

Good morning!

So a follow-up to yesterday's last shot crash plays near midcourt.....[here](#) is a different view of the second clip.

After discussion with the C on this play (this play was Monday evening and in my district), there is a great deal that can be learned from it, but we will just discuss crashes and possible help!

First, TALK about last shots in your pregame conference. Several things should be mentioned, including 1) let's get the last shot right, something like 'If I count the last shot and you both (in a three-person game) wonder what is wrong with me because there is no doubt it was late' then we MUST get together right then and get it right before we start the next period or come into the locker room, 2) be prepared for a crash on the last shot at the buzzer, and if the opposite official from the one with the last shot (in a three-person game) can help since the he/she has the shot, let's do it. I we need to talk and get it right, we need to do it, 3) let's make sure we get a 2 or 3 correct, and again, let's help each other if we can. TALKING about these situations gets the possibility that something COULD happen in our head and then when it does, hopefully we will not be caught off guard!

Next, we know that film does not lie. As in this clip today, there was definitely a PC foul. The C told me *'The tape showed me what I knew it would. One thing I worried about immediately after the play was the position of the T. I wondered if he was back further and had a bad look but at the time I THOUGHT he was in a good position and I used that as my reason for letting it go. About 30 seconds after letting it go I regretted not blowing my whistle. One of those plays I will not forget!'* Looking at film and learning is what this is all about!!!! ANY of us who have been in a situation like this will never forget it!

Bear with me, but an 'old war story' here. Long ago, in maybe my first PIAA inter-district game, the Greensburg Central Catholic girls were up 17 points on Lakeview at the start of the fourth quarter. Lakeview went crazy in the fourth quarter and as the quarter was ending, I was the T opposite the table and Lakeview had a three from nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ court to TIE the game and missed. In our evaluation, the comment was made that 'The crew begged off the last shot.' Well.....I vowed then that I would **NEVER** 'beg off' a last shot again. In the next 10 years, I had an inter-district game and a district final for which I had a foul in the back court on a last shot for which the fouled player went to the line with not time on the clock – once to send the game to OT (she made all three and the won in OT) and the other was a tie game (she made one and obviously they won the district title). The film and evaluator in both games confirmed there definitely was a foul. The moral is that WE are the only ones who can 'get it right.' We hear people say 'let the kids decide it' but if we choose to NOT blow the whistle, then **WE** have decided it. All we can do is officiate what happens. A foul is a foul is a foul.

So, back to the play today....C had almost nothing going on in his primary and was actually looking at the last shot play at mid court. If I am the T, and for whatever reason, I don't blow the whistle for a foul, I **WANT** the C coming and saving me! I will say 'THANK YOU' when you do! We shouldn't have two sets of eyes always on this type of play, but if the right scenario allows it, HELP each other....we ARE a crew! Obviously, in a two-person crew, this type of situation is MIUCH more difficult to help on, if not impossible.

So again, discuss last shot crashes in your pregame conference and be ready in case a crash happens!

Thursday extra: I am truly thankful for officials who are willing to look in the mirror....one's who know what they did and learn from it...it actually helps ALL of us! In this case, a state championship official who is always looking to get better! THANKS John!

Thursday Bonus Extra: The varsity crew should not hand around the locker room when the JV crew come in and talk about things...the varsity crew has responsibilities and should be on the court promptly.

Have a great game tonight!

Tim