

Empire 8 Spring Coaches Conference Call

April 17, 2014 11AM

Missing from Call: Chris Connolly and Dan Raymond

Minutes for Meeting

1. Feedback on Tape Exchange Policy:

- Ithaca had a few problems
- Coaches agree policy will remain the same for 2014-2015

2. Tiebreakers:

- Missy (Hartwick): "Down the stretch it was concerning to have our out of conference schedule determining in conference seedings."
- Rob (SJF): Agreed with Missy and asked if anyone had suggestions
- Missy: Suggested a point system deferential but did not know exactly what, but it should have something to do with the conference
- Someone suggested Head to Head deferential, or Head to Head first second
- Rob: Thought that trying to get points at the end of the game is not a good scenario
- Kevin (Nazareth): Agreed with Rob and Missy that we should find something in conference, but did not believe point differential was appropriate.
- Pete (Nazareth AD): Asked if we have any tiebreaking scenarios from other conferences
- Janelle (E8): Said she will research it later. Will look at others and send to coaches via email.
- Pete: The coaches can do it via email later, this is about the conference and should be about the conference

3. All Conference Nomination

- Missy: Believes there should be all-tournament awards for conference tournament
- Janelle: We have a tournament MVP plaque, coaches are welcome to make suggestions, probably certificates, but not plaques, and this was brought up in another sport meeting
- Pete: Usually the losing semi-final teams are not there to collect awards
- Missy: Has strong feelings to make it a special time for the kids involved
- Shannon (Elmira): we could provide winners with a blank certificate and conference can fill them out late
- Pete: Put together a proposal and the AD's will vote
- Rob: Seconds that.

4. Officiating service

- Kevin: Said Kitts is hurting from back surgery, but encourages coaches to contact him when he feels better to discuss any issues, concerns, etc.
- Devin (Nazareth): Schmidt is out of town, he also encouraged coaches to contact him with issues. He thought the year went pretty well and wants to utilize ARBITER system more next year.
- Rob: Officials seemed more receptive, had good demeanor, and more quality interactions
- Kevin: Kitts appreciated how difficult it was with two rule changes this season
- Rob: Have other conferences joined our officiating service yet?
- Kevin: They are still in discussion. Reminded coaches that Kitts is not officiating next year.
- Janelle: SUNYAC approved individual contractor for officiating. Have not yet selected which one.
- Michelle (Utica): Raised concern of some men's officials also doing women's games "It's a different game."
- Rob: Understands and appreciates Michelle's concern. Feels like sometimes has a similar situation with D1 guys going down to D3 games.
- Kevin: Just like a high school official doing a college game, it is different, but ultimately we want a quality job no matter what. Kevin put up for a vote. 15 votes okay with doing both men's and women's, 1 against.
- Rob: I'm sure we can have a conversation with Kitts and Schmidt to work through this.

5. 14-15 Schedule

- Shannon: "We need to make significant changes to the schedule in the future to make it more cost effective and fair. It needs to be evaluated and changed." An example was having two weeks off in February.
- Rob: Asked if it was possible to do a first semester weekend
- Shannon: Suggested a Wednesday/Saturday during break
- RT (Elmira): Suggested back to back Monday/Tuesday or Tuesday/Wednesday during semester break and/or utilizing other opportunities.
- Shannon: The schools should dictate the overnight, not the conference.
- Pete: Certainly can look at alternatives, but understand 9 is very difficult to work with.
- Janelle: Asks for any volunteers for schedule and for new parameters to be looked at with the AD's. Academic calendar has always been a concern from each school.

- Pete: Need to look at who can and who can't in early January. So, we should collect the info from the schools.
- Janelle: Agrees to look at everything involved IE budgets, etc.
- Rob: For conference teams doing the Stevens/Hartwick road trip it is very difficult to get equity, compared to a conference team playing Nazareth and Fisher back to back. He asked if we are looking for a tenth team.
- Janelle: Currently no.
- Pete: Janelle and a group can collect info and look at this because we have a year to make it.
- Michelle: "We are already starting on January 2nd and 3rd, but we have got to protect our conference schools. We need to get better with the schedule and we can't have teams with 12-13 days off."
- Pete: Agrees but wants everyone to know there are a lot of variables and AD's have to stay in budget.
- Kevin: Gave an example of the old SUNY schedule, and coaches should make a list of top 5 things they feel are the most important while scheduling.
- Rob: Said he is willing to develop a schedule for 15-16.
- Janelle: Willing to meet with a group to make 15-16 schedule, and maybe take a day in Rochester to do it.
- Kevin: Thanked Rob, Shannon, Michelle, and Chris for volunteering. Getting what the coaches are looking for and think is important for the scheduling. Make sure we are getting all pertinent information, including dates, from each institution.

6. Additional Items:

- Kevin: Brought up what the group thought about women playing second.
- Janelle: It was action taken by conference through the office of civil rights with the objective of giving primetime spot to the female athletes and giving them that opportunity.
- Consensus with group, if the number of fans were an objective then the diminishing number of fans did not accomplish this at all.
- Pete: This is a year to year policy with flip-flopping the times, some individual schools are doing it anyway, he explained the differences with other sports, and it is a tough comparison.

Wrapped up call around 11:55AM.