



Angus Stakes

► by *Shauna Rose Hermel*, editor

What kind of coach are you?

I went to a high school basketball game last night. The opposing team played pretty well. They ran their plays robotically. There were no glory hounds. They were in position on defense, always watching the ball, and they had a pretty good knack for jumping in and taking the ball away. They put more points — quite a few more points — on the board than we did; yet, if I had a child, I would not have let him or her play for that coach.

Passionate or obnoxious?

Throughout the entire game, their head coach barked names and orders from the sideline — actually from the court, though I didn't think that was legal. Even with their team up nearly 20 points, the barking was nonstop and every small error in what they did was critiqued loud enough for everyone in the gymnasium to hear.

I figured we would play better the second half, and we did. Switching ends of the court allowed our team to play offense without the incessant yelling at arm's length. You could see our team relax a bit, which helped. We did close the gap — to within nine points. A technical on one of their players helped bring us five points closer.

Don't get me wrong. You know I'm competitive, and I love watching teams grounded in the basics play disciplined basketball. I loved watching Bo Ryan's teams play at the University of Wisconsin. It was

team ball — intense; passionate; playing as a team to optimize use of each individual's strengths and compensate for any weaknesses. With rare exceptions, his players realized that functioning as a team gives you more victories over the course of a season, and I think his teams played for each other.

There's a difference between coaching and browbeating. I can't say Coach Ryan was always quiet on the sideline, but when he got stirred up there was a reason for it. It wasn't a constant harping. His passion and joy for the game were obvious, and they were shared by his players. Because of that, I think he improved the skillset of each of his players more than they would have improved in another system.

Last night, I didn't see a single one of the opposing team's players crack a smile the whole game. They won the conference title, but did they care? With just a couple games to play before the district playoffs, I can't help

but wonder if each player is thinking "the last game can't get here soon enough." For the players' sakes, I hope last night was a fluke and that their season was not like this all year.

Hey, Coach ...

As parents and mentors for our juniors, you have a chance to coach our youth through junior projects, be it showing a heifer or competing in quiz bowl, public speaking or team fitting. I hope you do so in a manner that will instill a passion for Angus cattle, the cattle business and the community that we form.

Thinking back to the game last night, one of their players was an exceptional talent, but I wonder if he will enjoy the game enough to want to pursue it at the next level. If he does, I hope he can find a coach that will help him enjoy the game enough to realize his full potential as an individual player. More than that, I hope he finds a coach that will help him enjoy being part of a team that plays beyond their individual skills because they play for each other.

EMAIL: shermel@angus.media
@Angus_Shauna

Angus Journal

3201 Frederick Ave., Saint Joseph, MO 64506; 1-800-821-5478;
fax: 816-233-6575; office hours: (M-F) 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (Central)
home page: www.angusjournal.com

Staff are listed by name, phone extension and email prefix. All direct phone numbers are "816-383-5..."; all email addresses are "...@angus.media"

General manager — Eric Grant, 118, egrant

Circulation & billing manager — LaVera Spire, 220, lspire

Communications director — Crystal Albers, 134, calbers

Art director — Leann Schleicher, 247, lschleicher

Editorial Department — Editor, Shauna Rose Hermel, 270, shermel ■ Assistant editors, Shelby Mettlen, 276, smettlen; & Linda Evans Robbins, 245, lrobbins ■ Special projects editor, Kasey Brown, 277, kbrown ■ Artist, Mary Black

Field editors — Barb Baylor Anderson, 305 Valley View Dr., Edwardsville, IL 62025, 618-656-0870, anderagcom@sbcglobal.net ■ Kindra Gordon, 11734 Weisman Rd., Whitewood, SD 57793, 605-722-7699, kindras@gordonresources.com ■ Paige Nelson, 4112 E. 550 N, Rigby, ID 83442, 208-317-3095, paigenelson7236@gmail.com ■ Becky Mills, 185 Lovett Farms Rd., Cuthbert, GA 39840, 229-938-1698, beckymills81@yahoo.com ■ Troy Smith, 44431 Sargent River Rd., Sargent, NE 68874, 308-527-3483, wordsmith@nctc.net

Advertising Department — Vice president of sales, Terry Cotton, 214,

tcotton ■ Advertising coordinators, Doneta Brown, 232, dbrown; & Karri Mildenberger, 289, kmildenberger ■ Production coordinator, Carol Beckett, 200, 226, cbeckett ■ Advertising artists, Mike Bush & Monica Ford ■ Proofreader coordinator, Jacque McGinness

Special Services Department — Coordinator, Sharon Mayes, 221, smayes ■ Assistants, Julie Martinez & Vickie Whitsell ■ Artist, Susan Bomar ■ Proofreader, Melinda Cordell

Web Services Department — Manager, Ethan Tierney, 227, etierney; Coordinators, Doneta Brown, 232, dbrown; & Karri Mildenberger, 289, kmildenberger ■ Developer, Andy Blumer

The Angus Report, I Am Angus, Communications & Public Relations — Crystal Albers, 134, calbers ■ Jena McReil, 193, jmcrell ■ Lea Ann Maudlin, 155, lmaudlin ■ Amber Wahlgren, 159, awahlgren ■ Donald Korthanke, 114, dkorthanke ■ Josh Comminellis, 113, jcomminellis

Creative Media — Becky Weishaar, 219, bweishaar

Photo Department — Photo services coordinator, Kathrin Gresham ■ Photo services assistant, Erin Sherwood

Publications and Production — Manager, LaVera Spire, 220, lspire ■ Operations manager, Grant Schwader, 212, gschwader

Network systems coordinator — Bruce Buntin

Board of Directors — Kevin Yon, chairman; Allen Moczygemba, vice chairman; Eric Grant, president; Richard E. Wilson, secretary-treasurer; Chuck Grove, James Henderson, Mike McCravy, John Pfeiffer Jr., Barry Pollard and Mitch Rouda, industry representative



