

# TIME OUT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE  
WISCONSIN BASKETBALL COACHES  
ASSOCIATION



WISBCA.ORG

WINTER 2026

## WBCA Corporate Sponsors



## WBCA Charity Sponsors



## Fastbreak Notes: Ken Barrett (Interim Executive Director)

- **Update on the search for the Executive Director position.** The committee to select the next director has been established and will meet at the end of February or early March to begin the process. The group has already narrowed our field to six candidates. All six now hold a position on our executive board and are familiar with at least one part of



the complexities of the Executive Director position. I'm confident that our next leader will continue our tradition of excellence and help us grow in future years.

## President's Message

by Randy Storlie

I want to wish everyone the best as you enter WIAA Tournament play! We are all chasing that elite dream of making it to the state tournament with our teams and fans. College coaches, good luck to you and your tournament placements as well. Please remember that a season is so much more than just wins and losses, it's about teaching the game of basketball to our players and creating positive experiences and memories for all involved. Good luck and enjoy every moment of your tournament run.

Remember WBCA members, to visit the Hospitality Rooms at the Kohl Center and Resch Center sponsored by the WBCA while you are at the state tournaments.

It is a very special Girls' State tourney this year as they are celebrating 50 years of girls' basketball in our state. Please promote that through-out your school district and your girls' programs. Make sure to visit the display that the WIAA will have at the Resch Center.

Please make sure that you submit your players' nominations forms to the WBCA, for All-State, All-Star and Academic Awards: the deadline is coming up very soon for each. Please check our website for further information.

The WBCA recognizes our student athletes not only for their athletic abilities with the All-Star games and All-State, but also their academic abilities with the Academic Awards. Go on the WBCA website to find out more information on each.

The WBCA runs by far, the best All-Star games in the nation, so make sure to get your players nomination forms in on time! You must be a member of the WBCA for your players to be a part and selected for this great opportunity.

We are still working with the WIAA on two major items that will help basketball in the state, 1) State Expansion and 2) Shot Clock. We will keep you informed on our progress and any other timely issues at hand as a member.

Good luck and remember wherever your season might end, look back and embrace the moments that this year has brought to you, your team members and your school/community. Basketball plays such a huge role in the development of our young



people learning lifelong skills and all of you have played such a big role in this as coaches and officials. Thank you!

## **2026 JOHN WOODEN LEGACY AWARD WINNERS**

Wooden Legacy Awards are presented annually by the National High School Basketball Coaches Association (NHSBCA), in partnership with the John Wooden family and the Wooden Foundation, to 1 male and 1 female coach in each state who is a long-time, active basketball coach who also serves as an outstanding educator and who, through their excellence on the court, in the classroom and in the community, embodies the characteristics of coach John Wooden - Excellence, Longevity, Character, Leadership and Service.

This year's winners Mike Schalow from Kaukauna (Boy's Coach) and Caron Townsend from River Ridge (Girl's Coach). On behalf of the WBCA, thank you for your service to the game and the kids you've coached over your storied careers. Congratulations!



## 2026 WBCA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

The Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association has announced its 2026 Hall of Fame induction class. This year's Hall of Fame Banquet is scheduled for Sunday, September 27th at the Glacier Canyon Lodge of the Wilderness Resort in Wisconsin Dells. The social hour will begin at 12:00 with the meal scheduled for 1:00 followed by the program. For more information on tickets for the Banquet contact an inductee or go to the WBCA website at [wisbca.org](http://wisbca.org) beginning in late June.

### HIGH SCHOOL COACHES

Steve Bentin, Madison  
East/Madison West  
Doug Carriveau, Crivitz  
Keith Coleman, DePere  
Todd Jahns, Kettle Moraine  
Lutheran/Lakeside Lutheran  
Dana MacKenzie,  
Pecatonica/Waunakee  
Jason Martzke, Gilmanton/Fall  
Creek  
Don Moreland, Mellen  
Eric Nelson, Madison LaFollette/Monona Grove  
Dave Ross, Port Washington/Cedarburg  
Steve Showalter, Germantown/Dominican



### COLLEGE COACHES

Keri Carollo, UW-Whitewater  
Steve Merfeld, St. John's Military Academy / Hampton University / Evansville University  
/ Creighton University

### ASSISTANT COACHES

Denny Bohman, Eau Claire Memorial

### FRIENDS

Jerry Hopfensperger, Sun Prairie  
Tom Lemorande, Green Bay  
Dennis Semrau, Cross Plains

### REFEREES

Bob Coy, Mosinee  
Tammy Hutchison, Mount Pleasant

### BOYS PLAYERS

Caron Butler, Racine Park

Mike Drummond, Racine St. Catherine's  
Jerry Kenney, Beloit Memorial  
Ross Kingsley, Janesville Craig  
Jerry Smith, Wauwatosa East  
Jeff Wolf, Kohler

### **GIRLS PLAYERS**

Kati (Harty) Coleman, Ashwaubenon  
Mariah Dunham, Watertown  
Christa (LaCroix) Haase, Oak Creek  
Paulette Stall, LaCrosse Aquinas  
Lisa (Anderson) Stone, Oregon  
Ginny Vorwald, Bloomington

## **WBCA Executive Board “Zoom” Meeting-Minutes of January 2026**

The meeting was called to order by President Randy Storlie.

Attendance was taken by Jay Benish and recorded by Joan Petitgoue. Those absent were: Mike Flanagan, Jack Hervert, Jason Martzke, Dan Wandrey, Jim Jones, Mark Meerstein, Marquis Hines, Kim Weber, Lance Marifke, Jim Reuter, Chris Zwettler, Dave Lindow, Pat Bell and Kevin Bavery. John Cary and Luke Francois only attend when asked to come.

National Convention (Ken Barrett): Ken stated that the national convention will be held pm July 7-9 in Denver, Colorado. He asked that if anyone is interested in attending the convention, he would be pleased to have another board member attend with him this year. Contact Ken if you are interested.

New Executive Director (Ken Barrett): There were 13 applicants. This was narrowed to 9 and now 6. The last three eliminated will be sent a letter by Ken. The last six will be reevaluated and when we get to the last 3, the board will be involved. The Executive Director position will be a 4-year term, but may be chosen to remain for another term, etc. We may have a choice by the April meeting or at the latest before the Fall Clinic.

Legacy Award (Cliff Thompson): The Legacy Award Winner for 2026 from the Executive Board has been chosen. This year’s recipient is Todd Fergot. The boy and girl recipients have not been chosen yet. We are awaiting more applicants before the committee chooses them.

Gift of Gratitude (Cliff Thompson): There will be a gift given to all the executive and HOF Sel. Committee at the April meeting in the Dells in gratitude of all you have done for the organization.

Outstanding Service Award (Cliff Thompson): The idea is to offer a new award which will be offered to someone who has gone out of their way for the organization in special ways. This will not be an annual award, but chosen for longevity. This year the award will be presented to Jim Scheidler.

Jerry Petitgoue Invite (Jeff Boos): The event will be run at two sites this year to create a larger population to get involved. It will be held at the JAG in the Dells and the GateWay Sports Center in Saukville, which is near Port Washington. Both events will take place at the same time. The girls will be on July 14<sup>th</sup> and the boys will be on July 15<sup>th</sup>. Referee clinics will be run at both facilities and will use the shot clock venue.

HOF Selection (Dan Burreson): The HOF selection. Committee meet in mid -December and chose 30 inductees for this year. They will be honored at the Hall of Fame Banquet which will be held on Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup> in the Dells. The 2026 inductees are listed on the website.

Achievement Awards (Dan Burreson): Dan is asking the board for any input they might have on candidates for these awards. The committee will meet in late February or early March to choose recipients from the given candidates.

Elections (Dennis Uppena): It had already been decided to put off elections for a year. He and his committee consisting of—Lora, Niki, Jim, Ken B., Dan and Randy have met twice and will have another meeting in February to come up with some stipulations and guidelines for positions which they hope to share at the April board meeting. Some of these involve term limits, chairs, appointments, rotation terms of division reps., duties and responsibilities, write-ups for duties, constitution review, website changes and director.

Girls' All-Star Game (Derik Doescher): Work on the games is progressing nicely. They are working on finalizing coaches for the games and should be completed by March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Boys' All-Star Games (Mike Huser): They are working on getting the coaches lined up for the games. This should be completed by the first Sunday in April.

All-State/Ind. Academic All-State Banquet (Joan Petitgoue): The banquet will be held on Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 at the Glacier Canyon Lodge of the Wilderness Resort in Wisconsin Dells. Academic all-state boys and girls, all-state boys and girls, Mr. and Miss Basketball, the Legacy Award winners, college players of the year and other special awards will be given at this banquet.

Showcase-Boys (Lee Rabas): Lee is working at getting things set up and hopes to have additional participants involved in the event next year.

Showcase-Girls (Jack Hervert): Jack was unavailable and so Lee stated that due to AAU and volleyball, they were unable to get enough participants, so the event was cancelled.

June Jam and Summer Slam (Tom Andres): In his absence, Cliff reported that Tom is setting up things at present for rooms, etc. and the events will take place on June 18-19 (Summer Slam) and June 26-28 (June Jam).

Newsletter (Jake Erbentraut): The next newsletter will be coming out soon. If you have something you want published in it, please let Jake know as soon as possible.

Photography (Jim Jones): Jim was not available, but sent word that he will continue to do photography for all upcoming events.

Milwaukee Clinic (Lance Marifke): Lance was unavailable, so no updates were given. Kyle Rechlitz stated that she would call Lance and see if she could help with contacts for setting up the next clinic.

Corporate Sponsors (Jon Nedelcoff/Jay Benish): Some sponsors have dropped out and some have been added. We now have 12 corporate sponsors. We continue to look for new sponsors and hope you will contact them with any possible ideas you might have. We have gained the Milwaukee Bucks as a sponsor and have lost WCC Brand Clothing and American Family Insurance. Joan will contact Sports Impressions to have new poster boards made for sponsors before the next upcoming banquet.

Hospitality Rooms at State Tournaments (Ken Barrett): Ken has been in contact with the Kohl Center and Resch Center and we will continue with the same set-ups as in the past. We will add a small suite to accommodate special guests at the Resch Center this year for the girls' 50th anniversary.

Shot Clock/State Expansion (Todd Fergot): Todd gave an update on the report from School Perceptions. They stated that 80% of the schools for a total of 900 responses were received. There does still not show enough support, but, at this point, they will begin with a pilot program for special events and renew this yearly. The survey showed that 80% of the responses showed a desire for 5 divisions of 8 in tournament play. The School Perceptions Committee will meet with the WIAA on January 28<sup>th</sup> to discuss their findings.

WIAA Report (Melissa Gehring/LaVar Ridgeway): Melissa stated that the A.D.'s are watching closely to the sectional location placements on host sites after the Saturday games before state. In regards to the June Jam, the WIAA will send out reminders of times and dates. She also said that they are very excited about the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for the girls' state tournament and she has seen the exhibit materials from the Green Bay exhibit which are quite impressive. They are working to get many coaches from the present and past to attend. They will have buttons for past players to wear and should be a great weekend. She also stated that there will be a new amendment coming forth that will state that no matter how the advisory council votes on an issue, it will still go the board for review. It was also mentioned that the WIAA will collect the 3-pt. stats for the 3-pt. contest at state.

New Business (Open): Jon Nedelcoff mentioned the possibility of more sports communication from the organization through Wisconsin Lutheran College or Brian Butch and U-Tube. Possibility may have more discussion on this at a future meeting. Nominations for academic all-state, all state and all-star selections will be available on January 26<sup>th</sup>.

Next Meeting: April 19<sup>th</sup>, Trapper's Turn, Wisconsin Dells, 9:00 a.m.

Adjourn: A motion to adjourn was made and seconded and carried unanimously.

Notes recorded: Joan Petitgoue, Executive Secretary

## State Championships

Girls March 12 – 13 – 14

Boys March 19 – 20 – 21





To: Boys & Girls Varsity Basketball Coaches,

We're excited to share the details for the **2026 WBCA Jerry Petitgoue Summer Basketball Tournaments**, and we hope you'll consider joining us for a great day of hoops!

These one-day summer tournaments are built to deliver a competitive, high-energy experience for both boys' and girls' basketball programs. Each team is guaranteed **three games**, following a **play, sit, play, sit, play** format—allowing teams time to rest, regroup, and stay energized throughout the day.

We're thrilled to offer your program the opportunity to compete at one of our two tournament locations. To enhance the game-day atmosphere. **Shot clocks will be used for all boys' and girls' games at both locations.**

We look forward to the opportunity to host your program and provide a fun, competitive summer basketball experience!

#### **Tournament Venue: JustaGame Fieldhouse – Wisconsin Dells**

- **Girls Tournament:** Tuesday, July 14  
*Registration Link:* [WBCA Girls \(July 14th\)](#)
- *Cost \$275.00 per Team*
- **Boys Tournament:** Wednesday, July 15  
*Registration Link:* [WBCA Boys \(July 15th\)](#)
- *Cost \$275.00 per Team*

#### **Tournament Venue: Gateway Academy – Saukville, Wisconsin**

- **Girls Tournament:** Tuesday, July 14  
*Registration Link:* <https://www.infogsa.com/jerry-petitgoue-shootout>
- *Cost \$275.00 per Team*
- **Boys Tournament:** Wednesday, July 15  
*Registration Link:* <https://www.infogsa.com/jerry-petitgoue-shootout>
- *Cost \$275.00 per Team*

## Echoes of Stark Park

The Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association is pleased to share a new book release from former Wisconsin Badger, longtime coach Freddie Owens, and member of the WBCA.

Owens' memoir, *The Echoes of Stark Park: Lessons on Resilience, Growth, and the Journey to Legacy*, traces his journey from Milwaukee neighborhood courts to the University of Wisconsin, professional basketball overseas, and into coaching and fatherhood. The book offers meaningful insight into resilience, mentorship, leadership, identity beyond the jersey, and navigating transition in athletics and life.

Now introducing keynote speaking and workshops opportunities:

### **Roadmap to Legacy™**

The Roadmap to Legacy is a dynamic speaking and workshop experience based on *Echoes of Stark Park*. Designed for athletes, coaches, students, and organizations, this program focuses on purpose beyond performance, and the journey towards building a legacy that outlives you.

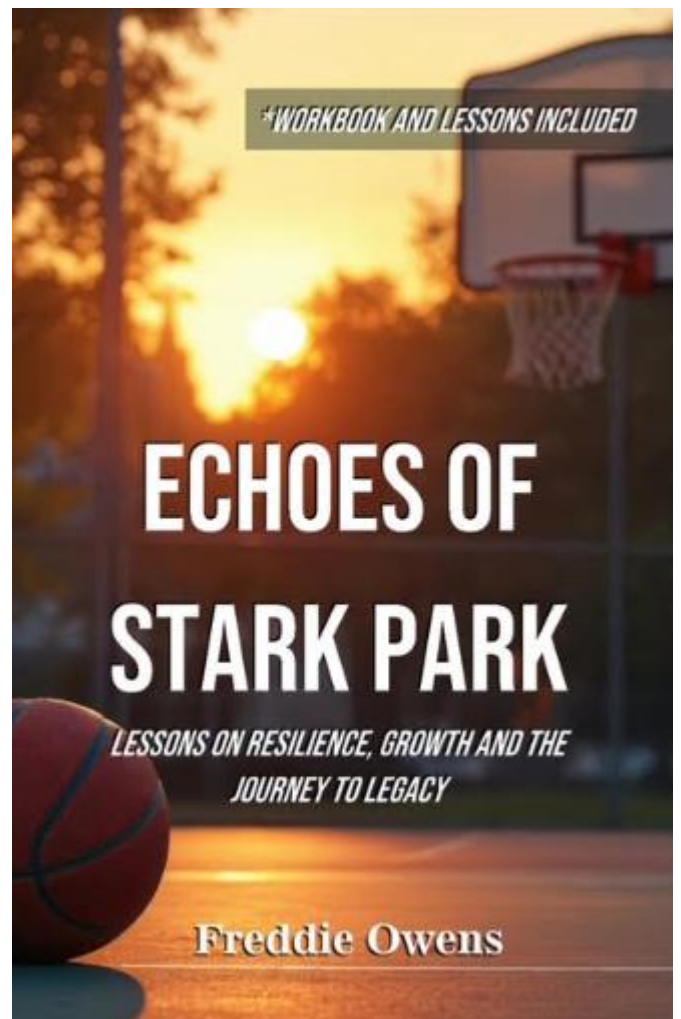
Led by former University of Wisconsin Badger, professional athlete, coach, and author Freddie Owens, the Roadmap to Legacy helps participants understand that success isn't built in moments — it's built through daily habits, accountability, and mindset.

Through real-life experience and practical lessons, this program equips individuals to navigate pressure, adversity, and transition while developing leadership that lasts beyond the spotlight.

Because legacy isn't what you achieve — it's who you become, and what you leave behind.

### **When the Game Ends**

When the Game Ends is a powerful speaking and workshop experience based on the themes of *Echoes of Stark Park*. Designed for athletes and coaches, this program



addresses one of the most difficult — and least discussed parts of sports: identity and transition when competition no longer defines daily life.

Led by former University of Wisconsin Badger, professional athlete, coach, and author Freddie Owens, the program explores what happens when the jersey comes off, routines change, and the structure of sport disappears. Through lived experience and honest conversation, participants learn how to navigate uncertainty, redefine purpose, and rebuild confidence beyond performance.

This experience helps athletes and coaches understand that transition is not failure — it is transformation.

Because the game may end, but your purpose doesn't.

### **The Player–Coach Relationship**

The Player–Coach Relationship workshop is a powerful learning experience grounded in the lessons of *Echoes of Stark Park*. Designed for athletes, coaches, athletic programs, and organizations, this session explores the impact communication, trust, and accountability have on performance, development, and long-term growth.

Led by former University of Wisconsin Badger, professional athlete, coach, and author Freddie Owens, the program draws from lived experience on both sides of the whistle — as a player navigating expectations and as a coach responsible for culture and leadership.

This workshop creates space for honest reflection on how relationships shape confidence, mindset, and identity in sports. Participants learn how clear communication, consistent standards, and mutual respect strengthen team culture and support both performance and personal well-being.

Because the strongest teams are built on trust — not just talent.

Recently reaching #1 on Amazon New Releases, *The Echoes of Stark Park* is a valuable resource for coaches, student-athletes, and programs focused on growth both on and off the court.



The book is available now for preorder on Amazon & Barnes & Noble in paperback and eBook formats.



For speaking or workshop opportunities, please contact Freddie directly at [freddie.owens@icloud.com](mailto:freddie.owens@icloud.com)

Thank you for your continued commitment to developing Wisconsin basketball.

**ON SALE NOW**

## ECHOES OF STARK PARK

*Lessons on Resilience, Growth and the Journey to Legacy*

Freddie Owens

“Former Championship winning Wisconsin Badger basketball player and college basketball coach, Freddie Owens shares his inspiring journey from Stark Park to championship in his uplifting and inspiring memoir.”

★★★★★ – Explore Authors Magazine

From the Stark Park in Milwaukee to the basketball court, readers will follow the journey of a young man on the path to victory in this uplifting and informative memoir.



**WISCONSIN BASKETBALL**  
**WBCA**  
**COACHES ASSOCIATION**

## 50 Years of the Girls Basketball State Tournament

by Melissa Gehring  
WIAA Executive Director



We are very excited to celebrate 50 years of the WIAA state girls basketball tournament this year! Given that every team participates in the tournament at the regional level, it is truly a celebration of the sport in general and every girl who has ever donned a uniform.

To commemorate the 50 years of the tournament, we have organized a tool kit for athletic administrators to brand their facilities and social media accounts with the 50th logo. Schools were able to purchase a statewide exclusive shooting shirt for their players and coaches. Memorabilia from the past 50 years is on display at Discover Green Bay. A special program outlining the

history and big moments of the past 50 years will be available at the state tournament as well. Youth teams are invited to come to the games and get tours of the Resch Center facility and make tunnels for the participating teams. All women in attendance who played WIAA basketball the past 50 years will get a commemorative button declaring them “Part of the history,” while the youth teams will receive their own “Part of the Future” buttons. Overall, there are a lot of wonderful things planned and I hope to see everyone in attendance to help celebrate.

However, we cannot lose sight of the fact that while we celebrate this milestone the participation numbers in the sport are dwindling. This is an issue not just in Wisconsin, but across the country. Wanting badly to find a scapegoat, people are very quick to point fingers in certain directions, publicly declaring this variable or that variable as being the “reason the girls basketball numbers are declining.” Believe me, if it were only that simple-if we could isolate the decline of girls basketball participants to one single variable, we would address it head on and fix it. The issue is much more complex than people realize.

### Girls are quitting before high school

The most visible and concrete example of the declining numbers is the lack of girls participating at the high school level, which unfortunately manifests itself in schools with only enough players for a single team, or, as the case of at least 15 teams that we know of this year, not having a team at all. However, the problem is starting well before girls get to 9th grade. Many youth programs are showing declining numbers as girls progress in age. Anecdotally through conversations in both my AD and parent roles, former

players and their families indicate the following as reasons why the decision was made to stop playing basketball or other sports for that matter:

- Starting to be very competitive/serious early on. Basketball starts for many in early elementary years when most are playing for fun and learn basic skills. The steep incline in competitiveness, seriousness, and overall intensity at young ages (sometimes 1st or 2nd grade or 6 or 7 years old) gets exhausting and adds undue pressure, especially for those whose sole purpose was purely the enjoyment of the game. While some players thrive in that environment, many turn away. We need to let youth players have fun while learning the game.
- Taxing families time and finances. Many youth basketball seasons are longer than our WIAA high school season. Scheduling as many tournaments as possible and extending travel to locations far from their local communities, families find themselves stretched to meet the demand. Some families “spilt up” on the weekend to accommodate the schedules of multiple children, or have to rely on others for assistance. This sometimes doubles their pay for travel on top of the other expenses like entrance fees, eating from concessions, and hotel stays. We need to provide local, affordable opportunities for players and families who want and need them.
- Selecting top players and teams at young ages. Many times, players on top teams get the best coaching and opportunities. Players and families feel the need to “keep up with the Jones” and play longer, travel further, etc. to maintain their position in the programs, often looking ahead to their elementary child’s high school years to “see if they have a shot.” We need to stay present and meet students where they are now, providing them impactful, memorable experiences and focusing on improvement.

The current structure in many youth programs is great for those who already love the game, have natural talent and/or have ambitions to play after high school. However, those who are just learning the game, playing for fun or to be with their friends, are the ones quitting. And we need those girls to fill our high school teams. We don’t just need the stars, who we are serving well...we need the role players who play because they love the game, love their teammates and love representing their school. We need to provide opportunities for all types of players.

#### There are a lot more options now

There are simply more opportunities for girls today than the past. That is a good thing overall, but is affecting our participation. Other sports and activities provide ways for girls to hone their primary focus and interest if that happens not to be basketball. And, in the case of some activities they still stay connected to their schools. Many of these other opportunities require less commitment than practicing every day for a couple of hours from November to March with guaranteed participation. To play basketball, girls

need to commit to every day practice (when there isn't a game) from November to March, without a promise of playing time. Other opportunities allow girls to participate with less public scrutiny as well. Peers are not attending these other activities and therefore judging performance—and very few, in any, are on social media scrutinizing their performance and comparing their stats. We need to build resiliency in our girls to combat the outside pressures

Basketball...the winter season in general...is a grind. The season expands over 4 months over a time with less daylight and time outdoors in the fresh air; the season also expands over three major holiday periods (if you count New Year) and players can miss family time or events for practices and game. Not to mention the sport is physically taxing on bodies as well.

But, as Jimmy Dugan said in my favorite movie, *A League of Their Own*, "It's supposed to be hard. If it wasn't hard, everyone would do it. The hard is what makes it great."

We need girls, especially the younger ones, to embrace, appreciate, and love the "hard" grind of the season, understanding the awesome benefits, both on and off the court, of being a basketball player. We need to honor our Wisconsin women who have been successful in their careers in hope the younger girls will want to emulate them. We need all our youth players to have experiences that they enjoy while learning the game, measuring success by improvement and maintaining participants. We need to celebrate our successful high school teams and players with our attention and accolades, but also celebrate and support those playing on struggling teams—the ones playing for the love of the game, their team and their school. All of them are winners, just by different definitions. And all, just by playing the sport, get the lifelong benefits of playing on a high school basketball team because more than anything else, in the words of Duke Coach Kara Lawson, they learn to "Handle Hard Better." Watch this click to hear it from her yourself:

[Kara Lawson Handle Hard Better](#)

## Shot Clock and State Expansion Update

By Todd Fergot and Paula Shedivy  
WBCA Executive Board

The WBCA worked with School Perceptions this past fall to put together a survey focusing on collecting data on several key issues including the implementation of the Shot Clock and State Tournament Expansion. The survey was sent to Girls and Boys Head Coaches, AD's, Principals, and Superintendents from around the state and was one of the most comprehensive surveys that has ever been done in regards to a specific sport. The survey lasted about 6 weeks and by the end of November we had received over 900 responses with 51% of them being from coaches and 49% being from administrators which provided a phenomenal balance of all of the key stakeholders.

Recently School Perceptions met with our committee, the WBCA Executive Board and the WIAA to reveal the following data.....



### Shot Clock

The implementation of the shot clock was supported by the majority of coaches from around the state, but still has some groups such as AD's, Superintendents and Division 5 Coaches that are currently not in favor of shot clock implementation. According to the data received from School Perceptions our recommendation was to bring forward a pilot program that would allow us to use it in special events such as holiday tournaments and potentially even in non-conference games to gather additional data from teams that compete in games using the shot clock. Our goal would be to use data from those contests to gain support from groups that currently oppose the shot clock with a goal of full implementation in the near future.

### State Tournament Expansion

The State Tournament Expansion proposal of 8 teams at state for all 5 divisions had approximately 80% of coaches in support of the proposal. In addition, the majority of AD's, Principals and Superintendents also were in favor of 8 teams at state for all 5 divisions. When putting all Coaches, AD's, Principals, and Superintendents together nearly 70% of the all respondents were in support of 8 teams at state for all 5 Divisions. School Perceptions has worked with 419 of the 421 school districts in the state on educational surveys and according to the data we received our recommendation is that we immediately pursue implementation of the 5 x 8 State Tournament Expansion Proposal. Our goal is to continue to work with the WIAA on bringing this plan to fruition in the near future.

## **Nine Reasons to Become An Official**

By Terry Erickson  
WBCA Executive Board

I have been fortunate to have officiated High School and College Basketball for over 45 years. During that time, I have always felt that there are many good reasons to become a sports referee. Here are a few of my favorites.



### **Love of the Game**

To me, it begins here. You have to really love the game and appreciate what it takes for an athlete to excel. Every sport requires a unique set of skills and talents to reach peak performance. For one sport, it may be size and strength; for another speed and quickness; still another may reward unique coordination and technique. Whatever the case, to enjoy watching the athletes compete is the first criteria.

### **Respect for Players**

Remember, the game is for the players. They gain the most when it is officiated fairly and within the rules. When every player has an equal chance to compete and be rewarded for their efforts, the officials have done their job well. We owe it to the players to do our best, EVERY GAME.

### **Opportunity to give back to the Community**

In most every sport, there are many opportunities for a referee to donate his or her services. Whether for a local fundraiser, youth sports groups, or Special Olympics, you don't have to look too far for places to support a worthy cause through officiating.

### **Chance to stay involved**

Most officials played their sport at one time. Some probably still do, but perhaps not as competitively. Being a referee keeps you involved. It puts you right back into the action and gives you a part in the game that you will never get as a spectator.

### **Conditioning**

Some sports require the referee run at essentially the same pace as the players, constantly moving to create the best angle to see the play develop. And, sometimes that pace can be rigorous. To be a top-notch referee means getting into condition and staying that way throughout the season.

## **Mental Conditioning**

Refereeing keeps the mind sharp. Whether you work basketball where you move along with the players, or volleyball officials watching from a set location, acute mental focus is a must. The ability to block out distractions and concentrate on the athletes exercises the mind.

## **Challenge**

Refereeing is a challenge. From passing the exam, to advancing to higher levels, to getting the best assignments, to doing a good job under pressure. These are challenges for every official. And when these goals are met, it creates a great deal of satisfaction.

## **Friendship**

There is a kinship between referees that is hard to find elsewhere. During any athletic contest, the players are supported by coaches and fans. Referees have only each other. This reliance, the working as a team, creates a unique bond that goes well beyond the game itself.

## **Money**

My very first referee instructor used to say, *“If you are in this just for the money, you’re in the wrong job.”* I believed this then, and I still believe it today. However, for a part-time job, the rate of pay is more than acceptable. And, when you consider all the benefits listed above, for the ex-athlete, becoming an official is as rewarding an avocation as you will find.

Enjoy the 2025-26 season.

**WBCA Announces Upcoming Summer Camps**



**UW-PLATTEVILLE PIONEERS**

# TRI-STATE SHOWCASE

JUNE 17-18, 2026

ONE DAY OR TWO DAY OPTION  
COMPETE AGAINST OUT OF STATE COMPETITION

CONTACT MAX KUNDE AT [KUNDEM@UWPLATT.EDU](mailto:kundem@uwplatt.edu)  
FOR MORE INFORMATION.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE SHOWCASE  
AND OTHER PIONEER BASKETBALL CAMPS AT [LETSGOPIONEERS.COM](http://LETSGOPIONEERS.COM)

## SUMMER CAMPS

**DAY CAMP**  
SESSION 1: JUNE 22-24  
SESSION 2: JULY 6-8  
8:00-3:30 PM  
3 OPTIONS: ALL DAY, MORNING, AFTERNOON  
BOYS AND GIRLS GRADES 7-8  
WILLIAMS FIELDHOUSE IN PLATTEVILLE, WI

**BOYS' OVERNIGHT CAMP**  
JUNE 14-16  
BOYS GRADES 4-9  
WILLIAMS FIELDHOUSE IN PLATTEVILLE, WI

FOR MORE INFORMATION, EMAIL [KUNDEM@UWPLATT.EDU](mailto:kundem@uwplatt.edu)



**PIONEERS BASKETBALL**

**REGISTER HERE**



**COMPETE. ONLY 1 STAT MATTERS**

**PIONEERS BASKETBALL**

# COMPETE CLASSIC AT THE VILLE

**APRIL 25TH - BOYS 11U-17U**  
**APRIL 26TH - GIRLS 11U-17U**

**WILLIAMS FIELDHOUSE - UW PLATTEVILLE**

MAX KUNDE - 815-482-6503 - [KUNDEM@UWPLATT.EDU](mailto:kundem@uwplatt.edu)  
BRADY OLSON - 920-979-1889 - [BRADY@COMPETEBASKETBALL.COM](mailto:brady@competebasketball.com)

## UW-Whitewater Women's Basketball Camps

Here's the link where participants can sign

up: <https://www.uww.edu/ce/camps/athletic/basketball/bball-girls?path=wball>

### Offensive Skills Camp - June 14-16th, Grades 4-12th

Camp Focus Areas:

- Learning to score consistently at all three levels (inside, mid-range, and perimeter)
- Skill drills
- Organized 3v3 and 5v5 tournaments
- Daily shooting contests



### Scoring & Fundamentals Camp - July 23-25th, Grades 4-12th

Camp Focus Areas:

- Scoring Fundamentals: Building the base skills needed to become an effective scorer
- Techniques for dominating on the defensive end and controlling the boards
- Structured drills
- 3v3 and 5v5 tournaments.
- Daily shooting contests

### Shooting Camp - July 26-28th, Grades 4-12th

Camp Focus Areas:

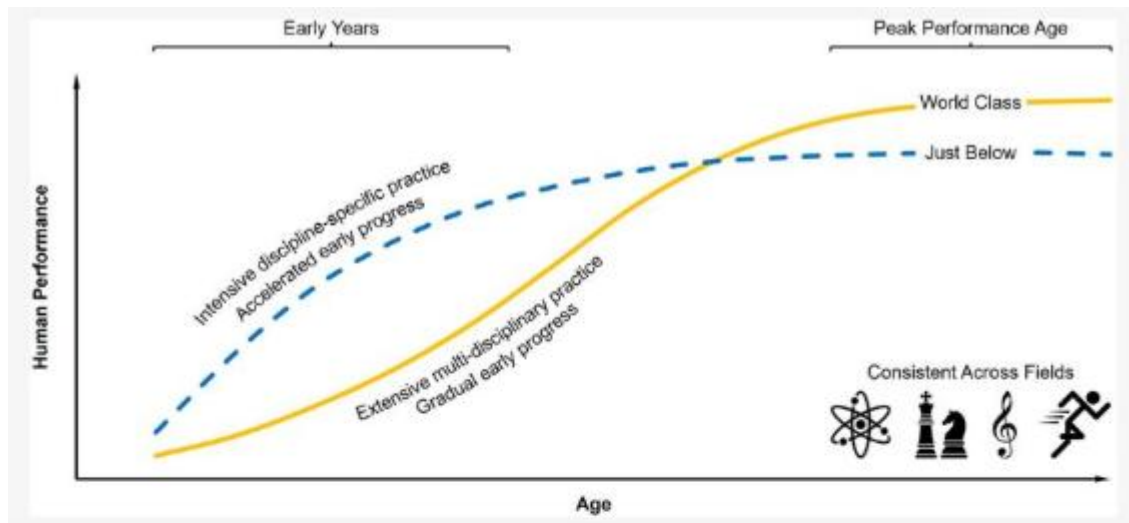
- In-depth instruction on the fundamentals of shooting
- 3v3 and 5v5 tournaments
- Daily shooting contests

### Future Warhawks Elite Camp - Aug 1<sup>st</sup>, Ages 14-18

## Specialization is Overrated

By Adam Grant (on X @AdamMGrant)

Early specialization is overrated. Generalists excel over time. Data on over 34,000 stars in sports, music, science and chess reveal that focusing on a single field predicts a faster rise, but cross-training foreshadows a higher peak. The most successful adults start off as well-rounded kids.



### Recent discoveries on the acquisition of the highest levels of human performance

ARNE GÜLLICH · MICHAEL BARTH · DAVID J. HAMBRICK · AND BROCKEN N. MACNAMARA [Authors Info & Affiliations](#)

SCIENCE • 18 Dec 2025 • Vol 390, Issue 6779 • DOI:10.1126/science.adf7790

#### Editor's summary

From athletes like Simone Biles and Michael Phelps to scientists like Marie Curie and Albert Einstein, identifying exceptional talent is essential in the science of innovation. But how does talent originate? Did the most talented athletes, scientists, and musicians reach peak performance relatively early or late in their career? Did they forgo mastering multiple sports, academic subjects, and musical instruments to reach world-class performance in only one? In an Analytical Review, Güllich *et al.* looked at published research in science, music, chess, and sports and found two patterns: Exceptional young performers reached their peak quickly but narrowly mastered only one interest (e.g., one sport). By contrast, exceptional adults reached peak performance gradually with broader, multidisciplinary practice. However, elite programs are designed to nurture younger talent. —Ekeoma Uzogara

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Our friends at [Dr. Dish Basketball](#) wanted to let you know, for a limited time this February, you can get **\$2,500 off a new Dr. Dish Shooting Machine plus FREE shipping.**

It's the perfect opportunity to give your players the volume, consistency, and accountability they need heading into the most important stretch of the season. February is when the work really shows. 🏀

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**SPRING 2026 LOCATIONS:**

<b>NASHVILLE</b> TENNESSEE APRIL 24 - 26, 2026	<b>CHICAGO</b> ILLINOIS MAY 1 - 3, 2026	<b>LAS VEGAS</b> NEVADA MAY 8 - 10, 2026	<b>ATLANTA</b> GEORGIA MAY 15 - 17, 2026
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## Planning Your Upgrade for 2026

Coach,

As you look ahead to 2026, it's worth considering what a new Gun could change for your program this year.

Training has changed. The Gun has evolved with it.

### What daily shooting work looks like right now

Programs are using The Gun right now to get players more quality reps in their own gyms. Upgrading now means those reps start this season and continue all of 2026.



### What the upgrade process looks like

- Request personalized upgrade options based on your current setup
  - Review a few scenarios that fit your budget, including model, quantity, and any trade-in credit
  - Receive an official quote
  - Customize your machine with your colors and logo at no additional cost
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  - We start production and ship your order as soon as it's ready
- That's it. Most programs are surprised by how smooth the process is from start to finish.

If you want to see pricing and upgrade options for your program, click below.

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### Why programs are upgrading

Coaches are always chasing more **quality reps**. The focus now is getting those reps to **look and feel like the game**.

That means training that fits naturally into the day and allows players to work on movement, reads, and decision-making without adding extra layers to practice.

If you purchase a **14X** or **12K**, your machine includes a growing library of drills used by top programs, players, and trainers. That library continues to expand as new content is added, without extra work on your end. I look

forward to serving your program this year!



**Jake Wright**  
National Sales Representative (812) 889-6000  
jake@theadaway.com

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Lisa Flanagan All-Star Girls Banquet  
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John Fullerton Officials Liaison  
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Click here for the complete listing of the Executive Board: [WBCA Executive Board](#)