

Getting down to some 'official' business

From the first high-school basketball game in December until the season finale in March, the officials on the court continually are under scrutiny from players, coaches and fans.

Now, with March Madness at a peak, the referees more than ever are viewed with much more intensity. You see, when the state tournament rolls around, a team is one loss away from completing its season. So when an official makes a call which does not favor the home team, he can expect to catch an exorbitant amount of negative feedback.

During the past eight days, I have viewed six high-school tournament games, and in each, the officials were on the receiving end of hard knocks. Many of the criticisms were well justified, yet just as many could be labeled sour grapes.

The reason for the outcry is pure and simple — the tournament stirs emotions. And when things are not going as you like, you look for a scapegoat to vent your frustrations. The guys in the black and white jerseys are the scapegoats.

EXAMINING THE official situation is a touchy subject. There's no simple solution to remedy the problem of

"poor officiating." Like the players, the officials make mistakes. But, unlike the players, the officials are being paid for participating in the game.

My first observation about officials is their appearance. The game has passed many of them by. I've seen too many gray-haired, obese officials who just can't keep up with the fast-paced game of basketball. I don't see how over-aged, overweight officials can keep up with a bunch of well-conditioned teen-agers.

In order to make the right calls, the official has to be in the right spot at the right time. When you're not able to keep pace with the youngsters, you're



Jim Hughes

not going to be in position.

My second observation deals with consistency. Too many games have been called close for one half, and tight in the second. The officials can control the tempo of a basketball game, and the players have to adjust. And it's im-

possible to do when the referees change by calling a different type of game in the second half.

From my discussions with refs, a foul should be called when a player takes unfair advantage of an opposing player. A touch is not an unfair advantage, yet time and time again, you see a foul called when that occurs.

I TALKED with one official who said, "I know basketball is not a strict no-contact sport. The question — in calling a foul — is, 'Did the player take advantage of another?' That's the key."

It's not very difficult to become a registered official with the Michigan

High School Athletic Association (MHSAA). Fred Sible, an assistant director for the MHSAA, outlined the procedure.

"First-year registration consists of taking an open-book test on the mechanics of the game," he said. "Our feeling is if they know the mechanics, they'll be in the right place to make the right calls."

The next step, after passing the test (scoring at least 70 percent), the potential officials are sent a rulebook and a registration form. After sending in the required registration fee and receiving your registered official patch, the candidate is certified. Just like that. And that's official.

FROM THERE, officials — since they are independent contractors — must solicit their own games. According to Sible, officials usually start at the junior-high-school level and work their way to the high-school scene.

Each year, an official must have at least 16 ratings from coaches who had the referee work their game.

"We ask the coaches to wait 24 hours before filling out the rating," Sible chuckled.

Since getting games is the ultimate goal of an official, can you see a problem with performance? Athletic directors have the responsibility of getting officials for games. If a referee has a history of calling "bad games" at Po-

dunk High, you can bet the A.D. won't have him back. But if a coach at Po-

dunk happens to favor a particular official because he makes calls favorable to Podunk, you know he'll be on the court again.

Then you have a "home" official.

Although there may be flaws in the system, Sible said he believes the method is sufficient.

"I DON'T think there are any flaws in the method," he said. "Like any vocation, you have to start somewhere. You have to practice to become good at what you're doing. You have to repeat, repeat, and repeat to become a good official. A lot has to do with their (officials') temperament. Some of them can't stand the yelling, but they have to realize they're not yelling at you, they're yelling at the shirt."

I can't lay the blame of questionable officiating on the officials alone. I can't believe they deliberately try to give one team an advantage. They are out there trying to do the best possible job.

Basketball may be the toughest game to officiate because it is so instantaneous. It's difficult in the aspect that the time period given to interpret the rules is at a minimum. You have to make the call immediately. But I believe there should be more of a testing ground for officials. After all, athletes have to make the grade to play high-school sports, shouldn't the officials?

Sorrows cops another crown

Few things in life work as well as the seventh-and-eighth-grade girls' basketball teams at Our Lady of Sorrows elementary school in Farmington.

Sorrows won another Catholic Youth Organization (CVO) championship — its fourth in the last five years — with a 51-19 victory over Harper Woods Queen of Peace in a recent championship game played before a packed gym at Bishop Borgess High School.

Under the direction of coach Mike Bedford, the Sorrows teams have compiled an unbelievable 120-1 record over the past five years. The lone loss came in the 1980 CVO championship game, won by Detroit St. Clare, 22-20.

This season, Sorrows capped a 22-straight winning streak with the victory over Queen of Peace. Debbie Lapinski, Sorrows' 6-foot center, and 5-8 Mary Kay McClary each scored 10 points, and Jenny Nadeau added seven.

After it completed 17 regular-season wins, Sorrows recorded district tournament wins over Redford St. Mary's (35-16) and Dearborn St. Clement (34-12). In regional play, Sorrows eliminated Livonia St. Michael's (25-14) and Dearborn Divine Child (28-17).

Sorrows defeated Southgate St. Pius, 34-12, in the West Side championship game to advance to the finals.

LAPINSKI AND McClary were Sorrows' scoring leaders in the tournament, combining for 92 points. Colleen Kirwan, a 5-2 point guard, contributed 20 points and directed the offense.

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CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Farmington Hills, Michigan will accept sealed bids or proposals until Tuesday, April 6, 1982 10:30 A.M. prevailing local time at which time they shall be publicly opened and read aloud by the City Clerk for the following:

CCTV System and Intercom, Monitoring System

Bids for the above shall be submitted to the City Clerk, 31555 Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, Michigan, 48031 on or before the above date and time. Specifications and proposal forms may be obtained by contacting the Purchasing Agent, (313) 474-6115, Ext. 295 during normal business hours. The City reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids if the public interest is better served thereby.

FLOYD A. CAIRNS,
City Clerk

Published March 23, 1982

CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN
PHONE: 474-6115

NOTICE OF HEARING ON SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROAD IMPROVEMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:

1. That the Council of the City of Farmington Hills, Oakland County, Michigan, has tentatively declared its intention to make the following improvement:

Construction of Road Improvement to be located in the City as follows:

STREET	FROM	TO
Meadowview Road	N. Subdivision Line	Drake Road
Pleasant Valley Road	N. Subdivision Line	Eleven Mile Road
Pleasant Valley Ct.	Pleasant Valley	Dead End
Hidden Valley Road	Pleasant Valley	Hidden Valley
Hidden Valley Ct.	Pleasant Valley	Dead End
Eleven Mile Road	Drake Road	Pleasant Valley

2. That plans and specifications showing the aforesaid improvement and the location thereof and an estimate of \$188,593.00 as the cost thereof are on file with the City Clerk for public examination.

3. That the City Council has tentatively designated the following special assessment district against which the cost of 85% of said improvement is to be assessed, to-wit:

TIN, RSE, Section 16, Pleasant Valley Farms No. 1 Subdivision, Lots 5 through 28 inclusive, Pleasant Valley Farms No. 2 Subdivision, Lots 29 through 34 inclusive, Lots 37 through 70 inclusive and Lots 74 through 78 inclusive, plus acreage parcels No. 23-16-353-697 (outlot A of Pleasant Valley Farms No. 2).

TIN, RSE, Section 20, No. 23-20-27-601.

All in the City of Farmington Hills, Oakland County, Michigan.

4. That the City Council will meet in the City Hall, 31555 Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, Michigan, on the 5th day of April, 1982, at 7:30 o'clock P.M., Eastern Standard Time, to hear and consider any objections to the said improvement.

THIS NOTICE IS GIVEN BY ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

FLOYD A. CAIRNS,
City Clerk

Published March 23 and April 1, 1982

CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN

NOTICE TO CUT WEEDS

It shall be the duty of all owners of any subdivided land in any subdivision located within the boundaries of the City of Farmington Hills to destroy any noxious weeds growing on said property before they reach a seed bearing stage so as to prevent them from becoming a detriment to public health. Any weeds not cut by June 1, 1982, will be cut by the City; and the owner of the property charged with the cost under the provisions of the Farmington Hills City Code, Chapter 41, Section 41.123. This will be as many times as necessary during the growing season. In addition any owner who shall refuse to destroy such noxious weeds as provided for in this City Code shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$100.00. Noxious weeds are those described in Section 2 of Act 359 of the Public Acts of 1941, as amended, and all other weeds, wild grasses and plants, the uncontrolled growth of which would constitute a nuisance.

FLOYD A. CAIRNS,
City Clerk

Published March 23, 1982

CITY OF FARMINGTON
1982 DOG LICENSES

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Thursday, April 1, 1982, is the last day to obtain City of Farmington 1982 Dog License Tags without penalty. Beginning Friday, April 2, 1982, License Fees will increase from \$3.00 to \$7.00. You must present a Certificate of Rabies Vaccination bearing a current effective date at the time of application. Please apply during regular business hours Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Farmington City Hall, 23600 Liberty Street, Farmington.

JOSEPHINE M. BUSHEY,
City Clerk

Published March 23, 1982

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Construction of Road Improvement to be located in the City as follows:

STREET	FROM	TO
Leelanaw	Orchard Lake Rd.	Dead End
Westhill	Orchard Lake Rd.	Dead End
Lamar	Orchard Lake Rd.	Truck Road
Rockdale	Orchard Lake Rd.	Dead End
Moran	Haynes	Rear (East) lot line of Lot 113
Fink	Hawthorne	Hollywood Sub. East lot line of Lot 127
Haynes	Ten Mile Rd.	Hollywood Sub. Fink
Springbrook	Ten Mile Rd.	Shiawassee
Cora	Fink	North lot line of Lot 3 of Hollywood Sub.

2. That plans and specifications showing the aforesaid improvement and the location thereof and an estimate of \$441,641.50 as the cost thereof are on file with the City Clerk for public examination.

3. That the City Council has tentatively designated the following special assessment district against which the cost of 85% of said improvement is to be assessed, to-wit:

TIN, RSE, Section 26: 22-23-26-152 - 001, 008-024 inclusive; 22-23-26-153 - 001, 003 and 009-016 inclusive; 22-23-26-176 - 001, 006 and 009; 22-23-26-117 - 001, 009-012 inclusive, 019-022 inclusive, and 024, 025, 026, 029 and 030; 22-23-26-178 - 001, 004-011 inclusive, 014-019 inclusive, and 022, 023, and 024; 22-23-26-179 - 003, 006-009 inclusive, and 016, 017, 020, and 021; 22-23-26-328 - 038-041 inclusive, 046-051 inclusive, 052, and 068-080 inclusive; 22-23-26-329 - 064-067 inclusive, 010-013 inclusive, 016, 028-029 inclusive, and 032-040, 042 and 043 inclusive; 22-23-26-126 - 001-014 inclusive; 22-23-26-129 - 006, and 009-013 inclusive; 22-23-26-130 - 001-014 inclusive; 22-23-26-131 - 007 and 010-017 inclusive; 22-23-26-132 - 001 & 002, 004-010 inclusive, 012, and 015-020 inclusive; 22-23-26-133 - 001, 002 & 003, 007-011 inclusive, and 013, 22-23-26-151 - 009-014 inclusive, 017-021 inclusive, and 024-027 inclusive.

All located in the City of Farmington Hills, Oakland County, Michigan.

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