

Sports News

June 2009— Newsletter of the Utah Salt Lake City Area Sports

WORDS OF A PROPHET

“I was talking to a young man who is going to be baptized next month, the only member of his family to be baptized, and I said, ‘What caused you to be interested in the Church?’

“And he replied, ‘The young man I was associating with in school was a member of your church, and the way he lived interested me. He was different from the rest of the boys. He was happy, and he invited me to his home; and when I saw the love in that home and how that family lived, I was more interested. He took me to church, and then I joined the ball team, and I found in that church a different feeling that I had found any other place. Then that ball team, those fine fellows all keeping the Word of Wisdom and living good clean lives, impressed me, and I determined that I would join the Church.’” *President N. Eldon Tanner of the First Presidency, Ensign, July 1972, p. 100*

BASKETBALL IN JUNE?

Ah, summer...that wonderful time when thoughts turn to outdoor activities like river rafting and baseball, soccer games and summer camps. And of course basketball. Basketball?

It's true—Winter's favorite sport has two great events in the summer:

1. **“Three-on-three” Basketball Tournaments.** This is a great time for wards and stakes to host a “three-on-three” basketball tournament for youth and adults.
2. **Basketball Officials Camp,** June 24-27 at the University of Utah for all Church, County and City Recreation, and High School officials, (see the accompanying June **Next Up** for specific details).

You should know, by the way, that this is not your run-of-the-mill Officials Camp. It is the keystone event of the year for those who love the sport and who want to improve their officiating skills. This will have a direct

impact on good sportsmanship and the success of the program in your area. To get a feel for what to expect, we posed a number of questions to Kae Strong, Area Officials Coordinator. Here are her responses:

1. **Why hold a basketball camp in June?** For people that are involved with student athletes this is an easy question. Almost all player/team camps are held in June before the Utah High School Activities Association moratorium goes into effect for the summer months. For officials of those sports this is also the best opportunity for training. The Church sponsored basketball officials camp is held in conjunction with the University of Utah girl's high school team camp and includes teams from all around the intermountain states.
2. **Does it really take three days to teach officials how to officiate basketball?** Yes, and much, much more. Professional officials on the high school level are required to attend one camp every three years; on a collegiate level it is at least one every year. The best officials in any sport are those who continue to study and improve their skills.
3. **Why involve High School officials?** It's a great refresher for the high school officials and it allows us to pair Church officials with these more experienced pros who teach our officials using several methods: *Example*—by having a more experienced official on the floor with a less experienced one, we create situations where the church and rec. official can see the mechanics, confidence and movement of the professional; *Teaching*—when a high school official is asked to explain what he/she is doing and why, it reaffirms the purposes and procedures that he/she is asked to perform on a high school floor; *Game control*—so much of officiating is a mind set of having enough confidence in oneself to gain the trust of players, coaches and fans. When we encourage church officials to raise themselves to the level of professional officials, they gain that kind of trust in themselves which leads to better game control.

4. **Who should attend?** We encourage anyone who is involved with the basketball program in their Ward, Stake or Region to participate in any or all of the camp. There will be a special class on Thursday, June 25 at 7:00 pm. in the Huntsman Center, Crimson Room that will focus exclusively on the Church Sports program that everyone in Church sports should attend.
5. **How much “hands on”, how much classroom?** There are nine sessions or periods in which games will be played, and officials will be scheduled to officiate. Floor time will be assigned according to a pre-registration form that needs to be completed and returned to Kae Strong at kaestrong@hotmail.com. Church officials will be paired with a high school official whenever possible. There will be an evaluator on every game to assist the officials and give input and suggestions.
6. **What classes will be taught?** The purpose of the Church Sports Program; game control; the common foul; the block/charge; 2-man mechanics; advantage/disadvantage; establishing position, illegal use of the hands; traveling and the jump stop; common, technical, flagrant and intentional fouls; dealing with coaches, etc.
7. **What if too many people sign-up?** The University of Utah runs games on seven floors every hour except lunch and dinner. They will allow us to cover any or all of those floors. That is fourteen officials every hour for ten hours a day. We have plenty of capacity.
8. **Is it going to be fun?** If you like basketball and enjoy physical activity, then it is a whole lot of fun. Where else can you get a chance to officiate a high school level game on the floor of the Huntsman Center? It’s very exciting for our officials.
9. **Is there a cost? What do I need to bring?** There is **no cost** for this Church sponsored camp. All of the evaluators and instructors are volunteers. A small lunch and dinner will be provided by the University of Utah to campers. Drinks and snacks in-between will need to be provided by the individual.
10. **What do I receive when I attend the camp?** In addition to the great instruction and hands-on opportunities on the floor, each camper will receive a Camp Shirt and an Officiating Resource binder. Additionally, you can purchase whistles shirts, lanyards and rule books.
11. **How does the camp improve spirituality?** When those who have been given stewardship over a program consecrate their efforts to the Lord and run the program to the best of their ability, the Lord blesses it and sanctifies it for the good of those who participate in it. (2 Nephi 32:9) This camp is intended to assist those individuals in the Church Sports Program with their callings
12. **Anything you’d like to add?** A special appeal—there are countless people in our valley who officiate Church basketball. Some do it because they love it. Others do it because it is a calling. Some do it in order to play the next game. For those who want their basketball program to succeed I would say, “Come and let’s make it a good program.” For those who have accepted officiating as a calling, I would admonish you to come and let us help you excel in that calling. For those who say they know everything there is to know, I would say that there is never “enough” knowledge to be gained in the Lord’s Kingdom.
13. **For questions and answers** contact Ray Shepherd at 801-680-4535; Kae Strong at 801-568-853 kaestrong@hotmail.com; or Wayne Oberg 801-254-7816 obergfamily@netzero.net.
Summer! The perfect time for basketball! We hope to see you there!

REQUEST FOR STORIES

We’d like to feature stories from our valley of individuals who have had their interest in the Church piqued because of the Church Sports program. This might include those who are (or were) not members of the Church who ended up talking with the missionaries at least in part because of Church Sports. It also includes less active individuals who found Church Sports to be a bridge back to activity. We’d also like to hear from the hundreds of thousands of you who have always been active who enjoy Church Sports and use it as a way to fellowship with others in your ward, stake and neighborhood.

Send us your story or thoughts by sending an e-mail to Jerry Borrowman at jerry.borrowman@gmail.com

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