

**Hodgson Vo-Tech Coach Chris Jones
Offers Statement Regarding Incidents
During and After the State Tournament
Game with Ursuline**

(posted 03/08/11)

In a sincere attempt to gather as much information as possible regarding at least two incidents – one during and one immediately after the Ursuline/Hodgson State Tournament game held on Saturday, March 5 – DelawareGirlsBasketball.com extended an open invitation to both coaches to provide a statement of their version of exactly what happened. Hodgson Coach, Chris Jones, accepted this invitation.

The purpose of this reaching out to *both* teams is so that this entire episode, when it reaches closure (as it most surely will at some point), it will do so in a way that is as positive as can be (all things considered). DGB.com believes this process begins with getting everything out in the open. A telling of the experiences from both benches. Once this is done, we can progress toward one or both sides taking “ownership” or responsibility for the different factors that led to the incidents referred to above. Then, with wisdom and understanding from both camps, this affair can be put behind us – properly.

I will refrain from commenting on any aspects of Coach Jones’ statement, leaving it to each individual reader to take from it what they will. What I *will* say is that I truly appreciate Coach Jones coming forward to make his contribution to the discussion.

His letter to me follows on the next pages and is published here with his permission.

Jim Charles

DelGirlsHoops@delawaregirlsbasketball.com

Jim,

I will not comment on the post-game handshake line. I did not see the incident. I am not at liberty to discuss. There may be legal consequences, administrative decisions, and possible DIAA sanctions to be issued. I will say vehemently that I will not condone any inappropriate actions or reactions by my player(s).

I will comment on what I feel was a lack of leadership on the part of Mr. Noonan and his coaching staff, specifically (Mr. Cranston). During our quarter-final game, a bang-bang play occurred. This led to injuries being sustained by a UA player as well as my player. Both girls had to be looked at by our respective trainers. As Mr. Noonan returned to the sideline, he shouted directly at me to "shut up!!" I replied in turn, "You shut up!" The game official issued a double-technical on both coaches. Mr. Cranston began offering up hand gestures. He continued this kind of taunting after he sat down. Mr. Noonan chose not to control this immature behavior.

During the altercation, Mr. Noonan and Mr. Cranston were yelling obscenities at HVT players and coaches. In this type of crisis, it was imperative to get both squads off the court. Mr. Noonan found himself having to physically restrain Mr. Cranston. He was attempting to enter my personal space in a threatening manner. This could've fueled more negative behaviors. This type of aggression and lack of discipline is appalling. The UA coaching staff demonstrated no calmness.

Mr. Noonan's comment-no comment suggests we are a dirty team (as noted in the News Journal). I find this to be an insult to my program, players, coaches and the entire Hodgson community. I teach the game the right way, also. We play hard. We strive to be competitively great. I'm sure he teaches (his players) the same things too. His comments are shameful and deserve no credence. All of the girls battled for a spot in the State Tournament's Final 4. UA won. We gave great effort and lost. A great game will be

marred by the events that happened after the final seconds ticked off the clock. This is truly unfortunate.

I have known Mr. Noonan for close to 10 years. I considered him a friend in the game of basketball. He has taught my daughter some things about the game. I have had the pleasure of coaching his daughter also. Our families have broke bread together. We have traveled to National tournaments rooting for each other to be successful as Delaware PAL Wildcats AAU coaches trading basketball secrets. In 2008, when we made the Final 4, he was one of the first people to call me and congratulate us. I am confused by his recent behavior. The last two times our teams have met, he has not displayed sportsmanship during the games. Coaching can be stressful. I am passionate and so is he.

I don't know what kind of pressure he may be under over there (UA) to win it all..... but he has not been himself.

Respectfully,

*Chris Jones
HVT Girls Basketball
Head Coach*