

Make the Right Call



WASHINGTON OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

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6 Classic Movie Lines That Can Improve Your Officiating

by Julie Sternberg

Great movie lines can make you laugh and cry. They can inspire you and have you leaving the theater repeating them over and over again. But can you learn from them? Better yet, can they make you a better official? Here are six classics that can help make you a star on the field or court.

1. "You can't handle the truth!" (A Few Good Men). It's not easy to handle the truth, especially if it impacts you negatively. Keep that in mind related to coaches and players. Good officials understand where coaches and players are coming from in order to deal with them properly. Coaches and players aren't always going to be accepting of your calls, and that's OK. Officials can't let negative reactions impact their confidence in their calls or their game will be negatively affected. Expect complaints, expect whining and deal with it appropriately. Often doing nothing is the correct reaction. In other words, don't overreact to those who "can't handle the truth." If however, players and coaches cross the line, the truth is they need to be punished (with the appropriate penalty depending on the sport).

2. "May the force be with you." (Star Wars). Some officials brag about the lack of

technical fouls they have issued or about the fact that they have never ejected a player. That "distinguished honor" they see as a sign of solid game management. However, it's often a sign of weakness or fear. The force *is* with you. You have penalties, cards and technical fouls at your disposal per the rules of the game. Ignoring them when they are needed is ignoring your duty as an official. A good game manager uses all the tools he or she has available when necessary. That doesn't mean you're looking for trouble that isn't there. It means you're not ignoring it if it is.

3. "Life is like a box of chocolates; you never know what you're gonna get." (Forrest Gump). Game preparation and team preparation are important for officials. Know whether the two teams have bad blood between them. Know if the conference title is on the line. Understand what you're likely in for when you await that first pitch or jump ball. While preparation is critical, it's also important to be prepared for anything. You might think you know the two teams, but something totally unexpected happens. If you're prepared through solid rules knowledge, an informative pregame and

the ability to adjust, you'll be able to manage any situation, even the unexpected ones.

4. "You complete me." (Jerry McGuire). Don't worry, we're not heading for a sappy romance here; it's OK to read on. You need partners and crewmembers on the field and court who complete you - complete the officiating team. Partners need to be able to work together and that starts with a solid pregame and ends with a postgame. Partners also need to be able to communicate during a game. They need to be comfortable enough with each other to bring up an error a partner may have committed to fix it, if the game allows. Partners need to trust each other rather than look in another partner's area to "make sure" he or she gets it right. Build a relationship with your fellow officials and your game will end happily ever after.

5. "I'll be back." (Terminator). Some games don't have such a rosy ending (or beginning and middle). Officials can leave the contest feeling defeated and ready for early retirement. When that happens to you, you need to channel your inner "Schwarzenegger" and get ready for the next one. No

Special Points of Interest:

- "YOU CAN'T HANDLE THE TRUTH"
- "MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU"
- LIFE IS LIKE A BOX OF CHOCOLATES; YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GONNA GET
- "YOU COMPLETE ME"
- "I'LL BE BACK"
- "THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME"

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Jim Warrick, Inland Empire

Photo Courtesy of Dale Garvey

6 Classic Movie Lines.....continued

matter how poor a game (whether you miss a crucial call, have to break up a fight or deal with a lopsided snoozer), you need to learn from the experience and come back stronger and better next time. A lot of your comeback spirit will hinge on your attitude. A positive attitude can get you through a rough patch. Sometimes it takes more rules study or guidance from a mentor after a game. Sometimes it just takes the knowledge that you'll have plenty of good games in the future as well. Whatever it

takes, fight through and know that you'll be back.

6. "There's no place like home." (*Wizard of Oz*). Don't get so caught up in officiating that you forget about your priorities, such as your family. No matter how rough the game ends up being, your family is always there for you. In order to officiate your best, you need to balance your home and officiating. If you officiate six or seven games a week consistently during a season, not only will your family feel neglected, you'll get burned out.

Schedule time off in the middle of the season, so you can take off your officiating shoes and spend time away from the avocation. You'll return a lot fresher and be a better official in the last half of the season.

So, you really can learn a thing or two from Hollywood. Keep that in mind when you go to the theater to watch your next movie - just don't skip your local association meeting to do it.

(This article can be found in, Referee magazine, October 2011)

"DON'T GET SO CAUGHT UP IN OFFICIATING THAT YOU FORGET ABOUT YOUR PRIORITIES, SUCH AS YOUR FAMILY."

Ejection Report Reminder

When filing an ejection report, it is important to remember a couple things:

1. Reports must be filed within 48 hours. Not turning in a report does not make the ejection go away (as some would like to believe).

Schools are required to sit the offender regardless of whether a report is received. Not filing the report within 48 hours leads to a lot of work for the school administrators, WOA staff and your assigner.

2. Only include the facts of the events leading to the ejection. Please do not include opinions or recommendations on what should happen to the offender.

Soccer: State Tournament Sites; Send-Off; Uniforms

2011 Fall Soccer Sites

1B/2B Boys and Girls:
Sunset Chev Stadium, Sumner

1A, 2A Girls:
Shoreline Stadium, Shoreline

3A, 4A Girls:
Sparks Stadium, Puyallup

Send-off of a Coach

Please remember that the NFHS procedure for sending off a coach includes showing the red card to the coach. We understand there is a difference in protocol for the

different levels of soccer, but the showing of a card at the high school level is mandatory and helps reduce the confusion when dealing with the follow-up to the incident. More often than not, a coach who has been sent off but has not been shown a card, uses that information in their appeal to show that the official did not follow procedure and therefore the send off should not be enforced.

Uniforms

Per NFHS Rule 4-1-i-1. A team must have numbers on the front and back of their uniforms. The numbers on the front can be on the shorts or on the jersey. If you come across a team without a number on the front, please inform your assigner. The assigner will inform the school and WIAA of the non-compliant uniforms.



Bryan Hulen, East King County

Photo Courtesy of Dale Garvey

Football: Conduct of Coaches; Use Your Voice

Coaches Conduct

During the first half of the season, we have had a few situations come up involving the conduct of coaches. Please remember that an unsportsmanlike penalty on an assistant coach does not go against the head coach, unless the person cannot be identified.

Situation: Head Coach receives an unsportsmanlike penalty in the 1st quarter. An Assistant Coach receives an unsportsmanlike penalty in the 3rd quarter.

Result: 15-yard penalty for each act of unsportsmanlike conduct. Neither coach is ejected from the game.

Exception: The penalties for 9-8-3 are applied to the Head Coach

Importance of using your voice

At any time during a football game, using your voice can be a huge benefit. Communication between fellow officials and players will help the flow of the game. Two things come to mind. Positive comments to players work in two ways.

1. It lets the players know you are not the "bad guy" and
2. Your positive comments will confirm you are watching the play(s).

We all carry whistles and flags but if the players know you are there and are only there to help the flow of the game it will create a better atmosphere and the game will be more enjoyable to both players, coaches and of course officials.

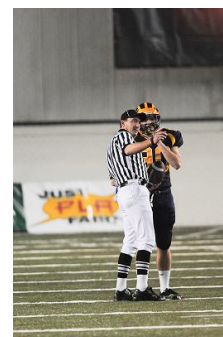
Here are some comments from

officials on the importance of using their voice:

"Voice is a MUST for the Umpire position."

"It helps keep the game in a rhythm-steady pace and lets the players know I am watching them. I say positive and corrective comments on players play to both teams."

"Football is a violent sport being played by young men with high levels of testosterone. By verbally letting people know that the play is over (with my head on a swivel) and hustling (not hurrying) to the pile, I have been fortunate to keep player problems to a minimum. I also use positive reinforcement throughout the game and communicate with players with my voice and not my whistle."



Kevin Kunkel, Evergreen

Photo Courtesy of Dale Garvey

"AT ANY TIME DURING A FOOTBALL GAME, USING YOUR VOICE CAN BE A HUGE BENEFIT."

Volleyball: Proper Footwear; WOA Document

Proper Footwear

The most asked question of the season so far has been about proper footwear. In order to make it easier on the officials, the WIAA has determined the following to not be proper footwear: bare feet, socks, sandals and flip flops. Anything other than these four should be left to the discretion of the coach. The shoes (not sure if many of

you would consider them shoes) pictured below have been deemed "proper footwear" by the NFHS and should be allowed.



WOA Document

WOA staff, clinicians, and WIAA staff have put together a document that includes:

- WOA approved uniform
- State adoptions
- Points of Emphasis
- Rule Interpretations

The document can be viewed at: www.woa-officials.com/pdf/vb_doc.pdf

Online Clinic/Test - Winter Sports

The Winter clinics/tests will be available on the following dates

Wrestling: Tuesday, October 18

Gymnastics: Tuesday, October 18

Basketball: Tuesday, October 25



Riaz Kanji, Seattle

Photo Courtesy of Greater Seattle Volleyball



Officiating the Game for the Athletes!

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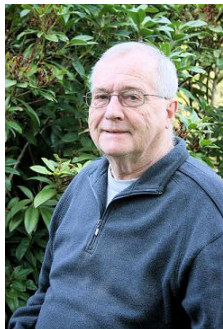
Note from the Commissioner:

Fall State tournament allocations have been sent out and soon we will be making the assignments for the first set of state tournaments for the 2011-12 school year. The 2011-12 school year has been somewhat quiet so far, which is not necessarily a bad thing.

Last week, I spent the evening with the Snohomish County Basketball Officials as they put on their 4th annual coaches/officials social. It was a great evening and all those who attended seemed to have a great time. It was a couple hours of officials making fun of themselves, the coaches they service, as well as the two guests of the evening (Mike Colbrese and me). It is a great way to kickoff the new season and events like this help in dealing with problems if they arise later in the year. Coaches and officials interacting away from the contest is the best method of preventative officiating. If you are interested in doing a similar event, please contact Snohomish County Basketball to find out the do's and don'ts to creating such a great event.

Todd Stordahl
WOA Commissioner

www.woa-officials.com



Ken Jones, Western Washington Basketball

Photo Courtesy of the Jones Family

WOA Spotlight: Ken Jones

Ken Jones was a member of the Western Washington Basketball Association and the Tacoma Basketball Board for over 35 years. During his career as an official, Ken worked in eight state tournaments, including three championship games. Some of his best memories involve having the opportunity to work with great officials throughout the state and to share the experience in working the "big game".

In addition to officiating, Ken served as the assigner for Western Washington Basketball. During that time, the association experienced tremendous growth and success in the Tacoma-Pierce County area. Ken's great relationship with the officials,

coaches and administrators had a positive impact on both boys and girls interscholastic basketball. In 2005, Ken received the West Central District Meritorious Service Award for his contributions to the schools in District 3.

Ken served on the WOA Executive Board from 1985 until 2011. During his tenure on the board, he served as President for twelve years. Throughout the twelve years as President, Ken was directly involved in the transitions involved with the structure of the WOA. These moments included the change in Executive Directors in 1993, as well as the decision for the WOA to become independent from the WIAA.

Since Ken has been unable to make it to the WOA Conference the last couple years, he never received his recognition plaque for his service on the WOA Executive Board. This is a recognition that was important for the WOA to express to Ken, so a few members of the WOA went to visit Ken to present him with the plaque.

We wish Ken the best as he faces a few new challenges and we know that the tenacity he demonstrated as a board member will come in handy during the upcoming challenges.

Thank you Ken for all you have done to make the WOA what it is today!



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