

Coaching ethics, continued.

2. Do you attempt to harass or intimidate an official? What is meant by this? This might be referred to as blackmail. Blackmail is extortion by threats of accusation. That is talking to an official before a game or at the half, explaining to him certain phases in the rules that should be emphasized in that particular game. Is this ethical? We are asking you. What do you think about it?

3. This is by far the worst, and that is the practice on the part of a few coaches--not spectators, but coaches mind you, in universities, colleges, and high schools-- putting pressure on the outstanding opposing players by saying something to them as they go by the bench. That is, for a coach to select the star player on an opponent's team and pass some nasty remark directly to him with the idea of this remark affecting the player's ability to play ball. Is this ethical? Is this beneath a coach and can it be placed in the category of education? If a coach is a leader of virile, clean-limbed, clear-eyed young men, should he perform in such a manner?

4. Some coaches play the "Army Game" and withhold their agreements on both officials and game contracts, until it is almost time to play the game. Thus the best officials are not available. This is a bad practice. Of course where you have conference rules and officials are selected by a commissioner, this is not important. We will have to agree this is a bad practice.

5. Booring. We should curtail it. Several reports have come where the coach has tried to control sympathies of the crowd by giving a lecture before the game on a loud-speaker, and then by his own action and personality has antagonized the crowd to such an extent that it has made the situation worse.

These five suggestions that have been presented to the various members of this committee are the most important that have been brought to our attention. Are we going to do anything about them? If you were a lawyer, would you condone shady practices by members of your law firm? There should be no reason why a president of any university or college or superintendent of a high school should allow a coach to do anything that would injure an educational institution. What are we going to do about these suggestions? Are we going to wait until such time as some administrator in education questions practices of this sort? I do not believe it is the function of this committee to punish any coach who has been guilty of these practices, either by reprimand or suspension, but we feel it is our duty to ask you men, as members of this National Association of Basketball Coaches to check up on yourselves relative to these alien practices that have been presented to you this afternoon.