

Good morning!!!

Welcome to the "Tip of the Day" 2017-18! It has been a long break since March.....glad the new season is here! Let me begin by sharing something on a personal note. This summer, my mentor, Joe Frisina, passed away. This man was the ultimate 'father' official...not only to me, but to ANYONE who wanted his help. Joe was an inspiration to me and more than anything else in my game, I wanted to make him proud. I drive past

his place regularly and it is quite an empty feeling knowing that he and his beloved wife, who passed away a year earlier, are not there. I know I am not alone in the loss of someone like this.....in basketball or in life in general. How about pausing right now for a moment of personal silence to remember all of our brother and sister officials who are no longer with us and any other special people in our lives who are watching over us at all times now.

Thanks, as I have gotten older, taking this sort of time from my day is more important.

So how are/have you prepared for the new season? Went to a rules interp meeting, worked summer league games, fall JH games and scrimmages, got in shape a little more than we were most of the off season.....watch any film? Talk about plays with friends? Made a list of 'to-do's' for this season?

That last one is VERY important. What are you going to improve upon for the coming season? Why? Remember that we can improve our game EVERY time we step on the floor....we should have a goal we are working *towards* every time we step on the floor also. They do not need to be major changes in our game, and we should be working on one, MAYBE two, things per game. Trying to work on three or more gets too cumbersome and we generally do not improve any of it significantly. Pick ONE thing per game. Just the same, we need goals for the season.....not ball watch as much (focus on my own primary), be aware of the clock (time, fouls, score) at all times in the game, communication with my partner(s) better.....the list could go on and on.

MY goal for the season is to attempt to get a look between offensive and defensive players on EVERY matchup I have. I *thought* I was doing a pretty good job of it until it jumped up and bit me on the biggest stage we have. I realize that there are plays that we just cannot get a look between because play happens so fast, but that doesn't mean we use that as an excuse. So here is what happened.....I am lead and rotate to strong side. A shot goes up and the ball is rebounded by a 6' 9" defender. A member of the team who shot the ball (6' 2" kid) was very close to the player who got the rebound and as the rebounder turned, caught the opposing player in the mouth with his arm. The rebounder was making a move to outlet the pass and caught him. The player who got hit went down like a ton of bricks. I was 10 feet away.....I had nothing.....I got straight-lined and saw no contact. I have always preached that we do not guess at what happened.....I still firmly believe that, but need to change my look at plays to try to not let it happen again. There was no way I could have gotten help from my partners.....the other 8 players were going up the floor.....*no way* my partners *should have seen what happened* since they had other matchups to attend to. It was my call....period. [Here](#) is the play.....obviously if I had not rotated, I would have SEEN what happened. Can this happen to anybody? Sure....but it happened to me. I need to attempt to 'fix my game' so that it does not happen again. My goal for the season? First and foremost to 'move to improve'move for a purpose....specifically to get a better look between the players in a matchup.

So what is YOUR goal for improvement for the year?

I hope you have a WONDERFUL season and you meet your goals through it! Remember to thank those at home in your life who allow you to spend the next few months away from them many nights.

Have a great day!

Tim