

Good morning!

Hopefully you all had at least one relaxing day this weekend!

First off, I want to thank ALL OF our basketball officials, no matter what state(s) you work in. Your willingness is appreciated by AD's, coaches and players even if it doesn't seem that way at times!). I also thank those who opted out of this season and hope that you plan to return in 2021-22! Just think what our avocation would be like if we were able to recruit 1 new official for every 5 current ones! Please consider making an effort to ask someone to join our ranks and be a mentor to him/her!

Second, I am going to be brave and tackle the clip from last week that is [here](#).

I asked for feedback on this play and it was *all over the place*. There were opinions one each of the parts of this play (three shots were taken). There were people who used phrases like 'the first shot was a whale and needed to be called' to 'clean block'. I was talking with a great friend the day I sent it out and he first looked at it as we were on the phone.....and watched it 6 times.....and changed his mind FIVE times after his first thoughts!

So.....let's talk about what the officials did right and what they could have improved upon to officiate this play....it was the final 9 seconds of a Maine state playoff game.....and the loser goes home, so it is a high stakes game. The initial 3-point attempt was taken from the top of the key. Both T and C are in pretty good position for this attempt. Since the losing team is down 3, as a crew we know they will most likely attempt a three-point shot. It was taken at the top of the key. Both T and C look at the attempt and rule a good block (or they could not blow the whistle because they did not SEE a foul). They both had a three-point prelim and T drops his when he sees C has it. In the latter case, both T and C could have been straightlined with the defenders arm and the shooters arm. They may not have been able to SEE if there was illegal contact. I cannot find anything the T or C did that was wrong on the initial shot.

When the rebound from the blocked shot goes towards the wing, a player from the offensive team had jumped in the air from behind the arc, caught the ball in the air and shot it! I am not sure I have seen that from further than 5 or 6 feet before! At any rate, the shooter crashed into the defender. THIS is a train wreck and something needed called. We had a crash by an offensive player into a defender with both on the floor. I am guessing that the C was still looking/thinking about the first shot and what may or may not have happened. Regardless, the play needed seen. The defender, white 20, is actually going to the rebound and realizes that black is going to get it and continues one more step under black as he is already in the air.....BLOCK! The C puts a hand in the air but it cannot be seen if it is a fist or three point prelim. I want to say it was a fist since it is straight up and not angled. If he had a fist, the crew probably needed to talk about it....his arm was up well before the horn/light.

Should the crew have talked before running off the floor? If they had no whistle then what is there to talk about? Pretty difficult to blow the whistle after the time expires and come back with a foul. IF C had a whistle, THEN before time expired they needed to talk.

This was a TOUGH, TOUGH play to end a game in general, let alone a high stakes state playoff game. To say the least, this was a great discussion clip for us....two of us or a whole chapter! Hope you had the opportunity to discuss/argue about this one!

Hard to believe we still have a month of the regular season left, so stay well, get enough rest and safe travels!

Tim