



Tackett, Julian <jtackett@khsaa.org>

Aussie Basketball

1 message

Jerry Garris <jgarris@bbtel.com>

Mon, Sep 9, 2013 at 10:37 AM

To: jtackett@khsaa.org

Julian:

I have been fortunate to work closely with the Australian teams that have been coming to our state for the past several years. Don't know how it started, but they asked me to make their KY. schedule for them. Each year when they let me know how many teams will be coming, I send out an email & the response to play these teams is amazing. We can't get everyone scheduled that wants to play, but we never have a problem getting them a schedule.

It makes no difference whether they play in Louisville, Campbellsville, Northern KY. or Meade Co., the gyms are usually full. About 99% of the time, these kids will stay with kids from the KY. teams they play for the night & then go to school with them the next day before heading on to the next town. It's always a pleasure for me to have the coaches stay with me when they come to Meade Co. to play. I had the speech writer for Australia's president as a guest in my house 4 years ago! It's amazing the excitement from everyone at school and the community when these kids come in for the day. We have people in our community ask me every year if the Australians are coming back to play. One group that played in Campbellsville a few years ago had a coach that liked it so much, he came back & is now married to one of the trainer's for Campbellsville's program!

The Australians don't get to play in front of many people the way our kids do & they enjoy the whole atmosphere of high school basketball in our state. They like to see the band, cheerleaders, homecoming ceremonies, etc, that make KY. high school basketball special. I could go on & on about the good experiences that come from this for our kids & theirs and I know you have had some emails from others about this subject as well.

I understand the rule, but these teams are not like Oak Hill or Huntington Prep. They raise their own money to come-It usually takes about \$10,000 and \$3-5,000 more in spending money for them to make this trip. Some know they will come 2 years from now & will start raising the money now to prepare. To make this ruling now, for this season would be an injustice to both sides. Some of these kids efforts for the past 2 years will go down the tubes & teams that have scheduled them will probably not be able to find an opponent to play, plus some are in tourneys and that will be more difficult to find a team to replace the Aussies for 3 games. If you are set to make this ruling, could you at least wait until the following year?

If you have any questions or comments, call me:[270-668-6948](tel:270-668-6948) or email me back.

Thanks for listening!

Jerry Garris

Former (retired) Boy's Basketball Coach

Meade Co. HS