



September 2009
Edition

Hey Coach, my team is really clicking!!!

As a coach of a team sport you may think you want your team to click.

That all depends on how you look at and view the word "Click".

I have coached many different kinds of teams over the years. I have had very talented teams and teams that needed a lot of work on basic fundamentals.

The one thing that always rang true of every team I have ever coached was this. A team's ability to get along was directly related to the team's ability to reach their potential. What I mean by that is if a team has several "Clicks" on it and there are divisions within the team, then the team will never reach its potential. Conversely, if the team is very

supportive of one another, and everyone is there for the good of the team, then the team can reach its potential. Not only can a team reach its potential but in most circumstances the team has a much better chance to achieve team goals the players have placed on themselves.

When a team has two - three different "Clicks" or groups within the team, then the goals of the team are undervalued and each group within the team has their own agenda and criteria for success. Many times this type of success is measured by individual accomplishments rather than team achievements. Probably my all time favorite quote comes from

John Wooden. I think this

quote says a lot about a team's character and the lack of "Clicks" on a team. Coach Wooden says, **"A lot can be accomplished when nobody cares who gets the credit."**

That quote says a lot to me. It takes out personal glory, and if a team can live by this they will really be clicking.

Coach Burkman



*"A lot can be accomplished when nobody cares who gets the credit."
Coach John Wooden*

Lady Braves Intra-Squad Scrimmages

Mark your calendars for November 9, 2009, from 6PM - 8:30PM. The Indian Creek Lady Braves Basketball team will take the court in an intra-squad scrimmage.

The scrimmage will feature intra-squad games between the 6th grade, 7th & 8th Grade, and the high school varsity and junior varsity teams.

Admission to the event will be free. There will also be a Chili dinner available for \$3. The dinner will include a bowl of chili, crackers, and a drink.

Don't miss this opportunity to meet this year's high school team, and the teams of the future.

The event will start at 6PM with the scrimmage of the 6th grade

middle school team. That will be followed by the 7th & 8th grade teams combined.

The night wraps up with competition between the high school's varsity and junior varsity players. Each scrimmage will feature three, 10 minute running quarters with licensed IHSAA officials.

See you there!

Tentative Youth Program Schedule

October 3, 2009	8:00 AM	Rec. League Games
October 10, 2009	TBA	Rec. League Pictures
October 31, 2009		Rec. League Ends
October 25, 2009	1:00 PM	IGH League Tryout
November 1, 2009	1:00 PM	IGH League Tryout
December 6, 2009		IGH League Starts
February 14, 2009		IGH League Ends

Next Edition

- October 30, 2009

Check the website or the High School or Middle School main office to receive a copy.

The "New" Recreational League

I am sure there are mixed emotions about the format and structure of the Recreational League for our players in grades K thru 5th grade this year.

I want to take some time in this newsletter to again promote the importance of teaching the fundamentals of basketball before we unleash our players on the court to play in a competitive environment.

The first practice I held with the kindergarten and 1st graders was very enjoyable. Something happened at the practice that underscores why what we are doing is important. I just finished doing some basic ball handling drills with the girls and told them all to go to the baseline.

Not a single person moved. I had about 20 eyes still looking at me. I said again, "Everybody go to the baseline."

Since nothing had changed since my first command I thought I better come up with a new idea. Then it hit me! They have no idea what I am talking about. Baseline? What? What does he mean? I could see it

in their faces, they had no idea. This was almost immediately after I finished speaking to the parents and



Everyone to the baseline. What is the baseline?

explained that this age group needs to learn everything and not to take anything for granted. Then I marched onto the court and took for granted the kids would know what the baseline is.

OK, so I walked down to the end of the basketball court and yelled for all the kids to come down here. Pretty clever, huh?

They all came too. I showed them the line that ran across the end of the court and

told them that this is the baseline. I then went on to tell them that there was another line at the other end just like this and it is also called a baseline.

Now I am rolling. We went on from there and finished up the practice but not without me slowing down and being careful when I spoke. If at anytime I was about to use a basketball term, I would first describe the term to the kids and then proceed to whatever it was I was about to do. What is my point?

My point is that young kids cannot be expected to go out and play basketball and be successful without first being prepared. That is what the recreational league is supposed to do. The purpose of the league is to equip the kids with the knowledge and skills to play the game. Not just play the game, but play it the right way.

Too many kids in today's world simply go out and play 100-150 AAU games in

the summer and their parents think they are serving them best.

Can a kid get better just by playing? Yes. I believe that a kid must enjoy the sport they are playing or they will find a reason not to play it. Whether it is to play another sport or just to do nothing, they will stop playing basketball if they don't enjoy it. I know firsthand as a player and from my experience working with young

players as a coach that the more a kid enjoys the game the better they seem to get. Depending on how you look at it, the better a player is the more they enjoy playing.

Either way, I have found that enjoying the game is essential

for a young player and keeping their interest in the game.

If I were to just put together a league and let everyone play games each week I feel I would be failing the kids. I believe strongly in certain things. One of those beliefs is this. We need to teach our youth to play the game the right way and that starts with the fundamentals of the game. If you want more for your child and your child wants more than the Indy Girls Hoops League might be for you. That is the next step in our feeder program. Games for that league starts December 6th. We will have "tryouts" in October for those teams. See any coach for more information about this opportunity. Thanks.

"We need to teach our youth to play the game the right way and that starts with the fundamentals of the game."

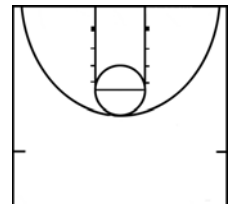
High School Ball Girls

Every girl currently participating in the recreational league will get a chance to be a part of a group that will serve the high school team at home games as ball girls. The schedule is currently being developed. Every player will be slotted for a selected home game along with 5-6 other girls. If you have conflicts on certain dates or have a need for a specific date you should contact your division representative to let them know and get sched-

uled accordingly. The ball girls will be directed by Coach Burkman and his staff on game day so they will know what their duties are. Their names will also be announced at halftime to show our appreciation of their time as well.

I hope and encourage everyone to attend all home games regardless of the ball girl situation. I am hoping we can have a youth basketball section at every home

game where youth players from Indian Creek can all sit together to cheer on the high school teams. It is my desire to create an atmosphere at Indian Creek where we have a program from K-12th grade.



The goal is to create a program from K-12.

A Look Ahead

OCTOBER 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Rec. League Games Begin
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Rec. League Picture Day
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Indy Girls Hoops Team Tryouts	26 High School Basketball Tryouts	27 High School Basketball Tryouts	28	29	30	31 Rec. League Last Day

NOVEMBER 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Indy Girls Hoops Team Tryouts	2	3	4	5	6	7 Whiteland Scrimmage 1PM
8	9 Lady Braves Intra-Squad 6PM	10	11	12	13 Home Game vs Monrovia 6PM	14
15	16	17 Johnson County Tournament TBA	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Away Game vs Eastern Hancock @ 1PM
29	30					