defender is within six feet of the player with the ball, start your count right away.

For Basketball Ontario games this is even more important. Eventually, we hope all FIBA games will have the 24-second shot clocks but for now they do not. Nevertheless, it is the FIBA philosophy to keep the game moving, to force the offense to play and shoot. That philosophy is right in keeping with the applying the NFHS closely guarded rule where there are no shot clocks. If the game is being played with shot clocks, the FIBA closely guarded rule is used. That rule does reward tough, effective defense, and the defenders much meet a much higher standard, be within one meter and aggressively playing the ball.

Don’t mix the rules up. They are similar but very different in purpose. When there are no shot clocks, the NFHS closely guarded rules apply. Be sure to use them properly and as intended – to make the offense play. Think of it as a rule about the offense.

FIBA Backcourt Violations

From the emails and phone calls I have received, there apparently remains some confusion about the over-and-back rules in FIBA. First – despite what you might have heard – the rules are not the same as NFHS. There are several subtle differences.

A team has eight seconds to advance the ball to its front court. If the ball is NOT being dribbled, this is accomplished when the ball touches the front court, or a player or official who is touching the front court. (Remember that the center line is a part of the back court.) So, if the ball is passed to a player who has both or either foot in the front court, the eight second count ends and the ball has front court status. Passing the ball to a player who is straddling the center line ends the eight second count. The ball has reached the front court. That means, of course, it cannot be returned to the back court.

If the ball is being dribbled, then it does not attain front court status until the ball and both feet of the dribbler have reached (touched) the front court.

There are some consequences to these differences.

The player who receives a pass from the backcourt (including a throw-in from the back court) and holds the ball straddling the center line has front court status. The eight second count has ended. The player may therefore hold the ball until the 24 second clock expires, or the period ends, or a five-second closely guarded violation is called. The player may also pass to a player in the front court, but not to a player in the back court, including any teammate who is also straddling the center line. (A player, without the ball, touching the back court has back court and front court status.) The player straddling the center line with the ball may jump from both feet. The player may lift the back foot and pivot to the front court. The player may not lift the front foot and use the back foot as a pivot. That would mean the ball no longer has front court status. The player may not start a dribble. If the player dribbles, the player becomes a dribbler and thereby changes the status of the ball. Remember that the ball has backcourt status when a dribbler has either foot or the ball in the back court. It does not matter whether the ball is bounced in the front court or the back.

A couple of further reminders:

When the 8 second count is interrupted by a violation, the team has only any unused portion of that count to advance the ball to the front court. If a time out is taken, it may be a while before the ball is put back into play, so be sure to make a mental note, tell your partner as well, how much time remains of the 8 second back court allowance.

When a throw-in takes place by a player straddling the center line extended, the ball has front and back court status, so any existing eight second count is ended. A new eight seconds begins if the ball is thrown into the back court.

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER REPORT *By Tino De Castro*

Provincial Evaluations will be emailed to Board Presidents for distribution to the correct Executive member.

The 2009-2010 Federation order has been submitted and will include a new two year manual book. Be sure to email me your possible order.

The OABO website continues to be your main source of information in Ontario, please feel free to send me any suggestions for improvement.

The Local board tab now has several new boards listed. Any board wanting to set up a website let me know and I will try to connect you with the people in the know.

From the Desk of the Secretary/Treasurer *by Don Thorne*

Things are pretty quiet for my position at this time of year. I just have a couple of things.

1) I can not stress enough the importance that you, the members, have to keep me advised as to changes in your mailing address and also your email address. For example, I just sent out an exclusive email to every female official in Ontario regarding the All-Female OABO Development Camp this summer. There are 154 females registered in Ontario. I had email addresses for 152 of which 16 bounced back as no longer in service. That's 10% and that's just the females. Considering we have been progressing towards the distribution of "The Whistle" via email, you need to let us know when you change email addresses. Please do not rely on just your local board to send the changes in. Most boards do not update their lists until the fall.

2) I would like to remind the local boards about the OABO Subsidy programs for travel assistance and education equipment/software. Details can be found on the OABO Website. I've had a few requests regarding the education equipment but so far no one has actually sent in a receipt. There have been a number of requests for the travel subsidy which will be presented at our Executive meeting in May and at the Presidents' Meeting.

Lastly, I was driving back from Rhode Island on Sunday March 15 (remember that nice warm weekend) and I saw about 4 golf courses between Buffalo and Albany that had tons of people on them. Now that's early spring golf. Is snow a removable object?



IAABO Region Nine Representative Report News and Views Spring 2009 *By Dennis Herbert*

IAABO Region Nine Representative, Second Term Completion - Report Card.

As the second term of my installment being IAABO's Region Nine Representative is coming to a close, I would like to make OABO officials aware of some accomplishments that have actualized during the period May 2003 - April 2009:

- IAABO Region Nine Representative, two terms 2004-2009: attended all IAABO Spring (Business) and Fall (Interpreter Education) Meetings, Executive Meetings, and Standing Committee Meetings
- OABO - IAABO Member's Records, Curator, 2004 - present: have tracked IAABO member's profiles and presented lists to OABO Bd. 102 Presidents' for Service Awards Luncheon at OABO Fall Meetings 2004 - present. Approximately 90 names are submitted annually
- IAABO Executive Liaison - current, Education and Visualization, and Board Relations and Policy; have supported the Sportorials on-line version and the hard copy format to be both accessible to IAABO members.
- IAABO Charters in Region Nine: escalated from 10 (1966 - 2003) to 15 (2003 - present)
- IAABO Membership in Region Nine: escalated from 450 to 625
- IAABO Officials School - Scholarships, initiator for 6 Ontario officials to apply and attend camps (2003- 2008)
- Produced Report, OABO Summer Camps 2003, advocating greater interaction with IAABO: exchange of Ontario IAABO members working in IAABO Officials' Schools includes: Jacques Arsenault, Bruce Covert, Tim Laurain, Jaime McCaig, and Rick Parnham
- IAABO Officials' School - U MASS (Lowell), Staff with Peter Webb (Director), June 2005
- IAABO Officials' School - Staff, UMASS (Amhurst 2006), Susquehanna (2007. 2008),
- OABO , The Whistle, regular contributor on IAABO News and Views, 2003 - present
- IAABO Fall Seminar, 2006, Toronto, Canada, Co-chair with Jaime McCaig (OABO Pres. 102): liaison to have Ontario clinicians as part of the IAABO Seminar Speakers, including Guy Cipriani, Steve Foxcroft, Tim Laurain and Dawna Townsend
- IAABO Chair 2007 induction Spring 2007 (along with Jaime McCaig)
- IAABO Ad Hoc Committee, FIBA Growth in Region Nine (2007 - present) Chair - 16 members: committee has met, twice and reports (three) have been presented to IAABO Executive with recommendations being implemented - Sportorials include Canadian contributors on a regular basis
- IAABO Fall Meeting (2007) - Fred Horgan and Ted Montgomery invited to serve as Clinicians
- IAABO Fall Meeting (2008) Ted Montgomery returns as FIBA Clinician
- IAABO clinicians at OABO Fall Meetings: Peter Webb (2007), Felix Addeo & Tom Lopes (2008)
- IAABO promotion in Ontario with OABO Bd. 102 Executive, on-going meetings with Bruce Covert, Jaime McCaig, Ted Montgomery and Shah Zafar
- IAABO Interpreter's Conference Calls - instrumental in having all Ontario Local Boards have access opportunity for going on line with the four Sunday night calls this past year - Boards who took advantage of the opportunity to dialogue rules interpretations have been encouraging

I would like to thank IAABO Bd.102 Executive for endorsing my nomination to seek re-election at the IAABO 2009 Spring Meetings. Jaime McCaig will present my nomination declaration at the Nominating Committee - open meeting Friday April 24, 2009.

Northern Report *by Brian Seccareccia*

Now that the local, regional, provincial, national championships and March Madness are over we can relax. Many of our boards will be shifting our attention away from National Federation Rules and Mechanics to concentrate on FIBA Rules and Mechanics to get ready for the OBA Championships.

Listed below are the highlights for some of the Northern Boards.

Muskoka Parry Sound

The Muskoka board has added four officials to their roster and continues to encourage ladies in their community to become referees and join their association. They have been busy preparing officials for the rigors of officiating OBA games with FIBA Rules and Mechanics. The juvenile and junior Girls' OBA Tournaments in Huntsville provided an opportunity for the officials to apply what they learned in their classroom clinics. A provincial evaluator attended one of these tournaments and evaluated the officials. This provided a positive feedback to each official and allowed our association to be better prepared for future FIBA games. We continue to give a high priority to professional development both at the board and provincial level and will be represented at the Presidents' Meeting in May. Ken Estabrooks, our evaluator, participated in the IAABO conference calls.

North Bay

North Bay hosted the NOSSA Boys' 'AA' Regional Championships.

Sault Ste. Marie

The Sault board was very busy during the winter months. The sixteen team Guy Vetrie Boys' High School Tournament took place in February. This was one of the strongest fields that the tournament has ever seen as participants included Eastern Commerce and Mother Theresa from Toronto, Sarnia Northern, Dr. Denison from York, George Vanier from Montreal, Pace Academy from Wisconsin, New Creations from Indiana, and 9 Northern teams participating. New Creations defeated Eastern Commerce in an exciting final game in front of an appreciative packed gym.

Sault Ste. Marie hosted the Boys' 'AAA' Regional Senior and Junior Championships. Jeff Bussineau and Brian Seccareccia represented our board in Timmins for the Boys' OFSAA 'AA' Championships. Congratulations to Jeff Bussineau who worked the Gold Metal game in the tournament and to Brian who officiated a Semi-Final game. Our board officiated the Algoma District Catholic Elementary Championships held in February. We will also be responsible for the 5th Annual Superior Shores Masters Basketball Tournament that will take place April 17 and 18.

We had a FIBA Clinic after the March Break where all the officials wrote the FIBA exam and reviewed the FIBA Rules and Mechanics. We will officiate a local OBA tournament held by the Sault Titans in April.

Sudbury

As winter hopefully fades into spring Sudbury has been as busy as ever with high school and elementary level basketball. The elementary level has exploded to the extent that the 2007-08 billings exceeded the high school by about 20%. This season will show growth in that area of about 15% again. As a result of this the need for officials grows and hopefully this coming season we will see more young officials come forward and join our association.

Sudbury hosted the regional NOSSA Boys' 'A' Senior and Junior Championships, along with the AA/AAA Midget NOSSA Championships and on the same dates found themselves facing some 40 elementary games. Earlier in February the Franco High School Boys' Tournament challenged the resources of our board but with the capable assistance from out of town officials the 3 day affair was a success.

Stuart Fairwell and Gary Miller were representatives at the Boys' 'AA' OFSSA Championships held in Timmins. Congratulations to Gary who worked the Bronze Metal game and to Stuart who worked a Semi-Final game. Charlie Ketter also travelled to Timmins and served as Referee-in-Chief Dennis Herbert's Assistant.

Sudbury has 2 different elementary leagues going as teams gear up for their respective board championships. Once again our board has applied FIBA rules and mechanics to the elementary level. The 14th Annual Four on Four Co-Ed Elementary Tournament will also take place on the last weekend in April. We will be busy refereeing games into mid May and if the Laurentian program returns our season will continue until July.

Thunder Bay

Basketball is winding down for the season in Thunder Bay. Once again our officials traversed the great Northwest in March, travelling to Fort Frances for their Boys' 'AA' playoffs involving Dryden, Kenora and Fort Frances, and to Marathon for their Boys' 'A' playoffs between Kenora and Marathon. A local midget tournament, high school playoffs along with the NORWOSSA playoffs kept us busy.

Kathy Williams travelled to Winnipeg for 3 university series at the University of Manitoba and University of Winnipeg. Rod Miller was our representative for the Boys' 'AA' OFSSA Championships held in Timmins. Markku Peuhkurinen attended the CIS Men's finals for CABO meetings. A 14 team men's league running since November will keep us busy until the end of April.

Timmins

The Timmins Board hosted the OFSSA Boys' 'AA' Tournament in March. From all accounts the tournament was very successful and well organized. The final game was one of the best Gold Metal games played in a long time with St. Thomas Aquinas from Oakville defeating Westminister from London in overtime on a last second shot at the buzzer. The Timmins' Board would like to thank the following out of town officials who travelled a long distance to officiate in the tournament: Michael Greene from Barrie, David Margetts from Hamilton, Bill White from Peel, Jeff Bussineau and Brian Seccareccia from the Sault, Stuart Fairwell and Gary Miller from Sudbury, Rod Miller from Thunder Bay and Jason Dawkins from Toronto.

The Host Board had the following officials work the tournament: Louis Clausi, Rick Cornell, John Elliot, Peter Guarda, Angelo Lia, and Mike Spencer from Kirkland Lake. Congratulations to Angelo Lia who officiated in the Bronze Metal game. We would also like to thank Dennis Herbert who was the R/C and Charlie Ketter who was his assistant for the tournament. Both of you did an excellent job in preparing us for the tournament. The articles that you gave us before the tournament, your words of wisdom during the tournament and your evaluations will all make us better officials in the future.

CENTRAL WEST REGION *by Dennis Windsor*

Now that Ontario High School season has come to a close with the OFSAA Championships, and the OCAA has concluded with their Provincial Championships, the great ball continues with the OBA season really ramping up.

In the Central West Region, Peel, will play host to two OBA Provincial Championships this spring after already hosting the Women's OCAA Provincials at Sheridan College in Brampton.

This summer OABO will be running five camps. Having had the opportunity to attend five of these OABO camps as a "camper" and an IAABO Camp in Florida I can tell you that what Bruce Covert and his team of experts provides you at an OABO camp is tremendous value both in terms of education and development. The cost is very minimal and the return is tremendous. I strongly recommend that if you have the time to attend any of the camps that you seriously consider this investment.

The next OABO Executive meeting will take place on the eve of the Presidents' Meeting in Toronto on May 1st. Should any Central West Boards have any items they would like added to the agenda please pass these details along a week before the meeting. This will allow me to review the details and seek any necessary clarification.

I am looking forward to meeting all the Central West Region Presidents on the morning of the Presidents' Meeting at Toronto City Hall. I will be chairing this meeting from 8:30 am until 9:30 am on Saturday May 2nd. I will forward further details of this meeting to the Central West Presidents after all details have been finalized.

I hope everyone is having a great season.

Arctic Adventure *by Sarwar Qureshi*

Provincial tournaments are a fairly big deal for all those involved; from referees, to players, coaches, organisers and even fans. It's no different up in Nunavut which held their provincial tournament on the weekend of March 14th. It was actually quite a bit more special for many involved because those were the only games played by the various high schools in that given year. Iqaluit was the location for the tournament and I was given the opportunity to travel up north along with Murray Shoup and Frances Enns from the Ottawa board to assist the local officials in the tournament. The local contingent was made up of Jeff K, Jeff H, and Neil.

It was quite hard to fathom for those of us visiting how some players and officials can only do 8 games a year. It certainly added a special feel to the games because it was evident how much these precious few games meant to all those involved. It really provided me with an appreciation for how special each and every game is. The officials were able to learn from one another as well, the northern officials used FIBA mechanics that had the lead dominate the right side of the floor which was quite foreign to me because of the particular 2-person FIBA mechanics we use in Ontario. One of the local coaches even talked shop about the CIS tournament and how Carleton's game on Friday night at the CIS tournament had gone. He seemed to be quite up to date on things. For those of you wondering, he did not know who Bruce Covert nor who Mike Currie was.

The gold medal game was an extremely exciting game featuring Chesterfield Inlet and Baker Lake. Try finding those two on a map. One of them is actually the geographic center of Canada. Baker Lake won by one point with the Chesterfield having a shot at the buzzer to win but it rimmed out. Murray, Frances and I were able to capture memories of a lifetime, make amazing friends, and see things we've only seen in movies before. It is these connections and experiences that make this avocation so exciting. One of my mentors shared that with me and I believe everyone should work hard to have their own stories to tell.



(Left to right: Neil, Murray, Frances, Jeff K, Sarwar)

ADDRESS CHANGE - If your mailing address or phone number changes, please notify OABO Secretary Don Thorne at donthorne@sympatico.ca and Editor Geordie Montgomery at geordiecm@cogeco.ca. It is essential that you report all changes and errors in your mailing address so that you will receive every issue of *The Whistle*. Thank you for your cooperation.

THE WHISTLE

The Whistle is published by the Ontario Association of Basketball Officials as a service to its members. Permission to reprint *The Whistle* in whole or in part is granted although appropriate credit would be appreciated.

Articles or letters are welcome and should be sent to the Editor, Geordie Montgomery at geordiecm@cogeco.ca



Be a Great Basketball Official
"Never Play God"

Officiating can be humbling even when you have all the tools
Never be so pompous to put your officiating above the rules
You have an obligation to treat each rule with respect
But there is no place in the game for arrogance or neglect

Through those scholarly writers our rules did wisely unfold
Within a framework of fairness and integrity more precious than gold
Through hard work and dedication OABO has earned its good name
As architects of excellence and ambassadors of our great game

Let us pause for a moment to review the rules and their application
So we can make those quality calls without fear or hesitation
Palming and the three seconds, often neglected, can be a concern
When you call these violations fairly then respect you will earn

The first step is easy and on this practice you can depend
When the ball comes to rest in the hand the dribble will end
If the dribbling action continues after this moment of hesitation
Palming (double dribble) is the call and that is a violation

Live by the principles that our mentors did proudly uphold
A rich legacy of excellence that continues to daily unfold
To those learned and dedicated officials I loudly applaud
May you aspire to be the best you can be and never play God

Three Seconds in the Key
"According to the Count"

Oh how simple the three- second call interpretation might be
By counting the seconds one thousand one, two and three
When the game is on the line and the pressures mount
It requires much more than the non-visual seconds count

There are basic principles on which you can always depend
By clearly knowing when team control does begin and end
Remember as to your abundance of knowledge you resort
Look for an advantage gained and team control in front court

When those basic factors are present the count I'm a startin
All I need to know is what I learned in my years in kindergarten
As each second you silently, carefully and patiently repeat
Apply the method used by the wise Count on Sesame Street

Since basketball officials are normal, not different or perverse
When the game is inactive I count those seconds in reverse
Before you condemn my actions and to others you loudly scoff
There is nothing more exciting than three ah, two ah, one ah Blast Off

There is one basic principle that a wise and a good official knows
As one faithfully practices the art of counting on the fingers or toes
It makes the job a lot easier while lessening worries and pains
There can be no three second call if there no advantage gains

On another sound principle I will impart to you the latest scoop
Never, never,...call three seconds on the dribbler going to the hoop
However, if the ball handler delays or stops his dribble to pass
Call the three seconds and let not this unfair advantage pass

If the player on offense is leaving the key and the count exceeds two
Patiently delay that three second count if he continues on through
If a player dallies in the key or he is simply confused or just lost
Determine if there is an advantage gained before a possession cost

You might not be an Einstein or an official with charisma or flair
Be a wise official by not calling this violation with the shot in the air
When the time is ticking away and the chips are about to fall
Be absolutely certain before making three seconds your final call

Ken R Estabrooks



Rick Thorne
Domestic Bliss
"Lead or Trail with a Ball or a Pail"

*He officiates each game and he monitors those scores
But he is even better at doing the domestic chores
He hustles on the court either as a lead or a trail
But he is even quicker with a wet mop and a pail*

*He tosses that ball to a height that is accurate and true
And he is a wizard with a mop, broom and a vacuum too
He scrubs those dishes piled high in the kitchen sink
He looks very elegant wearing that apron of bright pink*

*He is a sharp dresser wearing clothes both neat and trim
And when duty calls he will even scrub the spacious gym
Let us call him Mr. Clean, a neater man there may never be
Be it cleaning those greasy pots and pans or as the referee*

Ken R Estabrooks

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