

Topeka Officials Association
Football Newsletter
Week 8

John Laurie: John Laurie, former Big 8 and Big 12 referee and current Big 12 Replay Official, has penned any number of “sayings, quotes, quips, and/or pithy remarks” concerning the relationship between officials and coaches. Most of these writings are 1) humorous, and 2) true. Maybe we should have started the season with a sample of his commentary but I don’t think it is too late to share some of them.

Speaking of the Laurie family, younger brother, **Phil**, is working his 24th season in the Big 8 – Big 12. Congratulations to Phil. These brothers have done more to better football officials and officiating in Kansas than any of us will ever realize. The next time you see John or Phil, tell them, “Thank You!”

“Expecting a coach to treat you politely because you are a ‘good’ official is like expecting a bull not to charge just because you are a vegetarian.”

“The coach who upsets you the most is your best teacher because he brings you face-to-face with who you really are.”

“The coach who has the ability to anger you has conquered you!”

“The key to visiting with a coach is to determine if he has something to say or whether he is simply trying to say something.”

“Many times it is not the truth that you and the coach are discussing...but simply both of you trying to persuade each other.”

“Coaches often ask the wrong question – it is our job to give the right answer to the actual situation!”

“The only sure way to tell if a coach is upset with you is to watch his face...if his lips move, he is upset...”

“Strong language comes from weak people.”

“When visiting with a coach, it is always better to admit you are wrong and to correct things, than to win an argument with a lie!”

“Politeness during a difficult conversation with a coach can almost have a magical effect which can result in a positive conclusion, even though the differences in opinion may remain!”

“Tell the coach exactly how you feel when you are angry and you will make the very best statement you will ever regret!”

“The next time you are ready to put the coach in his place, try putting yourself in his place!”

“When visiting with a coach, his level of respect for you is **lowered** when you **raise** your voice!”

“The greatest ‘smart ass’ comment ever made to a coach is the one that I chose **not** to make.”

“You can suffocate a simple explanation by using too many words!”

“Say to the coach what you are required to say – not what you would like to say.”

“One of the most difficult things for an effective official to do in a heated conversation with a coach is to be silent even when you know you are right!”

“Never tell a coach: “It’s Not My Call!”

“The best conversation with a coach is to say what **needs** to be said, not what **could** be said.”

And finally, the words of **Woodrow Wilson**: “Never murder a man who is committing suicide!”