

**Women's Basketball Coaches Association  
Division III Conference Captains Conference Call  
Minutes Tuesday, October 10, 2006, Noon Eastern**

- I. Welcome – Nan Carney-DeBord welcomed Captains at 12:05 p.m. (Eastern).
- II. Roll Call – Amy Lowe. 29 of 37 Captains were in attendance.
- III. Approval of May Minutes – Nan Carney-BeBord. Motion was made by Gerri Seidl to approve the May minutes. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Karen Tessmer.
- IV. Discussion of Captains Involvement with WBCA Awards Program – Amy Lowe. The captains are responsible for helping the WBCA get the word out about the awards program. Each Captain will receive a list of member coaches and we ask that they forward any information about the awards program to the coaches in their conference. All awards are online this year. This includes nominations and ballots. All award nominations will go online on **Monday, January 8, 2007 at Noon ET** and they will remain online until **Friday, February 16, 2007 at 5:00 PM ET**. Coaches will need their member ID and password to access these nomination forms. Ballots for Kodak/WBCA All-America Team and RUSSELL ATHLETIC/WBCA National Coach of the Year will go online on **Friday, February 23, 2007 at Noon ET** and they will remain online until **Monday, March 5, 2007 at 5:00 PM ET**.

The WBCA made a **change in criteria** for the **RUSSELL ATHLETIC/WBCA National Coach of the Year award**. In August our Board of Directors passed a motion to **allow coaches to nominate coaches from outside of their region for this award. Coaches will still only vote for coaches in their specific region.**

Betty mentioned that the award prep calls have concluded and all of the committee members are aware of their responsibilities. The WBCA has a difficult time getting nominations for our scholarship awards. **The WBCA offers a Charles T. Stoner Law scholarship worth \$1,000, 2 WBCA Scholarships worth \$1,000, Robin Roberts/WBCA Broadcasting Scholarship award worth \$4,500 and an additional \$500 to attend the WBCA National Convention, and the Women's Sports Foundation/WBCA Graduate Assistant of the Year Award of which \$1,000 is donated to the graduate assistant's women's basketball program.** Please take a look at the seniors on your team who might be good candidates and well as educate the coaches in your conferences about these awards.

- V. Review Job Descriptions, Terms of Conference Captains, Salary Survey, Convention Program and Code of Ethics – Betty Jaynes. Betty reviewed the job description for the Captains. The number one responsibility is to be on each Conference Captains call. The second responsibility is communicating to the coaches in each conference any issues that are discussed by the WBCA. The third responsibility as a Captain is to send out the News and Notes to the coaches in your conference once Betty and Amy send them to you.

Finally, the WBCA asks that each Conference Captain attend the in-person meeting during the WBCA National Convention and poll your conference anytime the WBCA needs feedback from your conference.

A qualified substitute if a Captain can not be on the call is an assistant coach, director of basketball operations, administrative assistant, or another coach in your conference.

The roster for the DIII Conference Captains has the terms of each Conference Captain for your reference. **As a Conference Captain you can serve one three year term.** If you ever have any questions on your term please contact the WBCA.

The **salary surveys are online now at WBCA.org.** Please encourage the coaches in your conference to complete this online survey. If you are not familiar with the information on the Salary Survey you can select the *unavailable* option and then submit the salary survey.

- The **programming for Cleveland has a different format than the previous years.** There will be some high profile speakers that will be speaking on court or in the classroom. The WBCA has high profile coaches that have already committed to speaking in Cleveland. The hope is that this once in a lifetime coaches clinic will help increase registration numbers. The speakers that have committed are: **Geno Auriemma, Van Chancellor, Pokey Chatman, Anne Donovan, Brenda Frese, Gail Goestenkors, Sylvia Hatchell, Joanne McCallie and Pat Summitt.** These coaches will be speaking as long as they are not in the Women's Final Four.

The Code of Ethics has been implemented. It is being used now in WBCA membership renewals.

#### VI. Membership & Convention Update – Dorinda Schremmer.

The Convention numbers are down in Division III. Only 67 coaches are currently registered for Convention. The WBCA is hoping to exceed 200 at the Division III level. **If coaches have not registered the early bird deadline is November 30<sup>th</sup>.**

The tickets for the WBCA High School All-America game *presented by Nike* are \$15 and sales are down this year. If you have not gotten your tickets yet please make sure to do so. Tip off for the WBCA High School All-America game is tentatively set for March 31<sup>st</sup> at 4:30 pm

**The All-Star Challenge game has been suspended for one year and will be reevaluated next year.**

The Crowne Plaza Hotel, Hampton Inn, and Radisson Hotel Cleveland-Gateway have rooms available for the WBCA National Convention. Please visit WBCA.org for more information on housing options in Cleveland. Dorinda encouraged coaches who have registered for Convention to go ahead and get their hotels booked.

Dorinda will be sending the Conference Captains a list of all of the Coaches that have not registered for Convention and she asked each Conference Captain to follow up with the coaches that have not registered and encourage them to get their registration information in. Dorinda will also be sending a list of coaches who are not members and she asked that each Conference Captain follow up and encourage the coaches to join to WBCA.

Nan asked Cheri Harrer to remain on the line to schedule another conference call to discuss a Division III reception in Cleveland hosted by the North Coast Conference and the Ohio Athletic Conference. The Executive Director from the North Coast has committed to help fund the reception and make contacts for a location in Cleveland.

- VII. Legislation and Foresight Committee – Shannon Reynolds and Karen Tessmer. Shannon reviewed women's basketball legislative proposals for Division III. Shannon encouraged the Captains to become familiar with the legislation process so their voice is heard.

Shannon pointed out that an NCAA staff member speaks with each division on our Board and we get an idea of the proposals that are going through the system and then the WBCA gets some feedback from our Board members. Everyone institution has a vote at the NCAA Convention. Shannon encouraged the Captains to become familiar with the proposals and then speak with the administrators on their campus because every vote counts.

Proposal 12 Recruiting-official visit requirements and written offers of athletically related financial aid-registration with initial eligibility clearinghouse and institutional request list. This proposal specifies that an institution shall not provide an official visit to a high school or preparatory school prospective student-athlete until he or she registers with the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse and is placed on the institutional request list. The Division III WBCA Board members were split on this one and this may be one that you find controversial.

Shannon pointed out Proposal 11 which specifies that participation at any collegiate institution shall constitute the use of a season of participation. If someone is transferring into a Division III school typically their year of red shirting does not count against them as a season of competition and this proposal would change that and the season of red shirting would count against the student-athlete. The Division III WBCA Board of Directors voted against this proposal.

Proposal 7 specifies that at least one individual certified in first aid, CPR, and AED must be physically present at each required practice, competition, and strength and conditioning session involving student-athletes. Shannon noted that at the Division II level there is funding available for first aid and CPR training and to purchase and AED but there is only funding at the Division III level to purchase an AED. Coaches may want to question the funding for CPR and first aid training if they feel it is needed.

Karen mentioned a few proposals that were mentioned by SAAC and have a good chance of being passed. Proposal 7 about CPR and AED is likely to pass and the only one that needs some input from coaches is Proposal 8. Proposal 8 prohibits an institution from hosting or sponsoring a tryout camp, clinic, group workout or combine at any location. There is a question as to whether AAU would count as a tryout. Karen also discussed Proposal 14 which permits an institution to have the option of exempting from maximum contest limitations two informal practice scrimmages or one informal practice scrimmage and one exhibition contest against a Division I or II opponent.

Shannon pointed out that Proposal 8 did pass at Division I. The WBCA tried to amend it so it would include AAU events but we have not been successful. This proposal does not include non scholastic events.

Shannon discussed the issue of male practice players (Proposal 9). She reviewed the male practice player position paper that was also discussed at the WBCA Board meeting in August. The issue of men's practice players is being discussed at all three divisions. Right now there is a proposal in at Division III and in January they will vote on restrictions being placed on male practice players. Right now for Division III it restricts male practice players to one practice per week and a maximum of 2 male practice players. The WBCA surveyed Division III coaches on the issue of male practice players and the results from the survey were overwhelmingly in favor of using male practice players. The WBCA circulated a position paper and used it as an educational tool for Division I, II, and III. This position paper was created to remind coaches of the proper uses of male practice players. This paper was also created to educate administrators on why we feel male practice players are so important not just for the starting team but to all women athletes. Male practice players help supplement participation, they run the offense and defense of the competition so the 2<sup>nd</sup> team does not have to, and they make all women basketball players better.

The WBCA sent a hard copy of the position paper with a cover letter to all Division III conference commissioners and athletic directors. Shannon encouraged the Captains to have a conversation with the administrators on their campus to discuss the issue of male practice players. Shannon asked the Conference Captains to remind the coaches in their conference of the importance of this issue and she encouraged the Captains to make sure the coaches in their conference sit down with their administrators and discuss the position paper with them.

Proposal 9 would establish requirements for the use of male practice players which would include: male practice players shall only be permitted to practice in the traditional segment; use is limited to one practice per week; and the number of male practice players for each team sport shall not exceed half of the student-athletes required to field a starting unit in that sport. Shannon gave the Captains an update on the National Association of Collegiate Women Athletic Administrators (NACWAA). The feedback Shannon received was not good for male practice players. The administrators feel like male practice players take away opportunities for women and they are in favor of the restrictions on male practice players. The number one priority for the WBCA is educating administrators about the benefits of male practice players in an effort to improve the women's game.

Currently we have 198 institutions in favor of the use of male practice players and 16 opposed. Please make sure to get the surveys back in to Shannon Reynolds at the WBCA.

**\*The deadline for any amendments to proposals is November 1<sup>st</sup>. We need a conference to step forward and propose an amendment-to-amendment that is less restrictive for the current Proposal 9 (re: Male Practice Players).**

\*The NCAA's response from Shannon's question on male practice players.

**Shannon's question: There are a few conferences discussing submitting an alternative proposal that would be less restrictive concerning the number of days and players allowed. Since this would be less restrictive than the original proposal I want to make sure this would be acceptable?**

NCAA response: In order for a conference to submit an amendment-to-amendment, the concept cannot expand the scope of the original proposal. So, you are correct that the less restrictive proposal would be in order in this example. Please note the November 1 deadline for the sponsor to submit the amendment-to-amendment.

Denise Bierly said her conferences' main concern of male practice players is gender equity. Players lose eligibility on the men's basketball side and count toward gender equity and that is a major concern for her school. Shannon said the question of gender equity and counting is one that even the NCAA can't give us a direct answer on. The issue of eligibility with male practice players is correct. Male practice players do have their eligibility issues in the sense of their calendar years counting. They still only have four year of eligibility. At Division I other student-athletes can't be male practice players.

**Shannon's question: I wasn't even aware that in DIII the male practice players are frequently athletes that compete in other sports. How does that affect the gender equity issue of counting?**

The NCAA's reponse: The answer varies, as does the answer from experts in the field of Title IX compliance about counting male practice players or not in any division. I have a request into the NCAA's legal counsel to get a more definitive response on the broader issue. If you get that question specifically from a school, I would advise them to have their campus legal counsel give them an opinion. Some schools are counting such men as Title IX participants and some are not. The risk would be having an institution end up in a court that determines that the men meet the OCR definition of participant and learning that they should have counted them.

Are you aware of the following D-III legislation?

**"14.1.11 Male Practice Player Eligibility. A male student who practices with a women's team is considered to be a student-athlete in that women's sport. The male student-athlete must be certified as eligible under all applicable NCAA eligibility requirements to participate (e.g., the individual must be enrolled in a minimum full-time program of studies, sign a student-athlete statement and drug-testing consent form and have eligibility remaining under the 10-semester rule). The male student-athlete is subject to all other restrictions and/or benefits as authorized by NCAA legislation. See Bylaw 14.2.4.7 for use of a season of participation."**

A question came up with track and swimming. Will they be forced to practice separately? Normally track and swim team practice at the same time. Shannon said that was a great question. Same thing happens in cross country. Golf would be another one. Shannon is going to add it to the list and get back with the Captains on this question.

**Shannon's question: If the original proposal passes how would this affect tennis, track & field, golf, etc which are sports that male/female teams practice together?**

NCAA's response: For sports that conduct dual male/female practices, the institution must determine if this dual practice is truly a legitimate practice for both the male and female teams or simply a veiled use of male student-athletes/practice players that results in lost participation opportunities for female student-athletes.

For example, if the male and female tennis teams are truly practicing together, then all student-athletes (including all female student-athletes) should actually be participating in that dual practice and not be sitting out in lieu of a male participant taking their place. Remember, the intent of this proposal is that female student-athletes are not losing opportunities to practice with their female team due to males (student-athletes or practice only players) taking their place. Therefore,

if a school is simply using a few male tennis student-athletes under the guise of a "dual practice" when in fact it's really a female tennis team practice in which these male student-athletes are being in fact male practice players to hit with a select few female tennis student-athletes while taking practice opportunities away from other female student-athletes on the tennis team, this would be contrary to both the spirit and intent of the rule.

As you would agree, in fact-specific scenarios like dual male/female practices, we cannot legislate the intent of coaches and the potential manipulation of the rule. Coaches need to recognize the spirit and intent of this proposal when conducting dual male/female practices and to ultimately do what is right--to ensure the opportunities of female student-athletes are not compromised or limited due to males practicing in their place.

VIII. Marketing Update, Division I Women's Basketball Committee, and Division I Discussion Group – Beth Bass.

Kodak has had some major woes and will not renew their sponsorship for the Kodak/WBCA All-America team after this year. The WBCA is working with a corporate sponsor that you will be pleased with and the WBCA will announce this change in sponsorship at the Convention in Cleveland.

IX. NCAA Yes Clinics and Nike's So You Want to Be A Coach Program – Betty Jaynes.

Betty asked for volunteers for the Yes Clinics in Cleveland.

- The applications for the *Nike So You Want To Be A Coach* program are available online at WBCA.org. Please think of minority student-athletes who might be interested in this program and get them nominated. Minority female student-athletes who will exhaust their final year of basketball eligibility at a four-year institution by March 30, 2007 or have graduated within the past year are eligible and should apply before January 17, 2007.
- The Betty F. Jaynes internship program is also taking applications for 6 internship positions. For more information go to WBCA.org.

X. Thank You – Nan Carney-DeBord. Call adjourned 12:55 PM ET.