

The Internet - A Resource for Basketball Coaches

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There has been a lot of hype over the last couple of years about the Internet or World Wide Web. Like most other special interest groups though, there is a huge amount of information out there for us, the basketball coach community.

There are many sites with basketball content (game, team and player content), but I am going to try and concentrate on those with actual "coaching" content.

Firstly, let's look at some Australian sites.

The Basketball Australia site "Nothin' But Net" (www.basketball.net.au) is a fairly new, but quickly growing site. It contains pages advertising coaching resources available from BA. There is also a "forums" page where you can post questions of your own and answer questions posted by others. There are forums for The Game, Coaching, Refereeing, Facilities & Competitions and Administration. Unfortunately, the participation rate in the forums does seem anywhere as high as some of the similar overseas sites mentioned later. However if you have a question or idea you want to get feedback on, these forums are an excellent way to do it. Imagine my delight recently when I posted a couple of questions recently in the Refereeing forum and got answers from Bill Mildenhall (current Referee director and in my opinion our best referee).

The Australian Coaching Council has a page (www.ausport.gov.au/acc) that describes its' purpose and offers amongst other things, the NCAS newsletter and a calendar of coaching conferences and courses for each state.

My favourite site, and I think the finest reference site for basketball coaches on the web, is "The Basketball Highway" (www.bbhighway.com). This site contains everything the basketball coach could want, including;

1. A monthly feature clinic - the most recent ones are animated using Coaches Edge software (the X's & O's actually move around the court to illustrate the plays). Previous months clinics are available in their Clinic Archive and include many that are excellent for youth coaches (I particularly liked Alan Lambert's clinic on the importance of balance in teaching kids basketball).
2. A large library of drills, categorised so you can find what you need.
3. "Posting Up" a message forum for advanced coaching topics.
4. "Hey Ref" a message forum for refereeing topics.
5. "Ask The Coach" is a library of answers to questions posted by coaches world wide.
6. Many reviews of basketball books, videos, software and coaching equipment.
7. An extensive list of basketball products and services.

This site alone is worth your Internet subscription !

There are some other message forum sites that are worth a visit either to post your own question, or to get some ideas from reading the answers to other coaches questions. Try these sites,

"Basketball Chalk Talk" (<http://www.worldofsports.com/chalktalkmenu.htm>)

"Basketball Coaches Corner" (<http://fred.cybertown.net/wi/syskos/bb/wwwboard/>)

If you are looking for a basketball video, book or product try one of these,

"Syskos Books" (<http://www.syskos.com/Bsktball.html>)

"OnLine Sports Directory" (<http://www.onlinesports.com/pages/top,sprt,bask.html>)

"Cybertowns Sports Shop" (<https://fred.cybertown.net/cgi-bin/basketball.cgi>)

Syskos on-line catalogue contains over 450 titles, and the OnLine Sports Directory contains over 2000 basketball products. You may decide as I do, not to use your credit card over the Internet but I've found fax orders to the US work just fine. Also, be careful if you decide to order a video that the supplier can supply in PAL format unless you have a video that can read the US NTSC format.

If you investigate some of the sites I have mentioned, you will find links to many, many more basketball coach related sites. Happy hunting !

The Internet is not only a gold-mine of information, but also a great way for coaches around the world to get together, share ideas and contribute to their own and each others development.