

The Best Wrong Call

While hosting a JV basketball game, I witnessed the best wrong call that I have ever seen. Late in the game, our team was up by fifteen points and trying to work the ball around and use up the clock. The game was good by JV standards and the teams battled back and forth until the last quarter. The coaches, officials, players, and fans were doing their jobs and performing appropriately. As an Athletic Director, I am always thankful when events go smoothly.

As the game played out, one of the players on the opposing team was starting to lose his composure. He was a “big” and had battled our “big” all night. I think the fact that we pulled away and the reality of not being able to win was getting to him. You could see the frustration building in his face and his body language. Finally, he started to be excessively physical. The opposing coach noticed and started calling for a timeout even though his team did not have possession. One official noticed the player as well and with just under a minute to play, blew his whistle and granted the timeout.

The average fan in the crowd did not see or understand what was happening. They had no clue why the officials gave a time out to the team that didn’t have the ball. The coach met with the player at half court and calmly talked to his player about keeping his cool. The game ended and both teams shook hands without incident. I escorted the officials to their locker room and told them how pleased I was with their work and with the **wrong** call. This heads up move by a good official prevented a possible ugly scene. Sometimes the wrong call is the right call.

Mitch Hubbard
Athletic Director
Reading High School