

## Watching Game Footage with Players!

### Why is this important?

I cannot stress the importance of video taping your basketball games, and how it can be the difference in your team improving or staying stagnant. The majority of coach's video tape their games so that they can break down the game, and find ways to improve. But, I would bet that there are many coaches that do not watch the games with their players. It is one thing for a coach to watch a game tape, take notes, and then communicate those notes to their players, but it would be way more productive to let the players see the mistakes (and the good things they are doing) themselves. Just telling a player that they did something wrong rather than showing them rather letting them see first hand that they in fact made a mistake – will go a long way with the development process.

### What not to do?

I wouldn't go so far as making 15 separate DVD's and sending them home with the players. First, the players may not watch the DVD with any kind of focus, and there's always the chance that a parent will watch with them – and you really don't want the parents doing the coaches job. The most beneficial way to watch game tape is with the entire team all together in one room – in a controlled environment. The coaches should be there to point out mistakes, and to also point out any positive things that players did during the game.

I would consistently have the team watch half of a game (sometimes whole games) before basketball practice, and usually the day after the game took place – that way we could go out on the court and start correcting mistakes right away. Telling a player about a mistake is one thing, having a player see themselves making the mistake is another.

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