

**Washington Interscholastic Basketball Coaches' Association**  
**WIBCA**  
**Established 1982**

**An early history of the organization**  
**1960 to 1982**

The WSBBCA(Washington State Basketball Coaches' Association) was the official BB organization of coaches, as it existed within the WSCA(Washington Coaches' Association, the umbrella organization for all interscholastic coaches in the state of Washington. Their official meeting came during the summer coaches' clinic, in conjunction with the football clinic and eventual football all-star game. The football coaches, led by the dynamic Jim Ennis and others of his cohort, were well organized from the beginning. They dominated the positions of power and influence. They had a vast number of official members as compared to any other sport. As with all politics, they held power closely and established solid working relationships with the WIAA and its executive members. Football was the dominant force, without doubt. BB coaches would need to organize and act, if they were ever to make headway in their quest for relevance and inclusion. Complaining and blaming would get us nowhere. Action was needed if we were to catch up to the work of the FB coaches group.

The WSBBCA, with a single page of organization information, never held any positions of power within the WSCA. But a few BB coaches in the Puget Sound region, including Ed Peple, wanted to start an all-star game in the summer. WSCA and WIAA gave them permission and they started the City vs. State game in 1975, with a second game added in the summer of 1979. The WSBBCA was not a statewide, functioning organization, nor did they involve themselves more with WSCA. They originally had officers, but that system broke down. By 1980, a committee of about 4 to 5 coaches got together in someone's living room and selected the teams. Jerry Groenig,(East Valley) organized the Eastern Washington game including practice time and the use of YVC dormitories and dining hall in Yakima. In 1981 the first game was in Yakima, with 2 days of practice at YVC, followed by travel to Western Washington U. where the second game was played. The problem was that the series lost money; nearly \$2000.00 was the deficit. Being the umbrella organization, WSCA took on the debt, but not happily. The relationship between the basketball and football coaches had never been saltier.

### **1982 forward**

All-Star games for 1982 would not continue if we could not raise the money or get permission from the WSCA. We had about 10 months to fix this. Ed Pepple and I began communicating over the phone and then met at his MI home. As he would say, I was a fresh face to WIAA and WSCA, with no baggage and a good speaking skills. Ed was willing to lend his reputation and influence to our endeavors, ensuring some people would show up and participate. Ed had no interest in serving as president, or in going to WSCA or WIAA to press our case. He stood up to lead discussions and proposals. His exuberance for our efforts was incredibly important to our success.

In creating a charter, or by laws, We were most interested in ensuring that a larger number of coaches would be involved and that the offices would turn over regularly to create more inclusion and more interest. Regarding the only real money maker that we had, the All-Star games, we wanted involvement from all areas of the state, even if the most populated areas would also have the most talent and the most participants. Those were important goals. Beyond that, We wanted our new organization to have representation at WSCA and WIAA. It was also mandatory that we have a method for surveying state coaches regarding recommendations for both of those groups.

We needed a new and recognizable name for our organization. I thought we would be better with an acronym that could be spoken as a word rather than spelled out each time. I had little luck using the WSBBCA letters. I needed another vowel. The Honor Society charter was in front of me, as was the WIAA handbook. Interscholastic was right there. It also felt right to include the concept of scholastic activity in conjunction with athletics. I am a big proponent of the term, co-curricular activities and athletics rather than extra-curricular. All phases of our school lessons and activities are part of the whole. None are extra. WIBCA was born.

We gathered a group together to be our founding board. I worked with Cliff Gillies, Exec. Director of the WIAA to have meeting room time for us on a Sunday. We were proposing a President, Kirk Stiltner and 2 VPs, Ed Pepple and Charlie Cobb. Ed would drop out, pre-planned, after the first 6 months. Mark Baier was put forward as Sec./Treas. Larry Walker would be the chairman of the Hall of Fame. All were unanimous votes. Other appointed exec. members included Jim Harney, Don Huston, Marty O'Brien, Mike Mullen, Wayne Gilman, Bob Ross, Mark Baier, Ron Brown, Lyle Patterson, Al Hairston, and Dave Denny. It was our new representative body, with the support of the WIAA. Every clause of the charter was voted in unanimously. We assigned duties and discussed the beginning to our work.

## The Original Executive Board

First President: Kirk Stiltner, Head BB Coach, Toppenish 1977-83  
Evergreen 1983-88

First VP's: Ed Pepple and Charlie Cobb.

First Sec./Treas.: Mark Baier

Original Executive Director of the All Star series: Kirk Stiltner 6 years

Standing Committees:

- Hall of Fame selection, dinner and inductions: Larry Walker
- Coach of the Year selection: Don Huston
- All-Star Selection: Charlie Cobb
- Liaison to the NHSCA: Kirk Stiltner and each Pres. to follow
- Liaison to the WSCA and WIAA: Kirk Stiltner and each Pres. to follow
- A WIBCA rep on the Executive Board of WSCA:  
Kirk Stiltner 1983-85 (Second VP Terry Ennis 1983-85). Via WSCA by-laws, one of the two VPs is elected as President for 2 years by the WSCA membership. Terry Ennis was elected in 1985.

My next task was to meet with the WSCA board to ask for a new loan \$1500 This was a tricky one. Cliff Gillies spoke to our group before we left that day. We gave him a full report on what we had just done and what we hoped to do in the future. He was both receptive and supportive. He provided insight to me for preparing for my meeting, as did Mike Mullen. His father in law was Jim Ennis and nobody wielded more influence in the WSCA or WIAA than Jim. Mike provided insight in how to approach Jim, what to expect, and when to trust or not. We agreed to each of the terms the WSCA proposed. Jim Ennis knew that Cliff supported our efforts. We got the loan. Further, we found sponsors and sold extra ads in the game program. Our crowds in Yakima and MI were both good. At their next meeting, we surprised the FB guys with a check covering the entire amount owed!

Over the next 4 years, we continued to be profitable. Marty O'Brien and Bill Kelly came up with a plan to have an A vs. B game. They promised to turn a profit or write their own checks to cover any shortfalls. Of course they were successful! It was a great atmosphere!

Larry Walker had an immediate impact on improving our hall of fame. The process of nominating and selecting players for the city vs. state games was well received. There was no longer any excuse for not providing input, no matter where you coached. Andy Russo at the UW approached Pepple and me

about partnering with us in an all star camp at the UW. It was yet another successful way for us to get the best players together in one camp and we received a set amount for each player who attended.

Working with the FB coaches and their dominance of WSCA was not easy, but I enjoyed it. Some great stories were told and friendships made. Our coaching fraternity is made up of some incredibly motivated and talented people. It seems a natural rivalry, not always fun, but natural. We made little progress, however, in getting official support for any of our requests for change. My understanding is that much is the same today.

These were most of the hot topic issues of the late 70's and into the 80's.

1. The All Star selection process and the ability to retrieve it from bankruptcy.
2. Finding a path to shared power with FB coaches within the WSCA
3. Finding a path to the decisions process as regards the WIAA board
4. A working and worthy BB hall of fame.
5. A return to 16 team tournaments for all classifications
6. An increase in the number of games allowed in the season.
7. Creating an active and large assoc. to provide us with more influence.

These memories have brought a great smile to my face. When I left coaching to be an administrator, I had no idea that 40 years could pass so quickly. I finished my coaching career in 1988. We established WIBCA in 1982, 44 years ago. I coached just 15 years, 11 as a head coach. Later, I was the AD at Arlington HS. My best friends are coaches, of course, Mark Baier and Dave Denny. When I was a new coach, meeting and hearing the thoughts of men like Jim Harney, Bob Ross, Brad Jackson, Mike Mullen, Ron Brown, Marty O'Brien, Denny Humphrey, Don Huston, and others was informative and inspiring. George Raveling, WSU, changed the course of my career with his influence on extreme organization and continuous learning. George Potter, FB coach at Sunnyside, was a real mentor whose support was treasured. In the final evaluation, it was always the players, students and coaches I worked with who provided my motivation. Their hard work and willingness to suspend disbelief in the possible, made success, itself, possible. Several have far surpassed my endeavors in coaching, as I watched from afar and across the space of time: Rock Winters, Andy Affholter Jr., Randy Affholter, Steve Graff, and one, whom I consider to be the best teacher I ever hired, excelled in the classroom and on the court, Nick Brown, Arlington. I will never forget their enthusiasm and their effort. Our profession is a calling and a privilege. WIBCA today, provides professional support. Join, serve and succeed.

Who can ask more of a man? Than giving all within his span.  
Giving all, it seems to me, is not so far from victory! -GJ Moriarty