

# SPORT TALK • SPORT TALK

## Intangibles factor in Coach of the Year contest

Peer pressure is a fact of basketball coaching life and plaudits from one's peers can make it seem worthwhile, especially to those spotlighted for an exceptional job well done.

That's why selection as Coach of the Year is considered the most prestigious honor in the hoop profession.

Right now, as the collegiate season races to its tournament-time climax, members of the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) are preparing to vote for the one among them whose 1984-85 direction has been best.

There's a lot more to be considered than wins and losses, final conference standings and the frenetic gallop towards the final four.

There are the intangible responsibilities of coaching such as helping young men mature; the development of awkward youth to competitive competence; keeping educational values in proper perspective amid the roar of the crowd and the ever-dedicate guidance of a group of varied personalities.

Via their professional pipelines, coaches know their peers better than the headline writers, statistical analysts and, sometimes, even the players.

What makes voting for this award so difficult is that there are always so many deserving candidates.

This season, more than a dozen coaches from all parts of the U.S. have done outstanding jobs, each worthy of a special accolade. Among them are Little Looie Carnesecca (St. John's) who boosted his Redmen to Number One ranking for the first time in 30 years; John Thompson (Georgetown) who molded one of the greatest squads in many, many years while defending a national championship; Lefty Driesell (Maryland) who won his 500th career decision; Dana Kirk (Memphis State), Billy Tubbs (Oklahoma), Ralph Miller (Oregon State), Dave Bliss (SMU), Jim Valvano (North Carolina State), Bobby Crimmins (Georgia Tech) and Bill Frieder (Michigan).

All had sparkling statistical seasons, yet it may well be that the Coach of the Year will be chosen for the intangibles.

Consider what Thompson has done to transform Patrick Ewing from a shy, unsure, young giant into an intimidator equal to Darth Vader. Or how carefully Kirk polished the raw skills that Keith Lee brought to Memphis State or how carefully Tubbs guided the multi-talented Wayman Tisdale. The manner in which Carnesecca steered St. John's through its rough Big East schedule deserves considerable attention.

Crimmins has hoisted George Tech from the cellar to the attic in the rugged Atlantic Coast Conference in just four years.

It's impossible to overlook Oklahoma's Tubbs and his gossamer touch of teaching only reasonable restraint to Tisdale — perhaps the nation's most spectacular performer. More importantly is the excitement Tubbs has brought to the Sooners' style.

But there can be only one, picked by his peers, in the final outcome.

Members of the National Assn. of Basketball Coaches will soon be voting for the Coach of the Year Award... It will be presented during the N.C.A.A. tournament at Lexington, Ky.



Leading candidates include  
 LOU CARNESECCA St. John's  
 JIM VALVANO N.C. State  
 JOHN THOMPSON Georgetown  
 BILLY TUBBS Oklahoma  
 DANA KIRK Memphis State

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