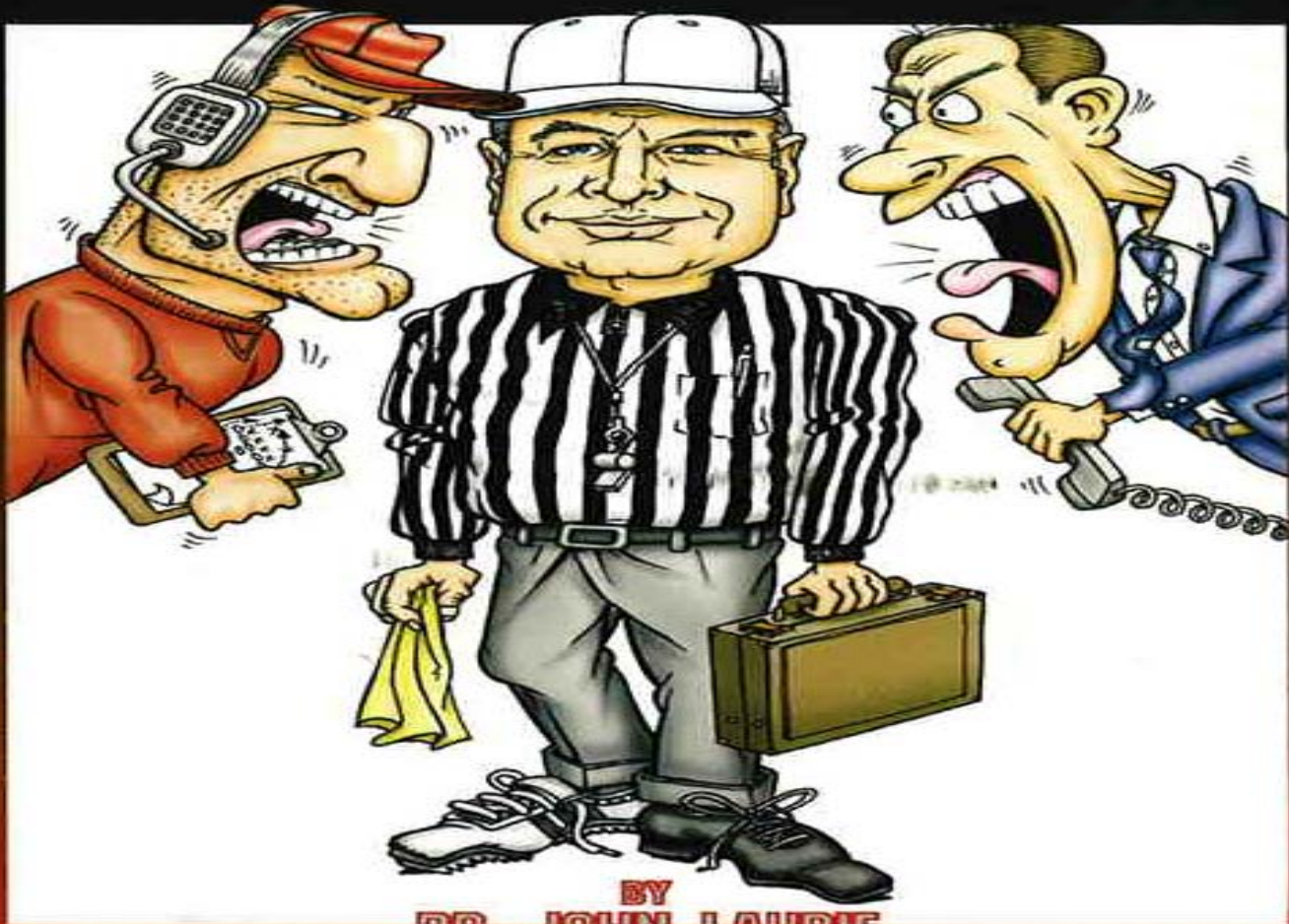


Can't We All Just Get Along?

Interactions Between High School
Coaches and Officials

MANAGING THE GAME

THE OFFICIAL'S OFFICIAL GUIDE TO
CONTROLLING PRESSURE SITUATIONS



BY
DR. JOHN LAURIE

COMPILED FROM 45 YEARS

Current Coach-Official Relationships

- ◆ No Positive Communication
- ◆ Getting Yelled At
- ◆ Coaches are Crazy
- ◆ Officials are Crazy
- ◆ No Resolve



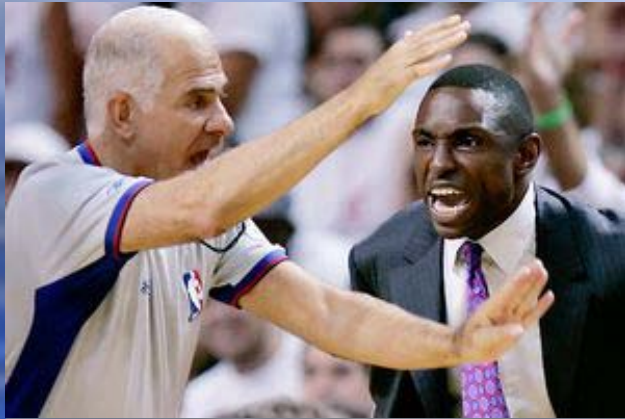
Why Officials Do It

- ◆ Uniform Expense - \$400
- ◆ Travel to 6 local clinics - no fee
- ◆ Travel to 1 Association meeting - no fee
- ◆ Travel and working 3 scrimmages - no fee
- ◆ Leaving work early. Lying to the boss to do so, traveling an hour or 2 to get to game site 1 hour in advance, doing game, driving home late - \$80
- ◆ Listening to wife bitch about you being gone all the time - give her the check
- ◆ Divorce - PRICELESS!
- ◆ AND THAT'S THE BIGGEST LIE I'LL TELL ALL DAY

JUDGEMENT

- ◆ IT TAKES JUDGEMENT TO BE A GOOD OFFICIAL, BUT IF YOU HAD GOOD JUDGEMENT, YOU WOULD NEVER BECOME A ONE!

Officials Arguments



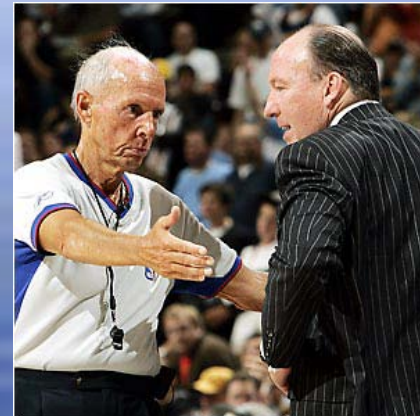
Officials Temperament

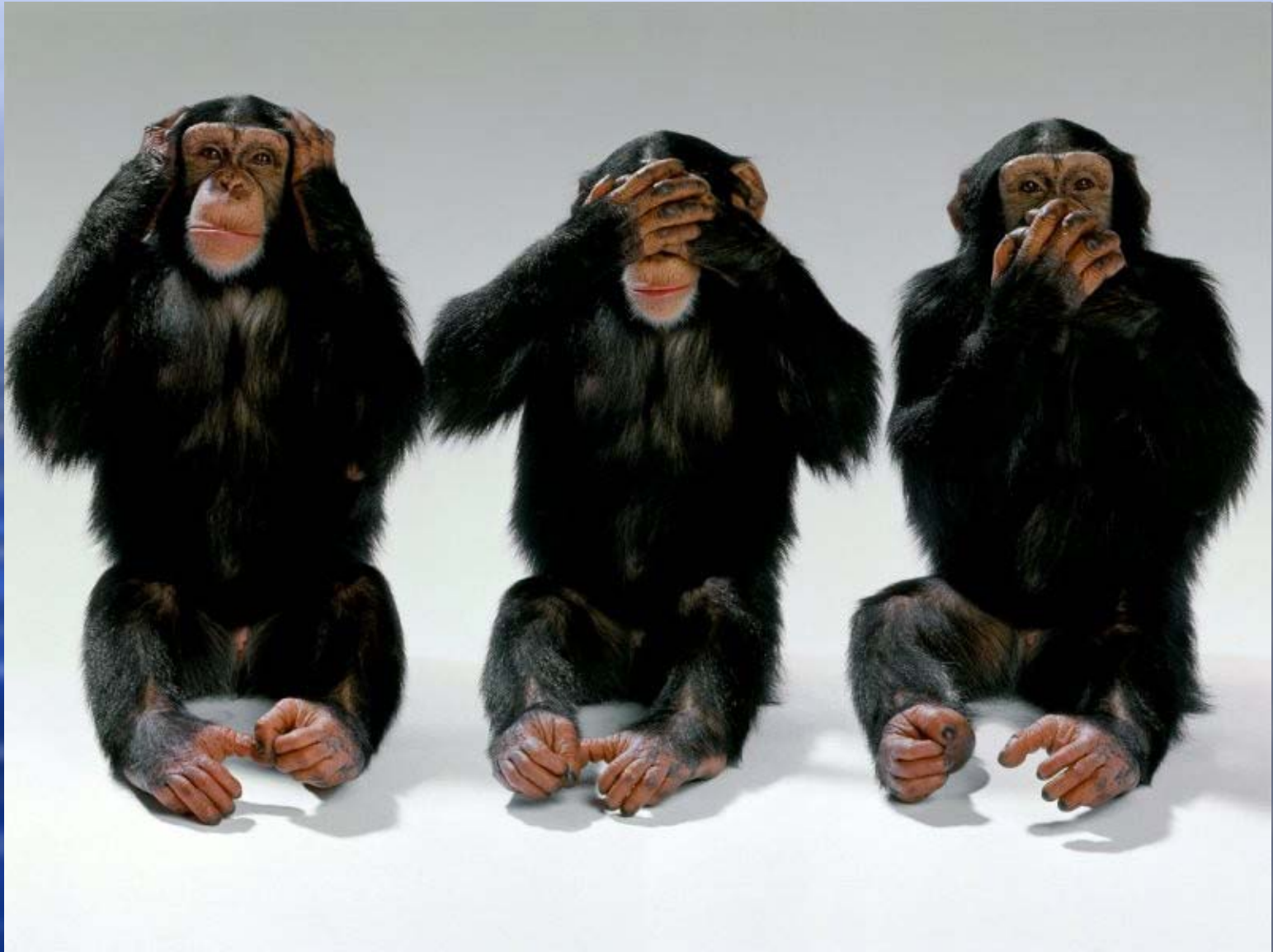


What Did You Just Say To Me?

- ◆ **Prepare** - Have standard replies thought out in advance for typical "Coachspeak"
- ◆ **Listen to what is being said** - Understand the concerns of the coach. If the concerns are legitimate, express that understanding.
- ◆ **Answer questions, not statements** - Some comments can be ignored. Be a responder, not a initiator.
- ◆ **Have NO tolerance for questions of your integrity**
- ◆ **Exhibit calmness** - Do no threaten
- ◆ **Do not try to answer a question from an out-of-control coach; deal with the behavior first.**
- ◆ **Be in control and speak in calm, easy tones** - Be aware of your body language; maintain positive and confident body language.

Working Together





Dealing with Coaches

- ◆ #1 complaint I get is consistency, not in calls, but how officials treat/interact with coaches differently from Friday night to Friday night.
- ◆ DO NOT let your emotional level match the emotional intensity of the coach.
- ◆ Coaches are allowed to coach the players—not coach the officials!
- ◆ Coaches who question calls are taking their chances. A courteous reminder of:
 - ◆ “I’ll give it a look Coach” OR “That’s enough Coach” generally will suffice.
- ◆ Officials should not allow bench personnel, INCLUDING assistant coaches, to badger them. Hold the head coach responsible for monitoring his/her bench.
- ◆ When coaches are calm and professional in their approach, listen AND acknowledge them SO THEY KNOW THEY HAVE BEEN HEARD!
- ◆ When coaches become overly irate and unsporting, they are not displaying proper conduct and need to be penalized.
- ◆ Deal with inappropriate behavior early in the game with a warning.
- ◆ RESPECT THE COACH—POSITIVE COMMUNICATION IS KEY.

Communication Points

- ◆ **PEACEKEEPERS**—ASK THE COACH TO STOP USING DEMONSTRATION(S) AND “TALK TO ME”. PUT YOUR HANDS BEHIND YOUR BACK OR AT YOUR SIDES...DEMONSTRATES YOU’RE RECEPTIVE.
- ◆ **BODY LANGUAGE**—HOW YOU APPROACH THE COACH IS CRITICAL. LET HIM KNOW YOU’LL LISTEN. “COACH, IF IT HAPPENED THE WAY YOU SAID IT DID, I GOT IT WRONG.” **This works because you are not admitting a mistake, putting up a defense or ignoring the coach completely.**
- ◆ **Eye Contact**—HEAR THEM OUT. “YES SIR/NO SIR”...TRY YOUR BEST TO REMAIN PROFESSIONAL. COACHES HAVE BEEN AROUND, AND IF YOU DON’T ANSWER THEIR QUESTION, THEY’LL FIGURE OUT ANOTHER WAY TO ASK IT

Communication Points

- ◆ YOU CAN'T RESPOND ALL THE TIME. GIVE A SOLID ANSWER OR INDICATE YOU'VE HEARD WHAT HE/SHE SAID.
- ◆ SOMETIMES THIS WORKS...IT'S A JUDGMENT CALL. JUST LET THEM KNOW YOU'VE HEARD THEIR POINT!
- ◆ IF THE PLAY IS MOVING QUICKLY, YOU MUST SAY, "I'LL GET BACK WITH YOU COACH".
- ◆ IF THE CONVERSATION IS ABOUT YOUR PARTNER SAY, "YOU'LL NEED TO DISCUSS THAT WITH MR./MS. _____ WHEN HE/SHE GETS OVER HERE."
- ◆ GIVE COACHES A COURTESY, TREAT PROFESSIONALLY, AND REMEMBER...TAKE THE HIGH ROAD, THERE WILL BE LESS TRAFFIC!

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**"AND THEN WHEN THE WHOLE CROWD STARTED
YELLING 'KILL THE UMPIRE' SOMETHING SNAPPED."**