

Carl

OKC, OK

Mark Daly  
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Dear Mark:

I just wanted to let you know how much I have appreciated your efforts in managing the CBYA league over the years. I have thoroughly supported your mission “to provide a positive and fun experience learning the fundamentals of basketball while using the teachings of Christ to help build a better person on and off the basketball court.” I have been proud to see the children develop their fundamental basketball skills in such a constructive and rewarding environment.

As a relatively “new” parent back in 2004, I was very particular in selecting the right environment for my son to learn the game of basketball. As an ex-player myself, I have been exposed to a variety of sport environments, both positive and negative. As I watched some games in your league, met the coaches, observed the parents and referees, and understood the league mission, I immediately knew that it was something in which I wanted my family to be involved.

I was amazed about the difference between your league and some others I observed. As I coached my son’s kindergarten team, it was easy to teach the fundamentals as the ball was smaller and the goals were lower. I loved the league rules about having defenders on the dots and no pressing in the backcourt. I was impressed with the referees as they instructed and coached the kids and made sure they had fun. It was great to see that coaches and referees made sure that each child had a positive game experience. When a shorter or less skilled player may not have scored a basket the entire game, a coach or referee made an extra effort to hold the child up to the goal to score. These kids were definitely learning the game much quicker than some of the other leagues where ten kids surrounded the ball and one player, usually the tallest, strongest, and most aggressive, would have the ball at a ten-foot goal.

Although I was impressed with the youth’s rapid skill development, I was more impressed with their behavioral development. Noticeably absent from this league was any negative parental involvement. I did not witness any negativity from the benches or stands. It was refreshing to not hear any arguing with referees, yelling at kids, badmouthing coaches, etc. Certainly, gathering at half court to join together for prayer at the start of the game positively sets the tone for Christian fundamentals – and it is reflective of the entire experience.

I’m looking forward to the league expansion and the opportunity for you to spread your good work!

Sincerely,

Carl