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IBL team gaining sponsors

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IBL team gaining sponsors

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General manager Eric Bailey and his colleagues are continuing to lay the groundwork for an International Basketball League franchise in McMinnville.

The Portland-based Bailey reported that Comfort Inn of McMinnville signed on as the hotel sponsor for the franchise, which will take flight under the name Yamhill High Flyers, if enough backers are found. The current plan is to get the new team up and running by the opening of the 2009 season - or by 2010 at the latest.

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Bailey also reported that, in mid- November, V2 Dentistry and Copy Cats NW signed on as sponsors.

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Since the IBL season runs from April through June, the High Flyers would be the only hoops action in town during that time. The team would play half its schedule in Yamhill County, perhaps splitting contests between McMinnville and Newberg.

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But to make the franchise a reality, more backers are needed and a variety of sponsorships are available. For more information about sponsorship levels and benefits, contact Bailey by phone at (503) 720-5116 or by e-mail at ericbailey@ymail.com.

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"Like a horse and carriage"

Teaching and coaching "go together like a horse and carriage".

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They're really inseparable: Great coaches are great teachers - that means in both the classroom and the athletic arena.

The best teacher/coaches I've worked with had the ability to break down fundamentals into understandable, bite-sized 'chunks,' adding more advanced material only after making sure their subjects understood the basics. Whether it was football or math, the great ones had a grasp of the overall picture, including, of course, their subject matter, which they had mastered and learned to present in a clear, logical framework. These men and women demonstrated their enthusiasm for the subjects they delivered on a daily basis, and they employed a variety of techniques to get the material across to their charges.

My philosophy at one time included the mantra, "I'm a teacher first, then a coach after school," but thanks to a little 'enlightening' by a number of colleagues - and good, old-fashioned experience - I soon realized that you can't separate one from the other. You have to work hard at being strong in both arenas to do your job well and gain the respect of students, athletes, peers and parents.

True, there are examples of coaches who have been successful on the field or in the gym and not as strong in the classroom because teaching was just something that came along with the coaching job and provided most of the paycheck. But I believe they're a rare breed today. With tougher teacher rating systems in place, no one wants to be known as 'weak' in the classroom, so most work hard to be superior instructors.

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Luckily, most are self-motivated to be the best they can be - they don't need the threat of a poor evaluation to inspire them to perform at exceptional levels.

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When I talk to people in Mac and the surrounding area about their schools, teachers and coaches, I hear many complimentary comments about successful coaches who are also excellent classroom teachers. And from what I've gathered in those conversations, there are many outstanding men and women doing exceptional jobs in local schools - which, of course, bodes well for current and future student-athletes in Yamhill County communities.



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