

TIMEOUT: Edition 19
Peter Mc Donald

End of the Game
Rich Fronheiser

Watching works

The village where I now live has a public access cable channel. So on any given evening I get the opportunity to watch village meetings, school board meetings, and local high school sporting events.

Last night I was watching a National Hockey League game on my satellite dish, and between periods I decided to switch over to the local cable to see what was on the networks. I never made it that far because there was a boys' varsity game on the public access channel. The announcers were homers all the way, blasting the officiating every time a call went against the home team. It was so over-the-top that I couldn't help but laugh. Next time I work a media-covered game I'll imagine the announcers doing the same to me.

But I wasn't watching because I wanted comedy. As somebody who has returned to officiating basketball at the varsity level after taking four seemingly long seasons off, I was more interested in seeing whether I could pick something up from the men in stripes (Note: Two of them. Wisconsin, in general, uses two-man crews in all games, from middle school through varsity and at the state tournament). Unfortunately, most of what I picked up last night occurred near the end of the game – in that last two minutes that seemed more like 20.

Here's what happened

The home team was leading by four points and had the ball in the backcourt with about 90 seconds left in the game. The visiting team was clearly trying to commit a foul and stop the clock as quickly as possible.

- One defender reached for the ball-handler's arm. No call.
- Another defender made contact from behind. Again, no call.
- A third defender came in and knocked the ball-handler to the floor. Finally, there's a whistle.

The official called traveling on the ball-handler for going down to the floor. The player said something to the official, and the official called a technical foul. After the technical was called, the visiting coach called a timeout and came out onto the floor and had a very long conversation with the official. Since there were no commercials in the telecast, the camera stayed on that conversation for its duration. The coach was permitted to stay on the floor for almost the entire

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timeout. The visiting team hit the two technical free throws but then turned the ball over on their next possession, and the home team finished the game.

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Tips for the end of the game

Reviewing the end of the game in my mind, there were a few things that stuck out that I will keep in mind the next time I go onto the court:

1. Near the end of the game, everyone in the gym is aware of a "fouling" situation. When that time comes, and a defensive player is trying to get a foul called, *call the foul*. Don't wait until the second or third foul. Don't decide that this is the time when you are going to demand a "good" foul. Unless you want physical play to escalate or want to have to assess flagrant personal or technical fouls, call the foul early.
2. On the same note, just because the foul is an intentional act doesn't mean that the foul is an intentional foul. The end-of-game practice of fouling is accepted nationwide, and individual officials should never decide to inject personal views of the rules into their games. Call the games in the manner that is accepted in your area. If nobody else is calling those intentional, neither should you. Call the fouls, shoot the bonus free throws, finish the game, and go home. If a truly intentional foul (bear hug, two hands in the small of the back, etc.) happens, call it.
3. I watched to see how much communication there was between officials near the end of the game. The officials talked after the technical foul, but I didn't notice either official approach the table at all during the last few minutes of the game. When the score is close, I like to verify the score, foul situation, time-outs remaining, and reemphasize how we will handle end-of-game verification of the score. Such a conversation can be quick and can occur after reporting a late-in-the-game timeout. Managing an end-of-game situation can help avert end-of-game disasters.
4. Keep the coaches off the floor. While the act of the coach coming out onto the floor may not have warranted a technical foul considering the circumstances, immediately walking the coach towards his bench gets him off the floor and back to his players. Once the coach is there, allow him to quickly speak his piece, and then get out of the area and back to the mandated timeout position. If the coach persists and follows you back out to the floor, then a technical may be in order.
5. The end of the game may seem like a never-ending parade to the free throw line but don't allow the players to walk slowly from one end of the floor to the other. Maintaining pace at the end of the game is difficult; one way to get some of that pace back is to get the players into free-throw position quickly. Achieving this can be as easy as you jogging into position yourself. Your own hustle can create hustle in the players.

Maintaining control near the end of a tight game can be a challenge, but it becomes less of a challenge when you communicate with your partner and the

table, call the fouls that need to be called (and don't let contact become excessive by refusing to call "desired" fouls), get the players to the free throw line quickly, and try to keep the game moving — especially during the dead ball periods.

Rich Fronheiser is a computer analyst currently living in Madison, WI. He has lived and officiated in six states (Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Louisiana, Washington, Massachusetts, Wisconsin) since 1994, working baseball, basketball, football, and softball at all levels from youth to small college, mainly high school Varsity.

HIGH SCHOOL TOP TEN

1 (1)	Eastern Commerce	-beat Western Tech 71-31 in league play
2 (2)	Henry Carr	-beat Dante Alighieri 81-54 in league play
3 (4)	Jefferys	-beat Emery 79-47, Georges Vanier 74-39, & Westview 85-74 in league play -won the Jarvis Invitational beating Beal(London) 72-36, Westview 82-58 in the semi's, and Jarvis 77-65 in the final's. Kevin Francis won the tournament MVP and Shane Morrison won a tournament all star.
4 (6)	North Albion	-beat Etobicoke 69-57 in league play
5 (3)	Oakwood	-lost to York Memorial 64-59 & #10 Milliken Mills 46-42 at the Jarvis Invitational
6 (7)	Jean Vanier	-beat Senator O'Connor 85-59 in league play
7 (8)	St. Mary (Pick)	-beat Pine Ridge 65-62 in league play
8 (5)	West Hill	-won the consolation final at the Jarvis Invitational by beating #10 Milliken Mills 67-40, lost to Westview 71-58 in the opening round and then beat Beal(London) 56-45. Roderick Ramsay was named a tournament all star.
9 (-)	Central Commerce	-beat Northern 59-42(Santana scored 32 pts) & North Toronto 86-51 in league play -won the Centennial Colts Classic by beating Laurier 67-61, Pickering 69-47 in the semi's, and Mother Teresa 74-62 in the final's. Paulo Santana scored 37 points in the final and was named tournament MVP. Iffy Ehirim was named to the tournament all star team.
10 (9)	Milliken Mills	-beat Father McGivney 62-41 & league rivals Markham 67-65 in league play

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-@ the Jarvis Invitational, lost to Jarvis 52-45, beat **#5 Oakwood** 46-42, and lost to **#8 West Hill** 67-40

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Honorable Mention:

Westview: beat Fleming 105-71 & lost to #3 Jefferys 85-74 in league play. Captured the bronze medal at the Jarvis Invitational by beating **#8 West Hill** 71-58, losing to **#3 Jefferys** 82-58, and beating York Memorial 70-45. Benjamin Boachie had a good scoring week making the 25 pts Club three times and scoring his season high 36 pts vs Fleming, also earned a tournament all star at the Jarvis Invitational.

Mother Teresa: lost in the final of the Centennial Colts Classic to #9 Central Commerce 74-62, beat McGivney 70-42 and Vaughan 65-47 in the semi's.

Jemino Sobers and Jerome Stephenson were named to the tournament all star team.

Jarvis: At the Jarvis Invitational beat **#10 Milliken Mills** 52-45, & York Memorial 73-72 in overtime, and lost to **#3 Jefferys** 77-65 in the final's.

d'Youville:

Nelson:

Father Goetz: beat St. Martin & Loyola 85-72 in league play

Pickering: captured the bronze at the Centennial Colts Classic by beating St. Mike's 55-47, losing to **#9 Central Commerce** 69-47, and beating Vaughan 63-45. **Jerome Forde** earned a tournament all star.

York Memorial: beat Runnymede 60-48 in league play. At the Jarvis Invitational beat #5 Oakwood 64-59, lost to Jarvis 73-72 in overtime, and lost to Westview 70-45.

Northern: lost to **#9 Central Commerce** 59-42

Etobicoke: lost to **#4 North Albion** 69-57 in league play

Newtonbrook: beat Victorial Park 78-47 & Mackenzie in league play. Not confirmed, but they could be undefeated in the Toronto North league. Won the Y2K Invitational by beating Earl Haig & Danforth in the final's

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Site of the Week

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