

Topeka Officials Association

Basketball Newsletter

December 3, 2009

Are you ready? Yesterday was an interesting day around the Smysor domicile. I decided to get my basketball gear packed for the season. FYI, my younger son, Matt, had worked football all the way through the Toy Bowl. Matt loves to officiate football – absolutely hated (and, that is not too strong a sentiment – just ask him) his very brief career as a junior high basketball official.

Father and Son are definitely creatures with different habits. I come home following a game and immediately start up the washer; Matt comes home and immediately distributes his uniform pieces in any number of “hiding” places. I like to know where my equipment is; Matt likes to storm in the house twenty minutes before his game and want to know where his stuff is. Never a dull moment!

Again, I like to know what I have and where it is. There was just enough lack of organization on my part to create a situation where I was absolutely frustrated in my attempts to get organized: I finally found my pants – on the floor, in the corner of my closet. They looked terrible – as I planned my trip to the cleaners. Wrinkles were present that only could have seemingly been created by being at the bottom of a pile of clothes that had not been unearthed this millennium. Thankfully, our incredibly expensive (in my opinion) and relatively new washer and dryer eliminated those wrinkles and the pants actually looked good!

The shirts: I could NOT find my basketball shirts! Where in Hell were they? After been so frustrated as to look up the phone number at “Honig’s,” I found a bad at the bottom of our coat closet – ah, my best shirts were there, Matt had used them for his football officiating. Of course, being a person with a highly developed sense of curiosity, I asked how he could officiate football without using a shirt with a pocket to contain his flag - “Cool guys don’t put their flags in their shirt pockets,” was his “snotty” reply! “They wear them in their belts!” Crap, am I getting old!

Shoes: I have three pairs of basketball officiating shoes. So, Matt, what did you do with my shoes. “Are you kidding me,” he asked. “How should I know?” Of course, all the while I was thinking of all the equipment I was missing last Fall when he and his buddies wore my officiating equipment for Halloween!!

To make a long story short, my patent leather shoes from *Officials Choice* are – make that, were - my favorite pair. I know where one of the shoes currently resides; My second favorite pair is a pair of Adidas shoes – No idea where the left shoe is, and I looked and looked for it; I do have a really good pair of shoes – Nike shoes that are “360 Air” and extremely light. They are in my suitcase – I hope!!!

“**Good Luck,**” is really not a great thing to say to an official – or, for an official to say to a coach. I hope that out professional preparation will carry both parties to enjoyable evenings. But, remember, only half the teams on the floor can come away with a victory! And they are convinced that they won in spite of the cheating officials.

The Boy scouts have it right: **Be Prepared!!**