



**Your on the
Street Reporter**



Uyless Black

Competition in the Slovenly Lane

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January 18, 2015

Hello from Your on the Street Reporter. This report is based on a news release from the Associated Press, with my interpretations added.¹

Locker Room:

Coach Michael Anderson, “OK, girls, in order to reward the less-competent players on this team, tonight I am starting the second-string. Our team is getting bad press from having too much success.”

Press release:

San Bernardino, CA, (Associated Press)

A Southern California high school basketball coach has been suspended and faces accusations of mercilessly running up the score after his team won a game, 161-2, one of the most lopsided scores in state history.

Locker Room:

Coach, “I know the first team members have worked hard to gain their positions, but we can no longer reward merit. So, second team, you are now first team. First team, nice work, but you are on the bench until we become losers.”

Press release, continued (with my comments in brackets and italics):

Anderson said he wasn’t trying to run up the score or embarrass the opponent [*the opponent did that on its own accord.*] His team had won four previous games by at least 70 points, and Bloomington [*the opponent*] had already lost a game by 91.

Locker Room:

Coach, “Now look, girls, if the score difference goes over 100, I’ll have to put in the third team.”

Player, “But coach, there is no third team!”

Press release, continued:

Anderson, “I didn’t play any starters in the second half. I didn’t expect them to be that bad. I’m not trying to embarrass anybody.

He says if he had it to do again, he’d have played only reserves after the first quarter,

¹ “Girls’ Basketball Coach Suspended after 161-2 Win,” *The Desert Sun*, January 18, 2015, A37.

or “I wouldn’t play the game at all.” [*The poor man has been hounded into political correctness.*]

Locker Room:

Coach, “OK, the second team will have to stop being competitive. If the score gets out of hand, you are not allowed to shoot for a basket. You are only allowed to pass the ball to the opponent. Once the score difference becomes less than 100, you can then actually play the game as it is intended to be played.”

Player, “But coach, our past competition...well, they never scored a basket. We might never get a chance to actually play.”

Press release, continued:

But Bloomington coach Dale Chung says Arroyo Valley used a full-court press for the entire first half to lead 104-1 at halftime. [*The losing team never scored a basket, even against the benchwarmers. They scored on two free throws, one in each half.*]

Locker Room:

Coach, “Right...hm, too much defense. OK, you must stop guarding your opponent. Give her free access to the hoop!”

Press release, continued:

“People shouldn’t feel sorry for my team,” Chung said. “They should feel sorry for his team, which isn’t learning the game the right way.”

[*Which is what, Mr. Chung? Insisting the game not be played as it was designed to be played? Your opposing coach kept-in the first team for only the first half. He had his players play in accordance with the ideas of sports: to excel; to compete; to do one’s best.*]

Locker Room:

Player, “But coach, even with the second team, we will still out-score them by a long shot.”

Coach, “OK, point taken. Just take more long shots. Way, way long shots, say from mid-court.

“Look, I’m getting a lot of pressure to stop winning by so many points. You girls just have to stop being so good at what you have been working your tails off for so long to do: Being as good as you can in what you pursue.”

Player, “Will the first team ever be able to play again?”

Coach, “I’m afraid not. You’re just too good for your own good.”

Press release, continued:

[The losing coach offered his views on the matter.]
“He’s a great X’s and O’s coach. Ethically? Not so much. He knows what he did was wrong.” *[As political correctness continues to spiral out of control.]*

As a postscript, perhaps these games should be separated into leagues of competence. But until/if that is done, to castigate this man for not playing his second team in the first half is pathetic. Why go out for basketball if you cannot play basketball? He gave his first team their rightful due.

He is not the problem. His league or lack of a league is the problem. These teams should not be playing against each other in the first place.

Pulling the first team in the first half? If I were on that first team, I’d head for the locker room and look for other ways to spend my time.

As for Coach Chung, I admire your community spirit, but you need to reassess your views of what happened in that game. You and your team got your asses kicked, yet you piled onto your opponents as if they were at fault for your failures.