

Happy New Year!

Here's hoping that you and your family had a wonderful holiday season and relaxed with each other some. That does wonders for everyone!

Just a couple notes taken from tournaments and games over the holidays.....

- 1) Sportsmanship is NOT getting any better. Any official who hear our Assistant Executive Director, Pat Gebhart , speak following the rules interp meeting at the convention KNOWS that the PIAA has our back and they are ADAMANT about cleaning up sportsmanship, especially from the coaches. Coaches lead their teams and are many times promoting what we are seeing on the floor in that they do not take care of it immediately. I saw multiple games in the past week with technical fouls on players for unsporting behavior where that player was not even removed from the game. What else needs said?
- 2) Again, Pat Gebhart attends MANY games in ALL parts of the state. He expects officials to dress according to the PIAA prescribed uniform and also use NFHS approved mechanics. You need to understand that Pat is not just watching games, but that he is 'scouting' for state playoff officials as well. Bottom line.....go into EVERY GAME assuming Pat is sitting in the stands watching you.

Today's clip deals with a three-point shot and a foul called at the end of the game. Losing team has the ball down three....shot is contested and falls way short.....what is YOUR philosophy on plays at the end of the game? Ever hear someone say 'let the players decide it'? Well here is MY philosophy.....if there IS a foul at the end of regulation, the players DID decide the play.....if we do NOT call the foul, then WE AS OFFICIALS decided the play. We need to have the guts enough to make a call when we need to.....was that same play a foul in the first minute of the game?

In the clip here, just to set up the situation, Butler is up 3 with 7 seconds remaining. Georgetown obviously needs three to tie and probably send it to OT. In the play here, the center official is actually acting as a second trail official. We now have two sets of eyes on the ball handler and most likely shooter. Is that a bad thing? NOT if the crew has talked during a TO and they all 'know' where the play is going to happen. In this play, it almost exclusively happens above the top of the key.....usually trails play but in this case, C gave help to get the play covered. In a two-person game, we have no issue of C and T officiating the play. Trail has this all alone.

Was there a foul? Was the calling official in good position to make the call? I say yes and yes. He called the foul on Butler #4. He had a great look *through* the play. That is critical to getting it right...getting the correct look to SEE potential contact. He did.....Butler #30 thought he was called for the foul and he had NOT committed a foul. It is much more clear in slow motion that #4 did, in fact, hit the follow through of the shooter....protect the shooter, right? The follow through is critical to a shot just as the rest of the shooting motion. The ball fell way short of the ring....not because of it being blocked, because of the contact on the follow through.

Get in good position, officiate the play and blow the whistle if it is needed. The KIDS decide the play even on a foul.....WE decide the play if we ignore a foul.

On to the clip.....check it out [here](#).

Have a great game tonight!

Tim