

Thankless Job???

That's what I've been told about coaching at the junior high level. I've had other coaches tell me, parents have told me, I've even told myself on a few occasions that coaching in junior high just isn't worth the time and headaches that occur. Tonight I **disagree** with that notion. I was very thankful for the opportunity to coach the 2007-08 boys basketball team. This team proved that you can win if you continue to work hard. We finished the season 19-7. Who expected 19 wins this season? I am thankful for the effort of this team to finish with that many wins. I am also thankful for:

Mike Fields-who worked as my assistant and kept everyone calm when I wasn't very calm. He also took care of the statistics. Thank you Mike

Jeff Lampe-who took care of the game book and kept me informed of foul trouble. For Jeff I was thankful!

Moe Huegen, Mike Fields, Steve Theising, and all coaches in the Germantown Youth Organization. These coaches give up their time to make Germantown Basketball the success that it is. For all the coaches of the GYO, I am thankful!

Amanda and Tanis did another excellent job with the cheerleaders. That you can control 11 junior high girls and get them to perform so well is fantastic. (I can't control 1 of them) To the Cheerleaders, I am thankful

I was thankful on October 26th, when we defeated St. Mary's of Mount Vernon 43-42 at the Rend Lake Shootout.

I was thankful on November 15th, when we scored 47 points in the 2nd half to defeat Albers at Albers 68-66.

I was thankful for the overtime victory on Dec 7th against Aviston to capture the 3rd place conference tournament.

I was very thankful during 8th grade night. The time and effort that this team and parents put into making it a success was appreciated. The Bulldog proudly sits on my cabinets in my classroom; however, the dog does get blamed for alot. Whenever I yell at Jacob Theising for saying "God Bless It", he just points to the dog.

I was thankful that we overcame a horrible shooting 1st half to score 34 points in the 2nd half and defeated Ashley in the Irvington Tournament Championship Game.

Yes, I was even thankful that we play according to the game plan against St. Rose in the Regionals. Unfortunately, we came up 1 basket short.

I was thankful that I went through another season without getting a technical foul. I can't remember the last season I got a technical.

I was thankful for all the players that played on our Varsity Team this year (please stand when I mention your name and then sit when the next name is mentioned):

Jacob Brauer—who took at least 5 charges (1 against Jacob Dulle from St. Rose) and who would go “through a brick wall for me” I THANK YOU!

Kolin Eversgerd—who connected on 6 three pointers in the Irvington Tournament to helped lead us to that Championship and played his role without questioning me I THANK YOU!

Austin Fields—who made two free throws with 8 seconds remaining to defeat Albers 68-66 and who also made it through the whole year without throwing up on the basketball court I THANK YOU!

Casey Huegen—who had 11 points and 7 rebounds against Hoyleton in the semi-finals of the Hoyleton Tournament and who allowed me to release some frustrations without talking back to me I THANK YOU!

Jacob Theising—whose defense on the Pytlinski kid from Ashley helped us win the Irvington Championship and who shot 55% from the free throw line (I wish he would have shot his lay-ups that well) I THANK YOU!

Brandon Becker—who scored 3 points against Bartelso and continues to work on his giraffe neck I THANK YOU!

Drew Foppe—who played hard defense whenever he was on the floor (Drew didn't I tell you to stand—oops never mind) I THANK YOU!

Christian Kohlen—who scored 5 points against Sandoval in the Irvington Tournament and continues to improve with every practice You are practicing right? I THANK YOU!

Jordan Lampe—who grabbed 18 rebounds in the Raccoon Shootout against Rome and averaged 8 rebounds per game and is dedicated to getting better I THANK YOU!

Mitchell Langenhorst—who scored 13 points in our big victory against Albers including a huge 4th quarter 3-pointer and whose right hand is catching up to his left hand I THANK YOU!

Kyler Scheer—who scored 13 2nd half points against Albers in that same game and who didn't seem to mind me calling him Keaton about 4 or 5 times this season. (He did, however, take exception to me calling him Katie) I THANK YOU!

Travis Wuebbles—who had four points in this Varsity season and who has such a pretty shot (hopefully we'll get to see plenty of it next year) I THANK YOU!

To **all** the Varsity players of the 2007-08 Basketball season, I thank you for allowing me to be part of your season

Now it is time for me to introduce the Individual Awards for this TEAM. I guess it is appropriate to recognize individual accomplishments in a team game; however I do want to stress that if it wasn't for **all** the members of this team contributing on the floor, during practice, and even in the hallways at school, the following individuals would not have had the success that they achieved: (If your name is announce, please come forward to receive your award)

With 44 assists and a season high 6 assists against Lebanon at the St. Rose Shootout, the Assist Award goes to Austin Fields

With 196 rebounds and a remarkable 18 rebounds against Rome in the Raccoon Shootout, the Rebound Award goes to Jordan Lampe

Shooting 55% from the free throw line and surpassing a teammate by making 2 of 2 free throws in the final game of the season, the Free Throw Award goes to Jacob Theising

For the Most Improved Award, I had a difficult time choosing 1 player. There were 4 players who showed improvement during the season; however I narrowed my decision to 2 players that showed the **most** improvement in scoring and rebounding from the beginning of the season to the end of the season. The Co-Most Improved Players are Kolin Eversgerd and Casey Huegen. (Because this decision was made late, we have only 1 Most Improved award. The second award should be arriving before the end of the school year)

Deciding on the Mr. Hustle Award was also a very difficult decision. This team had many players that hustle and played great defense throughout the season; however, I chose the player that laid out his body more times than any player I have coached in the past 5 year. The Mr. Hustle Award goes to Jacob Brauer

Choosing the MVP was **not** a difficult decision. This player was our quarterback, he made the plays on the point, he defended the point and lead the team in steals, he was second in rebounds, 4th in blocked shots, 1st in scoring with 20 points per game, he also lead our team in free throws made and was first in assists. The Most Valuable Player of the 2007-08 Germantown Basketball team is Austin Fields.

I'd like to express my gratitude to all the parents of the basketball players, cheerleaders, and the students that help the basketball program at Germantown succeed. Your support is appreciated and does not go unnoticed. Without that support, my job would be much more difficult. To all the parents: Thank You!

I'm not sure how much longer I'll be coaching basketball at Germantown. I do know that 20 years from now when I'm resting in my home, I'll think back (if I'm capable) about my years at Germantown and have as fond of memory of this season as any other season that I've coached.

To conclude this presentation I need to thank 1 more person. This person has helped me realize the importance of my job the past 3 years. He has allowed me to vent my frustrations about certain games and referees. He has spent a few evenings with me at the Aviston Legion or other establishments as we enjoyed the successes of a game, tournament, or a season. I wish I could say that I drank soda with him all night, but that would not be true. He made sure to remind me that the game was about the kids not the coaching. That **IS** true. For better or worse he has become one of my dear friends. He has “inherited” the job of God-Father for my youngest daughter. I imagine that job has been, is, and will be his most difficult challenge. I **applaud** the Athletic Director at Germantown School and I ask that you join me! Thank You: White Chocolate!