

The Topeka Official's Association End of the Season "Basketball Newsletter"

Basketball Clinic News - Mother's Day Weekend: As many of you know, there have been several clinics held in the past in conjunction with the "Jayhawk Invitational" Basketball Tournament - once again this year, the tournament will be held over the Mother's Day weekend.

Two types of clinics will be held that weekend: On as many courts as there is interest, there will be a clinic that will feature **Greg Small** from Warrensburg. This one-day clinic will be on Saturday and will cover one or two courts - it will last all day. As many of you know, Greg is an NCAA Women's official from Missouri who has worked a number of NCAA tournaments, including a Regional Championship this year and three Final Fours in the past. The cost for participating for the day is \$50. Stay tuned for the announcement concerning the rest of the staff.

The second part of the tournament will feature high school league commissioners from around the area. For this part, come in and work 3 or 4 games and the cost is FREE. Just tell us which leagues and commissioners you would like to work in front of, and you will be scheduled accordingly. These games will be available on a limited basis on Friday and Sunday and all day Saturday. Here is a great opportunity to work in front of all the commissioners in this area.

Correction: I ended the last "Newsletter" with a basketball version of a poem shared with us long ago by Phil Laurie. However, due to a "mental lapse," I did not share ALL of it with you:

Basketball is an Imperfect Game

Played by Imperfect Players

Coached by Imperfect Coaches and

Officiated by Imperfect Officials.

Officiating is as important as Shooting, Dribbling, or Passing.

Therefore, the Only thing that really matters is

That the men and women officiating the game are

People of Integrity!!

The Spring Party: My younger son, Matt, performed in the Lawrence Free State variety show, Encore a couple of weeks ago. The only problem was that one of the nights of the production was the Friday of the annual TOA Spring meeting – the very meeting that recognized the 2007 inductees into the TOA Hall of Fame. Priorities are priorities, after all, and the show was great (Matt sang in eleven of the numbers).

Rod McMaster is certainly missed by all – he was, in the truest and best sense of the word, a real "character." But John Laurie's words ring true, as well: John said that it was not because of a lack of talent that Rod never worked at the Big 8 or Big 12 level – it was just fate and happenstance. And yet, it is very difficult for me to remember a time when Rodney did not have a smile on his face and who could ever forget his "belly laugh." I did not associate with **Alex** or **Bill** very often but **Leroy Brungart** is a true gentleman in every sense of the word. While traveling with him on many Big 12 assignments, we certainly shared a lot of thoughts concerning football – but, just as importantly we discussed our families and our shared interests in the insurance industry.

It is very clear that, as we look at the inductees into the TOA Hall of Fame, that there is a strong correlation between the quality of the official and the quality of the person!

Prepare to get Better Every Time Out! FS