

THE FULL CURL



Monroe Catholic Rams' Athletics

Announcements

- Be on the lookout for an email regarding our "Game Sponsor Program" for this year's home basketball games.

Kudos

- A big thanks to all the boys' and girls' basketball players who showed up to work the basketball clinic this past Friday and Saturday. I especially want to thank Chance Schachle who returned from college and showed up Friday to help and Tommy Bast, a freshman, who showed up and worked all day, both days.
- A big thanks to Lynne Puryear for making the certificates for the junior high boys' basketball banquet and picking up the championship rings. Lynne isn't as needy as her counterpart in the office and doesn't need constant praise for all the kind things she does for me, but I thought I would mention it anyway :)



Dear Parents:

Welcome to week fifteen of The Full Curl.

Every coach will tell you the season is a journey. The start of that journey varies, depending on which coach you talk to. Some might say it begins in April, as you begin working to develop skill among your returning players, others might say at Team Camp in early June, while others may say the first day of practice. I would suggest greater success is tied to those programs whose journey starts earlier, rather than later.

Regardless of whether a coach sees today's first day of basketball practice as the start of a journey, it signifies a day of great importance. It is on this day you fully assess who you will be traveling with on your journey and who has been committed to preparing for said journey.

Every year I think how amazing it would be to write a book on my team's journey. The book would be filled with ups and downs and real life drama. I don't mean drama in the way you may think. I simply mean dealing with the challenges of life, on a daily basis, with eleven other players and a coach who you will at times dislike a great deal. Every team is its own living organism, its own book or reality show. I can tell you without question,

Last Week's Recap

- The 7th grade girls' basketball team went 1-1 last week, beating Randy Smith and then losing a tough game to Tanana
- The 8th grade girls' basketball team swept Randy Smith and Tanana last week, looking good in the process.

following any team over the course of a year would be as good or better than anything on television. Often you could simply change the names of the school and players and write it as complete fiction and people would buy it — though often the reader would believe the reality to be too far-fetched.

As coaches, we preach the journey as being more important than the destination. As I look back at both journeys I took last year — one with the boys' team and one with the girls' — I am confident that while the outcomes will be remembered, the memories of the journey will be what the players take with them for the rest of their lives. Someone might argue that had our boys made one more basket, that is what they would remember most. They would be wrong. I have coached three teams who won state championships, and I would be willing to bet when they look at their rings, they remember the journey, the experiences shared with teammates, the road trips, the ups and downs that are synonymous with four months of a grind that involves seeing each other six days a week for four straight months, not the final buzzer of the season.

Every journey begins with optimism and excitement, even though we know that of the eighteen other schools traveling on similar journeys, only one will end with championship rings. I believe the journeys we embark on here at Monroe are more fulfilling than most. Our journey involves loving and supporting one another, knowing our teammates will be selflessly thinking about each other more than themselves. Our journey will be different as we share a belief in Faith, as we pray before a game and understand we play for a cause much greater than self — we play for a Community.

How can one measure the success or failure of a journey that is a basketball season? While I may be in the minority, I do not believe it can be evaluated on wins or losses. I would evaluate our journey on whether we succeed in reaching our potential as a team. On our journey, did we demonstrate a high level of selflessness? Did we represent our God, our School, our Community and our families at the level that would make each proud? Did we learn to value timeliness and hard work? The answers to these questions far outweigh the answer to the question, What was your record?

The journey will mean something different to all of those who participate. All I have ever wanted is to take this journey with 12 players who want to reach their full potential as basketball players and human beings, who are as passionate about the game as I. In the 24 previous years of coaching, I have never been on such a journey, though I will say I have had a couple teams that were close. For some this journey is everything, basketball a passion.

MCHS Sports Trivia

TRIVIA QUESTION:

I was a member of the Monroe Catholic Basketball Team that finished 3rd in the 1965 Class B State Championship. I was named to the All Tournament team and you will find no less than four students at Monroe with my last name. Who am I?

RULES

To win the trivia contest, you must give me the answer IN PERSON. Emails, texts and phone calls will not suffice! Remember, only one guess per household. The first person to correctly answer the trivia question will win an MCHS T-shirt.

LAST WEEK'S WINNER

SMALL PRINT

The spouse of the Director of Athletics, parents and STAFF who work directly inside CSF are not eligible for participation in The Full Curl trivia competition for 24 hours after the emailing of The Full Curl.

For others, it is something to do with friends and for others a journey their parents have pushed them to take, because as a parent, they know the value of a journey such as this. Is it possible to make the journey meaningful to all, regardless of why they are taking it? I hope so. How many on the journey will share my passion for the game? Ask me in four months.

The journey will most certainly mirror that of our life. I had an assistant once who said, "I can tell everything I want to know about a human being by how they play basketball." I am guessing all coaches could say that about the sports they have chosen to coach. Does the player understand commitment? Teamwork? Selflessness? Service? Toughness? Is the player a leader or a follower? Give me a season with a player and I can tell you if they do or don't, are or are not. In the best of situations, we will most certainly face adversity. Can we work hard, get along with others and be on time every day? These are perhaps the three greatest challenges we will face in life and they will be at the forefront of this journey

Unlike most journeys, I can honestly say I have no idea where either of these will end. Will there be tears? Yes. Will they be of joy or sorrow? Will the journey end in our gym, or the Alaska Airlines Center, in Anchorage? Will everyone who begins the journey have the necessary passion and toughness to see it through? Will I have the patience, empathy and skill as a coach to ensure the journey is a success?

I have no idea what the answers are to the questions above. I know I have lost sleep thinking about each of these questions over the past seven months. What I do know is, I am very blessed and excited to have the opportunity to travel on two journeys with these boys and girls, representing each of you.

I hope to see each of you along the way.

You can follow all Monroe sports events by following me on Twitter. My handle is @thefullcurl. We are currently up to 279 followers!

This Week in Monroe Catholic Sports

Hockey

There are no hockey games this week.

Junior High Girls' Basketball

Thu. Nov. 30th 4:30 3pm/4pm N. Pole N. Pole

Wrestling

Fri. Dec. 1st TBA Glennallen Tourney
Sat. Dec. 2nd TBA Glennallen Tourney



This picture was taken at the last camp, by a dear friend of mine who lent a hand. The first Friday Session for 3rd - 5th grade included 59 players, the biggest I have ever seen for a camp in our gym. The money raised will help pay for last year's state championship hockey rug, which will hopefully be going up before we have to order another one in a couple of months!