

10 Springtime Thoughts:

- 1)** After season ends do exit interviews with staff and players: ask tough questions and don't blink.
- 2)** Too much emotion will get you drunk. You should be tired after a season of coaching; take a step back, quietly evaluate what your heart is saying, and know that nothing is either as bad or good as you think.
- 3)** If a player, staff member, or administrator worked in an unethical way just know that the passage of time may dim the transgression yet never expect anything different the next time.
- 4)** A true self-evaluation involves a hard look at your mistakes. Admitting them is half the battle and actually changing them means a "one day at a time" assessment.
- 5)** I have heard some coaches say they don't believe in time off and to plow right through after the season ends: only a fool thinks that is something to boast about.
- 6)** System DVD key: when you walk into any high-end football organization, you will find they have a system's DVD which covers all three phases of the game. Basketball programs should have this too, as the advantages are many. When the season ends you should evaluate, eliminate, and update.
- 7)** Drills. Keep a "drills notebook"....the best practices I have seen are when the drills are simple, competitive, have flow, and the players do them with an ease that says, "I know what I am doing." I find that the best of the best display a CLARITY of expectation and execution.
- 8)** Brief and debrief. The exceptional organizations communicate in an organic way: ever changing and evolving according to what is happening that day. Yet, the entire culture is operating from a solid base that does not change, such as time; all will move as one relative to the clock and there will be no exceptions.
- 9)** Never satisfied but completely happy with an all out effort. I find that perfectionist live a miserable existence. In short, strive for a balance between criticism and praise; you will find that the yoking between the two to be a worthwhile struggle.
- 10) Pride. Honor. Tradition.**
Your program should be based on simple values that last a lifetime. Your greatest achievement, by far, will be the lessons imparted with the players. You will know this because many will come back and tell you. Thus, at season's end take a hard look at what you consider to be nonnegotiable values and how you got those across the line.