

TOA Basketball Newsletter

2008 - 2009 Pre-Season Newsletter

John Laurie - "What Makes a Good Official?" At a recent meeting of Sunflower League/EKL/Kaw Valley League basketball officials, John Laurie spoke about the above subject. Assuming a basic knowledge of the game and a desire to be a positive influence for young people, John defined what constitutes a good official - no matter the sport.

Officials need to **enjoy** being around Student Athletes;

Enjoyment and Appreciation of the game;

A sense of **Fairness and Compassion**;

The ability to accept **Constructive Criticism and the Desire to Improve**;

The ability to **Focus on the Game and your Role as an Official**;

To have a **Positive Attitude** about players, coaches, officials and fans;

To have confidence in your self as a person and as an official, and

To have **Appropriate Preparation** to officiate a good game!

Here is the problem: The last tenet is the Most Important part of being a Good Official. Appropriate Preparation is essential to good officiating and it is probably thought of as being the Least Important. When was the last time you had a truly good Pre-Game meeting? I cannot tell you how many times officials have gathered before a game and hardly one word was uttered about an actual Pre-Game Conference - or, the game of basketball.

Why? Do we not care? Why is it that every Big 12 Women's crew I have observed goes over the same things every time? Because these are issues that the officials face every game. Why don't we take this responsibility seriously. I have been to regular season games where the pre-games was laughed at - after a pre-game I conducted last year, one of the officials through the attached pre-game on the floor and seriously asked why I had wasted my time.

Basketball is a game that is extremely difficult to officiate - at least on a consistent basis. Don't the kids - coaches - your partners deserve better? Don't you deserve better?