

## **From College Coaches:**

These tips come from some of the premier College Basketball Coaches in the country, isn't it funny that I tell you the same things! Many of you forget or didn't know that I coached college basketball and football for 16 years. I do understand what they are saying but the real issue is do you understand.

- **Coachability** - This really isn't even a word but it combines many aspects college coaches look for. Can you be on time, listen, prepare, perform, dedicate and follow the instructions given by the coach without your own opinions.
- **Work Ethic** – Will you work by yourself to get better, just you and the gym or weight room? Is the work you do to play basketball an obligation or a desire?
- **Character On and Off the Court** – You can either be a character or have character. Coaches love players with character. Championships are won with players with character. What kind of person are you, God knows, show us who you are without telling us.
- **Competitiveness** – Will you compete even if you don't play in a game? Can you lose without blaming others? Does it mean something to win the after practice free throw contest? All these things and many others require the desire to succeed with the ability to handle the situations when you don't.
- **Be a Good Teammate** – Do you win or does the team win? You may have made the winning shot but the team put us in the position to win, you just did what you were suppose to do so don't have a parade. Can you sacrifice for the team, practice hard and never play, support the guys on the floor without complaining about the mistakes they make? All of these can make or break a team because a chain is only as strong as the weakest link, just like a team.
- **Self Discipline** – The desire to do the little things to make you a better person and player. When your friends are not working hard or not working at all, what are you doing? Self discipline and work ethic go hand in hand.
- **Unselfishness** – This is the trait that allows for success in the athletic world. Nothing creates a winning situation more than an unselfish player. The real players understand this, the wannabes never will. Coaches end up wasting time with wannabes because they take away from the team, they should be cut.

**As I stand and watch at open gym, at Gold Crown or wherever I see you are these qualities in you. I see glimpses of greatness in you but sometimes they are few and far between. All of you have the ability to incorporate these values into the life you are living. Will you do the things to make you a better person? All the traits listed above and many more will make you a better player but what I hope is you come closer to God through Christ. Today is the first day of the rest of your life, you want to be a great basketball player, go for it.**

**Coach Augie**