NA FALL BALL 2018 WEEK #10 RECAP

ACCORDING TO FENNIS DEMBO

Week #10 is our last weekly review. The Critically acclaimed THE GOOD, THE BAD, THE UGLY season recap will come out in week #11. Monday night we held one of the most entertaining ELITE 8 Nights on record. The first three games went down to the wire and one went to double OT. The 4th game was also closer than the final score indicates. At the end of Monday night our final four was set: #5 North Andover v #8 Lawrence and #2 Lowell v #11 Malden Catholic. MC with their first final 4 in their first year being in the league. Lowell 3rd Final Four, Lawrence with their 6th Final Four and NA with their 5th final four and their third straight. Final 4 night was Tuesday with a packed crowd to see the semi-finals. Lowell was just too good this fall as they win their first NA FALL BALL Title. Let us now get to Beans game recaps.

2018 TJ MCEVOY MEMORIAL CUP CHAMPIONS: LOWELL RED RAIDERS
In what would grab my vote for game of the year, North Andover and Billerica gave us a Fall Ball classic. These two teams battled from start to finish in one of the most entertaining, high energy games of the year. Ryan Murphy got things rolling for the Indians as he scored their first 12 points, than Mason Hunt added the next 7 as the “visitors” grabbed a 19-12 lead with eight minutes left in the first half. After a timeout, the Knights came right back to cut their deficit to two (25-23), with three minutes until halftime. Just twelve minutes in, I declared this game a BARN BURNER. The Billerica lead stayed the same at halftime, 28-26. Murphy led the Indians with 15 first half points while Kyle Moore had nine for the Knights. At the beginning of the second half, North Andover came out and threw the first punch, highlighted by their defense, to take a 36-31 lead with 8:00 to play. The game just got more physical, and with 3:53 to play the Knights had a 46-40 lead. At that stoppage, there was an NA shooting foul, and during that time, a technical foul was assessed to North Andover, giving Billerica four foul shots. Hunt knocked down all four to make it a one possession game (46-44). After a stop, Hunt got the ball at the top of the key and drove the lane for a layup to tie the game at 46. Garrett Murphy came right back for NA and converted an old fashioned three point play to give the Knights a 49-46 lead with 2:30 to play. Back and forth the teams went as a Michael Stack three tied the game, followed by
a Kyle Moore three to give the Knights the 52-49 lead with under two minutes to play. After another trading of layups, Hunt drove and scored again to cut Billerica’s deficit to one, 54-53, with a minute to go. With 30 seconds to go, North Andover’s Brett Dunham was fouled. The sophomore calmly knocked both free throws down to give NA a three point lead. On the next Billerica possession, Ankeet Patel got open in the corner and knocked down a three to tie the game. Matt Kutz missed a layup attempt at the end to try and win it for the Knights.

In overtime, Jake Loftin and Garrett Murphy traded layups to keep it tied. Loftin came right back and nailed a jumper to give the Indians a 60-58 lead with 1:15 to play. After a stop, Billerica’s Aidan Deady was fouled, he missed both at the line, keeping it a one possession game. The Knights came down and found the big man Murphy who tied the game at 60 with a layup. Patel missed a deep three at the buzzer and the game moved to a second overtime.

Billerica won the tap and held the ball looking for the best possible shot. Loftin missed a layup with 22 seconds left and NA had the ball, Kellan Murphy found a little space at the top of the key and nailed a three pointer with 11 seconds to play. NA tightened up the defense on the final possession as a Ryan Murphy three was off the mark for Billerica and North Andover advanced to the Final Four. Murphy (13 rebounds) and Hunt (8 rebounds) each led Billerica with 20 points, as no other player for the team had more than five. G. Murphy (8 rebounds) and Moore (six rebounds, four assists) led North Andover with 21 apiece, and K. Murphy added nine, all by the way of the long ball.

#2 Lowell 76, #10 Wachusett 70

Lowell looked to grab some revenge on the Mountaineers, who bounced the Red Raiders out of the Elite 8 in last year’s tournament. They came out fast and aggressive, grabbing a 10-8 lead in the first five minutes of the game. The next five minutes were all Wachusett as their defense stiffened, allowing them transition opportunities. With five minutes to play in the first half, the Mountaineers led 21-17. Devon Okogwu got Lowell the lead back as he hit three straight three-pointers in the next minute to give his team a 26-21 advantage. Lowell kept going from there as they picked up the defensive energy and got out in transition for some easy opportunities. A 21-2 run gave the Red Raiders a 38-23 lead at the break. Lowell tried to run away with the game at the start of the second half, but Wachusett would not allow it. The Mountaineers just continued to chip away at their deficit and eventually cut it to a six point game (60-54) with six minutes to play. Lowell got very stagnant on offense, forcing bad shots and not attacking. With 3:30 to play, a Hunter Johnson layup tied the game at 60 for Wachusett. After a Lowell three and Wachusett bucket, Sam Dion drove the lane and scored to give Wachusett their first lead in 17 minutes, 64-63, with two minutes to play. A minute later, Johnson tipped in a missed layup to tie the game at 68. On the ensuing possession, Nate Siow got the hoop and the harm, he missed the free throw to give Lowell back the lead, 70-68. After a missed shot from Wachusett, Otto Okonoboh was fouled and converted both at the line to make it 72-68 game.
After a Mountaineer bucket with 17 seconds left, **Nate Siow** was fouled. He made both at the line to ice the game, 74-70. Lowell held on to move on to championship night. Siow (six assists) and **Carlos Nunez** both led Lowell with 18 points. Okogwu followed up with 14 points, nine rebounds, and five assists for the Red Raiders. **Rashawn Settles** dropped a three for Lowell and Okonoboh added eight points and eight boards. For Wachusett, **Sam Dion** led with 25 points, six assists, and four rebounds. Johnson dropped in 22 on 9-10 shooting and grabbed eight boards and **Joey Nuttall** added 10 points, six rebounds, and four assists.

#8 Lawrence 62, #1 St. John’s Prep 59

For the second year in a row, the number one seeded Prep failed to make the Final Four, this time thanks to a gritty, tough Lawrence squad. This game was fast from the tip as both teams wanted to get up and down the court. Neither team could get away from each other as this physical, energetic game was tied a 20 with six minutes to play in the first half. Lawrence ended up grabbing the edge at the break thanks to some aggressive defense, they led 29-26. Thanks to multiple offensive rebounds, Lawrence came out and increased their lead to seven (33-26) in the first minute of the second half. The Prep worked their way back though as they grabbed a 41-39 lead with 10:00 to play. After a 6-0 Lancer spurt, **Will Batchelder** hit back to back threes to give St. John’s a 47-45 advantage with 7:15 to play. Lawrence came right back with a 7-0 run thanks to some Prep turnovers to grab the lead back, 52-47. With 2:00 to play, Lawrence held a 60-54 lead, looking to put the game away. **Liam Dunphee** was not having any of that as he converted two quick layups to cut the Eagles deficit to two, 60-58. With less than a minute to go, **Gabriel Zorilla** was fouled, he missed the front end of a one-and-one, giving the Prep the ball. After a rebound, Lawrence called timeout with: 28 seconds left. One problem, they did not have any left (I know some of you immediately thought of Chris Webber circa 1993). The technical foul was assessed and Batchelder made one of two at the line, making it a 60-59 game. With the ball, the Prep looked to take the lead. Batchelder missed a three with six seconds left, **Brandon Goris** secured the rebound for Lawrence and got fouled. He made both with: 01.5 seconds left to give the Lancers a 62-59 lead. Another missed three from St. John’s at the buzzer gave Lawrence the win. Once again **Brian Martir** led the Lancers with 19 points, seven assists, and six rebounds. Goris dropped 18 points and grabbed eight boards, while Zorilla had a near double-double with 15 points and nine rebounds. For St. John’s Prep, Dunphee led with 19 points and seven rebounds. Batchelder scored 15, **Christian Plourde** added 11 and seven rebounds. **Jarnel Snow-Guzman** rounded out the double-digit scoring with 10 points.

#11 Malden Catholic 69, #3 Westford 53

Malden Catholic came out on fire as they grabbed a quick 12-3 lead in the first three minutes against Westford. Westford got rid of that big deficit quickly as they went on a run to make it a 21-16 game and cut their deficit to five. However, they would not get any closer as Malden Catholic used tough defense to extend their lead at halftime, 38-26. The Lancers scored four
quick points to grab a 16 point and hopefully put the game away. Adam Scaramuzzo came right back for Westford and nailed back to back threes to make it a 42-32 game. However, Westford’s offense would disappear for the next few minutes as Malden Catholic quickly increased their lead to 18, 54-36. The Lancers did a good job not allowing their lead to get under double digits and with three minutes to play they had a 64-46 lead, punching their ticket to the Final Four. Kendrick Jean Francois paced the Lancers with 17 points, nine rebounds, and four assists. Jonathan Ore played his best game of the fall as he scored 15 points. Tony Felder Chatman added 13 points and six assists. In his final Fall Ball game, Scaramuzzo led the Grey Ghosts with 19 points, five rebounds, and four assists. Declan Morse and Jake Barisano (seven rebounds) each added 10 points for Westford.

Championship Night
Semifinals
#2 Lowell 76, #11 Malden Catholic 62
Lowell started off the game on fire from deep as they hit five threes in the first five minutes to help them grab a 19-12 lead. From there the Red Raider full court pressure forced multiple Malden Catholic turnovers, allowing easy transition opportunities for themselves. With two minutes left in the half, Lowell had a convincing 39-23 lead. Reluctant to take their foot off the gas, the Red Raiders went on a quick 8-0 run to close out the half with a 47-23 lead. At the beginning of the second half, Lowell kept up the pressure, trying to put the game away as early as possible. They succeeded as their got up to as many as 28, 59-31, with ten minutes to play. With the starters out, the Lancers tried to chip away, but their deficit was too much as Lowell cruised to the win and a spot in the finals. Malden Catholic committed 20 turnovers in the loss, and shot just 33% from the field in the game. Jonathan Ore led MC with 17 points, Tony Felder Chatman followed up with 12, and Kendrick Jean Francois scored nine points and grabbed five rebounds. For Lowell, Carlos Nunez led with 20 points, Jaceb McKenzie added 11, and Nate Siow scored ten points and had five assists.

#8 Lawrence 46, #5 North Andover 44
The Knights did not look ready to play on Championship night as Lawrence came out and completely blitzed them. In the first six minutes the Lancers grabbed an 18-3 lead, forcing an uphill climb from North Andover. Kellan Murphy helped ease the pain with two quick threes to make it an 18-9 game with eight minutes to play in the first half. The Knights began to dig in defensively and chip away. With 5:00 to go in the first half they trailed 19-15. At the break Lawrence held a seven point lead, 23-16. North Andover could not get any closer to begin the half as the two teams traded baskets for the first five minutes. With ten minutes to play the Lawrence lead was 34-27. Over the next few minutes North Andover kept chipping away at the deficit and finally, with six minutes to go, a Garrett Murphy layup tied the game at 37. The two teams continued to go back and forth as neither would have more than a one possession lead for
the rest of the game. With one minute to play, Lawrence led 43-42. Buckle up for a crazy last minute. **Brett Dunham** was fouled with 46 seconds left, he made both at the line for the 44-43 NA lead. On the ensuing Lawrence possession, **Brandon Goris** nailed a three from the corner to give the lead back to the Lancers, 46-44, with 30 seconds left. 15 seconds later, Goris stole the ball and dished it off to **Brian Martir**, who was fouled with 15 seconds to play. Martir missed the front end of a one-and-one. As he was bringing the ball up, **Kyle Moore** was called for an offensive foul, giving the Lancers the ball with six seconds left. On the inbounds pass, Goris stepped backcourt, giving the ball back to the Knights with five seconds to play. Dunham raced the ball up court, but his cross court pass was picked off by Martir as Lawrence held on to move to the championship game. Martir was everywhere for Lawrence as he had 16 points, eight rebounds, eight assists, and four steals. Goris followed up with 14 points and three steals. Murphy was a beast for the Knights as he scored 19 points and collected 17 rebounds. Moore added eight points and nine rebounds and **Mikey Gorgoni** scored seven points and amassed four assists.

**Championship Game**

**#2 Lowell 75, #8 Lawrence 46**

A big second half spurt from Lowell put the game away as the Red Raiders coasted to their first Fall Ball championship in their five year history of the league. Both teams featured their usual aggressive, up and down style in the beginning of the game as Lowell had a 25-20 lead with six minutes to play in the first half. Lawrence was able to keep up with Lowell thanks to the aggressive play of **Brandon Goris**, who scored nine straight Lancer points to make it a 32-29, Lowell lead with two minutes left in the first. Like they have done so well this season, Lowell closed out the first half on an 8-0 run, taking a 40-29 lead at the half. Lawrence needed to make a push right away to get back in the game, but the Red Raiders would have none of that as they outscored the Lancers 24-7 in the first seven minutes of the second half to take a 64-36 lead with eight minutes to play, putting the game away early. Lawrence showed their fatigue from the first semifinal but Lowell looked like they could play all night as they coasted to the championship. The Red Raiders shot 54% for the game and forced 18 Lawrence turnovers. **Nate Siow** led the way for Lowell with 16 points, six assists, and three steals. **Rashawn Settles** scored 12 points. **Devon Okogwu** and MVP finalist **Carlos Nunez** each added 11 for the Champions. Goris led Lawrence with 20 points. **Brian Martir**, who was named 2018 NA Fall Ball Pat Connaughton MVP, finished with nine for the Lancers.

Congratulations to both teams for a great fall season!
THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE UGLY SEASON RECAP

The critically acclaimed season recap will be out the **Wednesday before Thanksgiving**. We will recap the whole 2018 season as well as present our lengthy paper awards. We will also have the final rant of the season. Look for it on the website [www.fallballna.com](http://www.fallballna.com)

**Week 10 RESULTS**

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**TEAM OF THE WEEK:** Nominees are North Andover, Lawrence, and Lowell. All three teams had terrific weeks but we are going with the **Lowell Red Raiders:** They were up big on Wachusett (15) in elite 8 and held on after a huge Wachusett run. In the semi-finals and finals the Red Raiders dominated winning their first Fall Ball Title. Congrats Lowell

![Lowell Red Raiders](image)

**GAME OF THE WEEK:** Nominees are: NA v BILLERICA, LAWRENCE v SJP, LOWELL v WACHUSETT, NA v LAWRENCE. All 4 games were very good but we are going with the double OT Barn Burner in the Elite 8 between **North Andover v Billerica.** This game came within seconds of being our first ever sudden death playoff game. **Congrats NA and Billerica**

![North Andover Scarlet Knights](image) ![Billerica Memorial High School](image)
DO YOUR JOB WINNER WEEK #10: Nominees are: BRETT DUNHAM -NA, DEVON OKOGWU-LOWELL, CHRISTIAN PLOURDE-SJP, GABE ZORILLA -LAWRENCE, CHRISTIAN RIOS-MC, BRANDON GORIS-LAWRENCE. This week we are honoring a kid that had his best games in the playoffs where he was terrific. He always has done everything asked of him by the Lawrence staff but this week in the elite 8, semi’s and finals he was counted on to score a lot more. Congrats BRANDON GORIS

WEEK #10 PLAYER OF THE WEEK: Nominees: SAM DION-WACHUSETT, GARRETT MURPHY-NA, KYLE MOORE-NA, NATE SILOW-LOWELL, CARLOS NUNEZ-LOWELL, BRIAN MARTIR -LAWRENCE, BRANDON GORIS -LAWRENCE. This was a great week for individual performances as all the nominees had great games on the big playoff stage. Our last Player of the Week will be co-winners. BIG GARRETT MURPHY was a beast in two games and CARLOS NUNEZ was very good in all three games. Congrats GARRETT and CARLOS

North Andover - Garret Murphy   Lowell - Carlos Nunez
**PAST PLAYERS OF THE WEEK**

WEEK #1 - KYLE MOORE - NA

WEEK #2 - CARLOS NUNEZ - LOWELL

WEEK #3 - NATE SIOW - LOWELL/GARRETT MURPHY - NA

WEEK #4 - KENDRICK JEAN FRANCOIS - MC / BRIAN MARTIR - LAWRENCE

WEEK #5 - JARNEL SNOW - GUZMAN - SJP

WEEK #6 - GARRETT MURPHY - NA/ DEREK CROWLEY - PELHAM

WEEK #7 - SEAN CULHANE - BURLINGTON

WEEK #8 - JARNEL SNOW - GUZMAN - SJP

WEEK #9 - SAM DION - WACHUSETT

WEEK #10 - GARRET MURPHY - NA, CARLOS NUNEZ - LOWELL

**UNDERCLASSMEN OF THE WEEK #10:** Nominees: WILL BACHELDEN - SJP, BRETT DUNHAM - NA, MASON HUNT - BILLERICA, TONY FELDER - MC. As we have said repeatedly we have some great frosh/sophs in this league. I am really going to love watching these youngins develop. Our final Underclassmen of the week goes to WILL BACHELDEN - SJP and TONY FELDER - MC
ZEBRAS THIS WEEK: MAMADOU BA, KEVIN BOUTILIER, SCOTT ALMEIDA, KENNY PIGEON, RICH NAPOLITANO, JULIEN SCOTT, BRIAN SCHAFENBIL

KEV BOUTILIER was a 1000 pt/1000 rebound player at PSU

COLLEGES IN THE BARN: ANNA MARIA, EMMANUEL, ST. JOSEPH’S, PINE MANOR

WE FINISH THE REGULAR SEASON WITH 35 DIFFERENT COLLEGES IN THE BARN THIS YEAR

thank you for your continued support of New England’s premier Varsity FALL BALL league

WEEK #10 TOP 5 PET PEEVES: Every week we highlight our pet peeves. Yes we are perfectionists so we expect the game to be played the right way. Effort mistakes are tolerable but many of these throughout the fall will give true basketball junkies angina
5. **HAVING PHONE IN LAY-UP LINES:** I have never seen anything like it in my life and we will not embarrass the young man but he felt it was necessary during layup lines. This takes the new accessorizing issue to a whole new level

4. **RECOGNIZING PERSONNEL:** We are ten weeks in now and it still is concerning that guys do not recognize personnel. It’s not hard to recognize who can shoot the ball etc. Players need to become better observers of the game. If you are on the bench study tendencies. It’s not rocket science. **PAY ATTENTION**

3. **PLAYERS WHO CAN’T BALL SO THEY TRY TO DO CHEAP STUFF:** Luckily we only have a couple of guys that fit this bill and luckily we don’t tolerate it here at fall ball. How about this idea, become a better player because your skill set doesn’t correlate to high school hoops and your name and reputation is everything

2. **UNWILLINGNESS TO TAKE A CHARGE:** This week it was great to see a number of guys step into take a charge and equally frustrating to see guys that flat out won’t take a charge. I don’t want to hear about size either way cause we have guys that need a rock in their pocket on windy days so don’t blow away that sacrifice their bodies and then I see guys who are big, strong with a lot of padding fearful of taking a charge. It’s a mindset. **TAKE A CHARGE, HELP YOUR TEAM WIN**

1. **NO BOX OUTS ON FREE THROWS:** In crunch time this week we saw a number of offensive rebounds on ft misses. First we got guys unwilling to box out then we got guys that just flat out lose focus then we have the guys that just try to reach for the ball who end up getting out rebounded and out toughed. Get back to basics boys. We need to do some gladiator rebounding drills for a few guys

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**The League PLAYER of the YEAR:** We started with 11 and after week 8 we narrowed it down to 5 for the start of playoffs.

![MVP](image)

Here are the final 5 and the voting results. All 5 of these guys are going to be huge this winter
BRIAN MARTIR - LAWRENCE - 21 VOTES
JOEY NUTTALL - WACHUSETT - 12 VOTES
GARRET MURPHY - NA - 14 VOTES
CARLOS NUNEZ - LOWELL - 8 VOTES
JARNEL SNOW GUZMAN - SJP - 20 VOTES

This year's voting was very close. We congratulate the 2018 Pat Connaughton MVP winner BRIAN MARTIR of the LAWRENCE LANCERS.

FACES IN THE CROWD IN WEEK #10:

Former NA Legend Mike McVeigh, Jim Testa Builders, Lawrence Carlos Nunez, Women of NA, Johnny Bag o Donuts, The Kutz clan, Coach Morin, Coach Mastrullo, Coach Tanglis, Mr. Tanglis Sr. The Billerica Murphys, The Billerica Parents Assn, Coach Bobby with the girls and without the girls, The Nunez, The Dions, Mrs. Nuttall, Nurse Mcdonald and family, John Dullea, Jimmy Z, the entire Lawrence coaching staff and family, Coach Tejada, Angry SJP Mom, Mr. Batchelder, Jim McCune, Joe Maiela, Chris Bramanti, John Warden, Marc Cornelius, The Morse parents, Mr. Jean Francois, Ms. Felder, CC Xavier McKenzie, Justin Nieves and the overcoat, Mrs Moose, Lawrence teachers, NABC Travel coaches, Kenny Perez and his father, The NA Knights football squad. YC Youth Council staring through the glass, Kevin Murphy the Builder,
Former NA Coach Mike McVeigh was a face in the crowd

FASHION OF THE WEEK #10:

Ms. Felder boots, Justin Nieves overcoat, a few nice suits, sweater look on a few moms, all were very strong statements but this week we are going with Lowell volunteer coach Kevin who in honor of veterans day and the 100 year anniversary of the end of WW1 found a pair of pants from 1918. We salute you COACH KEVIN and your tribute to WW1 vets

COACH KEVIN & HIS SALUTE TO WW1 ANNIVERSARY
POWER RANKINGS WEEK #10. YOU HAVE TO BRING IT EACH WEEK, NO EXCUSES. YOU WILL SEE THE RANKINGS CHANGE WEEKLY

THE FINAL POWER RANKINGS OF 2018

1. LOWELL 10-2
2. LAWRENCE 8-4
3. NORTH ANDOVER 8-3
4. ST. JOHN PREP 8-2
5. WACHUSETT 5-5

(Outside looking In: MC 6-5, WESTFORD 7-3, BILLERICA 7-3,)

WHO BROUGHT IT IN WEEK #10 – You Have to bring it every week to be on this list! It’s not what you did last week or what you might do next week it’s what you did this week. If your name is not on it you have to ask yourself did you bring it!

ELITE 8

NORTH ANDOVER VS. BILLERICA

An exciting elite 8 game that went to double OT and was not decided till Kellan Murphy hit a three from the top of the key. Kyle Moore was strong with 21 points 4 assists and 6 rebounds. Garrett Murphy overcame a slow start to score 21 points drop 3 dimes and grab 8 rebounds. Brett Dunham is only a sophomore but has the composure of a senior. He had 3 points 3 assists 6 rebounds 1 block and 3 steals. Kellan Murphy chipped in with 9 points and Jack Morin had 7 rebounds. Billerica was led by Ryan Murphy with 20 points and 13 rebounds and Mason Hunt had 20 points and 8 rebounds. Jake Loftin had 4/3/5 and Michael Stack contributed 3/2/2
LOWELL VS WACHUSETT

A great game between two great backcourts. Lowell was led by Carlos Nunez with 18 points, 2 assists and 3 rebounds and Nate Siow with 18 points 6 assists and 2 rebounds. Devon Okogwu impresses me more every week had 14 points 5 assists 9 rebounds and 3 steals. Rashawn Settles had 13 points. For Wachusett Sam Dion put together back to back great performances with 25 points 6 assists and 4 rebounds. Joey Nuttall had 10 points 6 assists and 4 rebounds and Hunter Johnson was terrific with 22 points and 8 rebounds. Tough to say goodbye to Dion and Nuttall who have been 4 year player at fall ball

LAWRENCE VS. ST JOHN’S PREP

Another great battle this week. Brian Martir was terrific with 19 points 6 assists and 7 rebounds. Loving Brandon Goris game right now. Today he had 18 points and 8 rebounds. Gabe Zorilla is a workhorse and had 15 points and 9 rebounds and Jeremiah Melendez had 6 rebounds. For the Prep. Liam Dunfee had 19 points 8 rebounds and 2 blocks and Will Batchelder had 15 points 4 rebounds and 3 steals. Christian Plourde chipped in 11 points 5 assists and 7 rebounds and Jarnel Snow-Guzman had 10 points

MALDEN CATHOLIC VS. WESTFORD

MC was led by Kendrick Jean Francois with 17/4/9. Jonathan Ore had another nice game with 15 points. Tony Felder Chapman had 13 points 6 assists and Christian Rios just works each night. Christian had 6 points 4 assists and 8 rebounds. Westford got another strong outing from their best player Adam Scaramuzzo with 19 points 4 assists, 5 rebounds and 2 steals. Declan Morse had 10 points and 5 boards and Jake Barisano had a 10/4/7 line

SEMI FINALS

LOWELL VS. MALDEN CATHOLIC

Carlos Nunez was special in this one with 20 points in limited action. Devon Okogwu had 7 points 3 assists 7 rebounds and 4 steals. A nice night by Jaceb McKenzie with 11 points and 3 rebounds and Nate Siow was solid with 10 points and 5 assists. MC got a very strong game from Jonathan Ore with 17 points 3 assists and 4 rebounds. Tony Felder had 12 points 2 assists 2 rebounds 2 steals. Kendrick Jean Francois had 9 points 2 assists 5 rebounds 1 block and 1 steal.

NORTH ANDOVER VS. LAWRENCE

Lawrence got production from only a few players but they were all the difference. Brian Martir was great with 16 points 8 assists and 8 rebounds. Brandon Goris was excellent with 14 points 4 rebounds and 3 steals and Noah Tejada was tough with 6 points 2 rebounds and 3 steals. NA was led by the big man Garrett Murphy who had 19 points 3 assists 17 rebounds 1 steal and 1 block. Kyle Moore was strong with 8 points 2 assists and 9 rebounds and Mikey Gorgoni had 7 points 4 assists and 2 rebounds
FINALS

LOWELL VS LAWRENCE

Devon Okogwu had 11 points 2 assists and 3 rebounds. Carlos Nunez had 11 points and 3 rebounds, Nate Siow was awesome with 16 points 6 assists. Tyson Cole had 6 points 2 assists and 3 rebounds. Brandon Goris was excellent with 20 points and 3 steals. Brian Martir was overcome by cramps but had 9 points 3 assists and 3 rebounds. Angel Herrara had 4 points and 4 boards.

THE FINAL BRACKET - PLAYOFFS 2018

THE WEEKLY RANT: FOOD FOR THOUGHT OR FOOD FOR THE DUMPSTER........YOU DECIDE

Being Fundamentally Sound Makes You a Winner Not Boring
Another Fall Ball season has ended and as I compile all my lists of the top 5 Pet Peeves from every week this fall it is kind of sad for this perfectionist that attention to detail to basketball fundamentals is really not there and that we are actually losing ground in the area. I honestly believe basketball is the greatest game invented and I am a huge proponent of the changes that take place every few years. I love how the game evolves and I try to be involved with the latest ideas/trends long before they become popular to the rest of the basketball world. I spend a lot of time learning how this great game is taught throughout the world. Many years ago I took great interest in how basketball was taught in Europe especially places like Spain, the former Yugoslavia and Russia and for the past number of years I am intrigued with how Canada is developing its youth to become major players on the college scene and now in the NBA.

The commonality of it all is still rooted in teaching the fundamentals of the game and spending more time with skill development, learning and understanding the game than just playing games. The USA is still the greatest basketball country in the world but the rest of the world is catching up, slowly but surely. I applaud USA Basketball for seeing the issue and now spending lots of time and money in renewing priorities on how the game should be taught to its youth.

As I look around the 20 teams of NA Fall Ball it is clear we have some tremendous athletes, some very competitive kids and quite frankly a number of raw talents. It is also very clear to me what kids have been developed through a strong fundamental base and those that have not. These days we play way too many games and don’t spend enough time breaking things down to the core. Areas that are glaring to me are things like PIVOTING which I mentioned last week. In our BST Training it is shocking to me how many kids come in at the high school level without knowing how to pivot and why we pivot. For over ten years I have focused on spending a tremendous amount of time teaching FOOTWORK which I think is the basis of everything. Yes it can be boring at times but when you see the fruits of the labor it’s pretty special. I often talk about the best I ever trained Georges Niang, but the hours we put in working on his footwork was the number one thing D1 College coaches talked to me about when recruiting him. Footwork is so important to balance and balance is so important to being able to get things done. SHOOTING TECHNIQUE is not taught enough. I talk to NBA Scout Jeff Nelson weekly about this. We spend a lot of time on form shooting that many kids and quite frankly coaches can’t be bothered with. Shooting is not just letting it fly its footwork, body position, where you hold the ball, arm technique, shot trajectory/arc, follow through etc. It pains me to see some guys just chuck and pray it goes in. Try watching guys like Sam Dion, Kyle Moore, Carlos Nunez who have spent hours perfecting every part of the shooting skill. We talk a lot about PASSING ANGLES, how to make a pass where to make a pass from. You have heard me often say passing is one of the most under taught most complained about skill. Nobody teaches it but complains when their player can’t make a pass. This week we saw no skill at BOXING OUT. Yeah I know Charles Barkley says just “GO GET THE DAMN BALL” but for most of the kids in this league it may be better to learn the skill then go
get the damn ball. The JUMP STOP is not taught enough as we have out of control guys picking up 1-3 charges a night. Yes we are leaving our feet more in the game than in the past which I actually embrace but we still need to teach the jump stop. I am sure we can pick apart many fundamental skills that we are not teaching enough and quite frankly teaching the correct way but you get my message. Tim Duncan was known as the Big Fundamental. For twenty years I heard young kids think he wasn’t sexy enough, some thought he was boring, others just didn’t appreciate what he brought to the game, the league and his team. All Tim did was win, win and win some more. Tim is now out of the game for two years and I miss watching his attention to detail, his fundamentals, his mindset and his respect for the greatest game ever invented. So please players learn the fundamentals, coaches please teach the fundamentals. Let us make Fundamentals and attention to detail sexy again

NEXT WEEK WE WILL HAVE OUR FINAL “RANT” OF 2018 & IT WILL BE A MESSAGE TO OUR FALL BALL PARENTS. DON’T MISS IT IN THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE UGLY SEASON RECAP

DON’T GET TOO HIGH, DON’T GET TOO LOW…IT’S FALL BALL