

**News Release**

Everett Public Schools  
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For more information:  
Jo Levin, 425-385-4418  
Robert Polk, 425-385-4260  
Joseph Gudorf, 425-385-5700  
Mark Myers, SCBOC 206-391-9442

**Everett High School basketball coach wins sportsmanship award**

Coach Aaron Nations was honored last week by the Snohomish County Basketball Officials Association (SCBOA) with a 2006 - 07 Sportsmanship Award. Nations and Coach Brett Wille of Monroe were honored simultaneously because of their ability to look past the win vs. loss and work with the officials and players to maximize the enjoyment of the game and to understand the importance of the game vs. the importance of the outcome, said Mark Myers of SCBOA as he explained the reason for last week's award.

SCBOA's members understand that competition is more than winning and losing. Officials are not always the bad guys out there, Myers reminds everyone. We officials do what we do for the kids and for the love of the game. A big part of the enjoyment comes from working for coaches and players who also have the love for the game through sportsmanship. A player or coach who shows exceptional sportsmanship helps the game in so many ways.

Myers and other SCBOA members are not surprised that Coach Nations would be recognized with this honor. Aaron Nations is a fantastic addition to Everett High School. We appreciate his approach to every game for what he does for the kids and officials. I would expect Aaron to receive another nomination at some point because of this approach to coaching and motivating his teams, said Myers. Although Coach Nations has been in the running for SCBOA's Coach of the Year, this is the first time he has won the award for sportsmanship at an individual game.

SCBOA sportsmanship awards come in two formats. One is game by game. Anyone connected with a boy's basketball game in Snohomish County could be nominated by an official working that game. Officials may notice the exemplary sportsmanship of a player or a coach of a home or away team. Even out-of-county coaches or players can be nominated, as was the case recently of an honored Bellingham coach and player at a game in Snohomish County. The awards also go to all levels of play — not just varsity, emphasized Myers.

At the last SCBOA meeting of the year, the officials determine their Player of the Year and Coach of the Year award. We take the game-by-game nominations into consideration with other evaluation aspects to name the SCBOA student Player of the Year who also receives a scholarship with this award. Ninety percent of the player award is based upon sportsmanship instead of game statistics. The Coach of the Year Award is also based upon the same criteria during a vote at the end of the year.

Myers started the concept of recognizing coaches and players in 2002. It was something that I felt was important on a variety of fronts. The program stalled for a time but has been re-energized. Officials take biweekly nominations at their meetings and also via e-mail sent to Myers at [mmyers@pacificlegal.com](mailto:mmyers@pacificlegal.com). Once the officials make their award decision, Myers notifies the honorees, the principals, and the athletic directors of each school.