



MARVEL R. AINSWORTH

1928-1991

BASKETBALL COACH HALLOF FAME, 1990

COMPILED BY DEAN LADD (COUSIN)

2013

INTRODUCTION

In mid 2012, I was visiting Louise Ainsworth, the widow of Marv Ainsworth as she was gathering her belongings prior to moving into a care facility near her son at Coeur MT. She showed me a *Basketball Guide* that Marv had written and used when he was a basketball coach at University High School. It was the original typed and perhaps the only one in existence. I felt there would be many of his former players and friends who would like to have this information.

So, I offered to write a manuscript, using this and all other available information as a resource. The text of the guide is condensed into a summary. This is the result.

Marvel Rufus Ainsworth was born April 27, 1928 in Spokane. He graduated from Central Valley High School in 1946 and served in the U.S. Navy from May 29, 1946 to March 26, 1948 as an Aviation Electrician Mate. Upon his release from active duty, he attended the University of Idaho from September 1948 to June 1951. He was a member of the Sigma Nu Fraternity. He met Louise Ball and they were married in August, 1950. In September, 1951, he transferred to Eastern Washington University and graduated in August, 1952 with a B.S. in Education and a commission in the Air Force Reserve.

After graduation they moved to Greenacres, WA where he taught the 5th grade at Opportunity Elementary School from 1952 to 1956. He enjoyed it from the beginning, soon creating games to make learning more fun and becoming involved in sports as a volunteer. Then he moved to Greenacres Junior High School, where he coached baseball and basketball along with teaching, from 1956 to 1962.

In 1962, he joined the faculty at the new University High School as a mathematics teacher and the basketball coach. In his 20 years of coaching there, he had 302 wins and 154 losses. From 1962 to 1975, he also served as Athletic Director when University High was added to Central Valley School District. He was their only basketball coach for 20 years, when he retired from public education.

During summer vacations he kept active in athletics. He was business manager for the Spokane Valley Boys Baseball League from 1958 to 1966. He coached at numerous basketball camps, including Conifer camp, Cougar Cage Camp and Northwest Basketball Camp.

After retiring from the Central Valley School District in 1982, Marv became director of Northwest Basketball Camp Outreach Ministries. That was a Christian non-profit organization, founded to fund scholarships for young people to attend camps such as Youth for Christ, Young Life and NW Basketball Camp and to send sports teams around the world to play and share the gospel of Jesus Christ. The outreach also worked with troubled youth and the Spokane Juvenile Detention Center.

At NW Basketball Camp he coordinated the overseas tour teams until 1985, leading teams to Australia and Scandinavia. Marv invited me (Dean) to speak to the camp in 1983 after I had returned from a six-week trip, retracing WW II Marine battle sites where I had fought in the Pacific. (See the text at the end of this manuscript)

From fall of 1982 to spring 1986, Marv coached the girls' basketball team at Whitworth College in Spokane. In September, 1986 he resumed his teaching career at Priest River, Idaho but returned to the Spokane Valley two years later to teach at Valley Christian School and helped start a girls' basketball team there. In June 1990, a year before his death, Marv was honored by his fellow coaches by being voted into the Washington State Basketball Coach Hall of Fame.

Marv remained active in the Air Force Reserve and retired as a major with 20 years of service. In January, 1991, he developed bone cancer, underwent heart surgery to replace a mitral valve and died October 31, 1991 at age 63. At the time

of his death he was a deacon at the Valley Fourth Memorial Church.

Besides basketball, he loved to fish, work in the garden and take family vacations. He had a great sense of humor and was a wonderful story teller. He loved the Lord, his family and having all his children and grand children together. Even though he was gone a great deal, he took time to assure his family of that love. His living children are Kenneth Allen, Sheryl Marie, Betty Arlene and Linda Lee.

Some of the highlights of his career were:

1. Traveled as an assistant coach with his boyhood friend, Chuck Randall and Western Washington State University to the Philippines, Hong Kong and Australia.
2. His 300th win and the many honors given to him by the Greater Spokane League,
The Referee's Association, The Principals and the Athletic Directors Association as well as honors from his former basketball players.
3. Induction into the Washington State Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame.
4. Traveled as coach with basketball teams to Australia, Denmark, Sweden and Norway.

Marv often quoted from John Wooden, "Success is the piece of mind which is the direct result of self satisfaction in knowing that you did your best to become the best that you were capable of." He was a great believer of trying to instill good character traits throughout his career of teaching and coaching young people. These included such traits as dependability, endurance, integrity, loyalty, honesty and hard work.

When he was basketball coach at University High School, he wrote a Basketball Guide to assist his basketball players. The following excerpts are from his introduction:

Basketball to me is more than a sport--it is a way of life. Boys who take the game seriously can't help but derive many wonderful experiences and benefits. In victory you learn to appreciate the satisfaction of accomplishment through hard work, sacrifice and devotion to a worthy cause. You understand the true value of team work by working with your coach and fellow players. When defeated, you learn to lose gracefully but come back with a greater desire to win. When playing basketball, you must learn to make quick decisions under the most tense conditions. Through victory and defeat, you will grow from a boy, who will be much better equipped to cope with the complexities of life.

Basketball is a great deal more than merely working plays and fundamentals; it reaches beyond the boundaries of the court, especially when representing a high school. Certain standards and qualifications are required of all players who wish to have a championship caliber, whether or not a championship is won. This type of player can best be developed by his understanding of what is expected of him and his constant striving to fulfill such expectations.

The Guide's Table of Contents listed the following :

What it Takes to be No 1, Achievement, A Law, Advice, Athlete's Prayer, To

Any Athlete, Don't Fear Criticism, The Substitute, Mental Attitude of an Athlete, Principles and Rules for University H.S. Basketball Players, How to be a Champion, Setting the Example, Training Rules, Conditioning, Studies, Conduct on the Court, Hair Cuts, Dating, Choosing Friends, Gambling, Strategy, Pre-Game Meal, Pre-Game Habits, Pre-Game Locker Room, Pre-Game Warm-up, The Contest, Floor Conduct, Substitutions, Bench Conduct, Half Time and After the Game.

Basketball Fundamentals listed the following: Shooting, Dribbling, Rebouding, Defense, Ball Handling, Offense, Student Managers and Trainers, Church Basketball, A Game Guy's Prayer, Last Minute Shot

**His "Athlete's Prayer" words were:
Be with us God and help us in this contest today.
But let us hear with humble heart the praises people say.
Let us be perfect in every form and let us each aim to be true and let us take a certain pride in everything that we do.
But fill our souls with honesty and listen to our prayer, that every time we play the game, we play it fair and square.
And every victory that we gain belongs at last to You because You gave us all the strength to see each struggle through. Amen**

Under "Metal Attitude of an Athlete", Marv covered emotions, confidence, victory spirit, loyalty, respect, the public and religion. He felt that the boy who has faith in God can look into the future without worry and strain and that those who attend church are more likely to be successful because they face problems with hope and encouragement. (That was certainly Marv's mental attitude during his final days of life)

**Under "Principles and Rules", Marv stessed some of the following:
Work hard and know the glory and thrill of an all out effort.
There is a destiny which makes us brothers.
None goes his way alone.
All that we take into the lives of others
Comes back into our own.**

Be aggressive! When we play, WE GO TO WAR!!

A Happy Warrior is one who fears no opponent but respects them all, and gives his utmost in every minute of every practice and every game.

**Definition of the "Word Champs"
C.....Concentration
H.....Heart
A.....Attitude**

M.....Modesty

P.....Practice

S.....Sacrifice

Under “How to Be a Champion”, Marv stressed some of the following:

Winners are workers, workers are winners.

Setbacks never whip a fighter.

Correct your own mistakes before criticizing others.

Luck is when preparation meets opportunity.

Where you are now isn't important; it's the direction in which you are heading that's important.

If you aren't part of the solution, then you must be part of the problem.

Poise is pride under pressure.

Each man has two ends--the sitting end and the thinking end. Success depends on which end is used harder.

I (Dean) spoke to Northwest Basketball Camps August 3, 1983 before the breakup of the Soviet Union. My cousin, Marv Ainsworth, had become the Coach/Director there a year earlier, after retiring from University H.S, and had invited me to speak to the group. I have recently discovered my written notes that are as follows:

“I am very impressed with the program and dedication of an outstanding staff. It is obviously the will of the Lord and has developed over the years into a well organized and effective approach to glorify Him, not only in each of your individual lives but as an outreach to the rest of the world.

We have to continually remind ourselves though that that all is to no avail unless it is to the glory of God. This is the punch line in the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes. People in that day, thousands of years ago, had ambitions to accomplish goals just like today. It's been that way since the human race was created.

Isn't it great that God has also given us the choice to be free to make our own decisions about how to live our lives, even if wrong in His sight? Wouldn't it be a wonderful world if everyone on our planet understood this basic truth about glorifying God? Unfortunately, we must face reality. History has recorded that, from the first humans to the present time, there has been conflict--first between individuals, then between tribes and then nations. Indeed, the Bible says there will always be wars and rumors of wars.

In my life time alone, our country has fought in three large scale conflicts—WWII, Korea and Vietnam. We have had to alert our armed forces on many other occasions and kept them constantly stationed at potential hot spots around the world ever since WWII, thirty eight years ago.

So, as much as we dislike it and as unpopular it is to a segment of our society, our country must remain strong militarily or we face the consequences of living under tyranny like in so many other parts of the world today. The NBC basketball team, who visited Russia last summer, readily noticed the lack of freedom reflected in the Russian faces.

I have found in my travels around the world that the people, especially children, usually are the same and of course desire to live in peace. Unfortunately, many other nations are governed by totalitarian dictatorships which don't allow a truly free democratic process such as in this great country of ours.

But we don't have the option of appealing on a person to person basis to such totalitarian countries as in Russia—expressing our wish to disarm and hope that they would follow our example. The problem is that they have very little control over their power-hungry masters who, ever since WWII have stated that history is on their side and that their system of socialism will eventually overtake the world.

Let's not forget that although they talk convincingly about desiring peace, their concept of peace is entirely different than ours. To them it signifies one world under socialism and that whatever steps are required to reach that goal are considered peaceful steps. In other words, the end justifies the means.

Our country's founding fathers possessed great wisdom, I feel, due to God's will—to establish for the first time in history, a truly free system of government by the people, for the people, and of the people under laws developed through a truly democratic process with checks and balances.

Those individuals who have fled to this country can fully appreciate our freedoms and opportunities whereas we too often take them for granted and tend to overlook it when these hard-won freedoms start eroding away bit by bit. Our founding fathers felt strongly that, as in the American Revolutionary War, each new generation would have to be eternally vigilant to preserve those hard-won freedoms. You are that generation who will shortly have to carry the torch by deed and example. Hopefully your sacrifices will not have to be as great as those suffered by your ancestors.

That banner on the wall reads, "Greater than the spirit to win is the spirit to prepare to win". Although this relates first to winning in basketball, it of course applies equally to all life's endeavors, including our nation which must maintain the spirit to keep prepared to defend our cherished freedoms.

Recently I visited all of the WWII sites in the South Pacific islands where, as a young rifle company lieutenant only a few years older than some of you, I led units of Marines through such battles as on Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Saipan and Tinian. Probably these names mean nothing to you unless you have read about them in history books or perhaps listened to your father or grandfather. I will show you a few slide to help you relate to the sacrifices that youth like you had to make in that generation.

I was particularly interested to talk to the present day natives. For instance, I attended a church on Guadalcanal. After that, I felt that each step for the remainder of the 6 week trip was the will of the Lord. For instance, during the last two weeks I volunteered on Saipan to help in construction of facilities for a new short wave transmitting station. From that installation, that Far East Broadcasting Company station will shortly broadcast the Christian message into Russia and China. Of course, their governments are not happy about that!

(After showing slides) In conclusion we must not forget the sacrifices made by

our previous generations so that we and our descendants can continue to enjoy the precious freedom of choice.

Now as you carry the ball, figuratively and literally, don't let them down and in all of your endeavors, glorify God.

As director of Northwest Outreach—a program of NW Basketball Camp--Marv coordinated the overseas tour teams until 1985 and led teams to Scandanavia and Australia where their performance impressed the host countries that Christian athletes were no pushover! This was a great accomplishment for Marv, following his very successful record at University High School.