

Sports Opinion

Coaches need to keep their cool

By **CHRIS CRANKSHAW**
Sports Opinion

On Valentines night, The Pioneers and The Lady Pioneers went toe to toe with the men's and women's basketball teams from Saint Catharine's College from Bardstown, Kentucky.

I have seen enough of our home games to know that we are blessed to have talented athletes representing us on the hard wood gymnasium floors game after game.

These guys and girls are tough. They are strong.

They are pushed to the limit and they give their all in the spirit of friendly competition.

That is why I feel sorry for them when coaches verbally abuse them in front of their teammates, in front of their friends, and in some cases, players are belittled in front their own families.

What ever happened to, "It doesn't matter if you win or lose, it's how you play the game?"

What life event led these coaches to think for a minute that it was acceptable to scream at fully functioning adults for missing a pass?

How can they think it's ok to act like cavemen and scream in the face they are to pee on the front lawn, not the living room carpet?

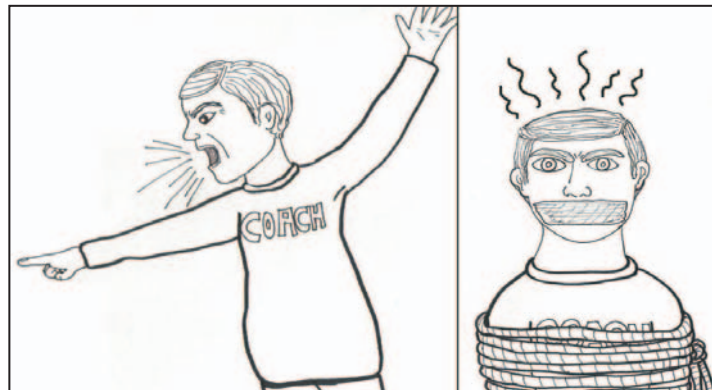


Illustration by Kristen Braden

of another human being for making a mistake?

When your child brings home a B instead of an A, can we follow these coaches' examples and scream at our children?

Will this violent act encourage our kids to study harder?

If our pet pees on our floor, can we scream mercilessly at them?

Will that help them understand that

No.

If we acted like that, the Department of Human Services would devour us and PETA would have us for dessert.

Coaches, it is not ok to scream hatefully at your athletes.

It is not ok to ridicule them while participating in the sports that they love.

You are acting like madmen.

What kind of example are you

setting in front of the children that attend these games?

I witnessed first hand on Wednesday night the worst case of coaching abuse.

The Saint Catharine's men's coach called his players names that made me cringe.

Every sort of cuss word you could imagine was hurled at these guys.

He was calling his team pussies, screaming the F-word, GD, MF, as well as a colorful assortment of F-you's.

His team was ahead. What would a panel of psychologists say about this man's behavior?

How could anybody be so mean? How could you be so cruel?

It's just a game, just a friendly little game between two junior colleges.

How could you ever justify your actions coach?

You can't.

There is no logical reason to ever treat another human being this way.

We expect our athletes to be good sports, why should we expect anything less from the leaders of these athletic organizations?

Play ball!

There should be no double standard for steroids

By **TONY JENKINS**
Sports Opinion

Baseball is usually recognized as America's pastime but the popularity of this sport has fallen behind the NFL.

This creates double standards between the two sports. None more obvious than the steroid issue.

As most people know baseball is under heavy ridicule for steroids in its past and present.

Players like Mark McGwire, Barry Bonds, and Sammy Sosa have come under heavy suspicion.

The MLB has recently stiffened their steroid policy to try and combat this problem.

They have caught some players, but no one as big as Rafael Palmeiro.

After Palmeiro was caught he was bashed and drug through the mud by most members of the media.

He was a definite Hall of Famer, but now he will not get in.

The same with Mark McGwire, who hasn't even failed a drug test.

While McGwire is left out of the Hall of Fame for suspicion, Shawne Merriman of the San Diego Chargers in the NFL, is playing in Pro Bowls and was the runner-up to the Defensive MVP this year.

Why is this a problem?

Well not only did Merriman miss four games this year, he missed them because of suspension for testing positive to steroids, the same drug that Mark McGwire has been so hastily bashed about.

Yeah, these guys in baseball are breaking monumental records and re-writing the history books, but Merriman is arguably the best and most disruptive force in the NFL.

He had 17 sacks and only played in 12 of the 16 games.

That's unheard of.

The main benefit from steroids is you gain strength.

Now if I was to compare the two sports, I'd say football would benefit more from having strength, hence, the 6'2 230 lb. linebackers that can bench-press the entire gym.

After comparing the sports, I could compare the players.

Let's look at Barry Bonds and Shawne Merriman.

Barry Bonds is arguably the best hitter in the MLB and has zero failed drug test.

He also, is arguably the most hated athlete in the US.

Some of that brought on from himself, most from steroid suspicion.

Then there's Merriman, has a failed drug test and is probably on his way to breaking some records.

He was in the pro-bowl which was voted on by fans, players, and coaches. He sounds pretty popular to me.

Why should one guy be loved for taking a drug, and the other be hated for suspicion of taking a drug.

Just because one is in the most popular sport should he get a pass?

I say no.

I guess we should start loving the guy smoking the crack and hating the guy who looks like he might be.

You should either love or hate both of them.

College Basketball Fans!



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