

WNBA officiating worries coaches

BY ANTONE OSEKA
Senior Reporter



KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Women's basketball players traditionally haven't looked like football offensive linemen.

If the style of play continues as it is currently for college women's hoops, coaches may have to start recruiting players who have the physique of an offensive lineman.

Many of the Big 12 women's basketball coaches talked Wednesday at the Big 12 Women's Basketball Media Day about how the style of play in women's basketball was becoming too physical for many smaller, finesse players.

The only way to cut down, coaches said, was to have officials calling more fouls each game.

"Our most serious issue in women's basketball at this point in time is the elevated talent with a small pool of officials," Texas Coach Jody Conradt said. "Some officials I didn't want to see again. I saw them all summer."

Conradt said she saw what she

considered mediocre officials calling WNBA games.

Other Big 12 coaches said they agreed with Conradt that the problem with women's basketball officiating is the lack of quality officials now being spread among two professional women's basketball leagues and full course of college women's games.

"Our best officials are going off to call the American Basketball League (ABL), and spent all summer calling the WNBA," Oklahoma Coach Sherrie Coale said. "I worry about them going from one arena to another on a Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday-Saturday rotation."

The only way to cut down on good officials doing double duty in the pros and college is to have younger officials start coming up in places like the Big 12 Conference.

"We're going to go through some growing pains until we get some young officials developed," Texas A&M Coach Candi Harvey said.

"The problem is they could be costing us the game in the meantime.

"The better officials were working a lot more games. And not only a lot more games, but coast to coast. One game has to slip. I don't want that to be my game."

The biggest slip is when officials call loose games, where bigger post players get away with too much pushing and shoving on the smaller perimeter players. The coaches said that type of play took a lot out of what women's basketball used to be, a game of grace, and turned it into a game of warfare.

"If the game is not officiated well, there's a tendency to let the play go," Colorado Coach Ceal Barry said.

She said that hurts teams, which slows down the pace of the game and uses freethrows for points.

Oklahoma State Coach Dick Halterman took a little tougher approach to the officials in NCAA women's basketball.

"It's probably hard on officials," Halterman said. "But it's obvious there's not enough good officials to go around."

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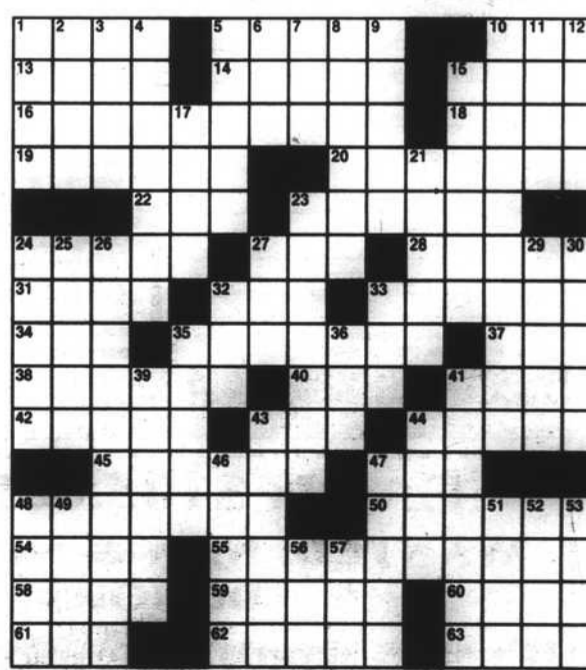
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- ACROSS**
- 1 — morgana
 - 5 Hidy-hole
 - 10 Total expenses
 - 13 Construction beam
 - 14 Educator
 - 15 Bristle
 - 16 RIGHT HAND?
 - 18 Comics' Harold
 - 19 — de corps
 - 20 Deceived
 - 22 Dutch city
 - 23 Rifles' wooden parts
 - 24 Thicket
 - 27 Mozart's "L" — del Cairo"
 - 28 Harkens
 - 31 Stop
 - 32 To and —
 - 33 Youthful
 - 34 Orel's river
 - 35 Get back
 - 37 Gold, in Gerona
 - 38 Site of Potomac State College
 - 40 A Ritter of films
 - 41 Bit
 - 42 Growing out
 - 43 Average grade
 - 44 "J.F.K." director
 - 45 Led a sure winner
 - 47 Examine
 - 48 Tire of W.W. II
 - 50 Plague
 - 54 "Thanks —!"
 - 55 LEFT BANK?
 - 58 Ares, to Caesar
 - 59 Sea duck
 - 60 San Marino money
 - 61 Ques.'s companion
 - 62 Perfume
 - 63 Try to find

- DOWN**
- 1 Drum's companion
 - 2 Down with! Fr.
 - 3 Shea cover
 - 4 Car-door adjunct
 - 5 Struck powerfully
 - 6 Smoke solid
 - 7 Torah holder
 - 8 Brief rest
 - 9 Nonspeaking Marx
 - 10 UPSTANDING?
 - 11 Suit to —
 - 12 Players for Casey
 - 15 "Dracula" author
 - 17 All-inclusive
 - 21 Dark yellow
 - 23 Darded
 - 24 Throttle
 - 25 Type of bucket

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- 26 DOWNCAST?
- 27 Killer whale
- 28 Singer Bobby
- 30 Incline
- 32 Not agin
- 33 Plague
- 35 The Little Colonel
- 36 Churchill's sign
- 39 Commences
- 41 Some solid alcohols
- 43 Actor Hardwicke
- 44 Seven big ones
- 46 An Oscar winner: 1931-32
- 47 Plunger's loss
- 48 An incarnation of Vishnu
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- 57 Decimal base

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