

29. Larry Brown

Retired Hall of Fame Coach

How the Game has Changed

- Set out to be a high school history teacher and coach
- Went to North Carolina and played for Frank McGuire and Dean Smith and then played in the Olympics for Coach Iba in 1964
- In his journey he has had the chance to work with and be around some all time greats
- Only coach to win an NCAA and NBA championship
- Here about teams playing the right way / the right way depends on your values
 - Play hard / Play smart / Play together
- Always told all of his assistants that he can teach them all the basketball that he has learned, but they have to learn loyalty on their own
- Talent is a gift from God but character is a choice
- Discussed what an honor it was to participate in the Olympics both as player and coach
 - His team coming up short in 2004 allowed for appropriate changes to be made in selection of teams and preparation
- States that NBA players were very aware of 3 things quickly / They must trust you
 - If you could coach or not
 - If they could win with you as a coach
 - If you and your staff could help them improve individually (can make more \$\$
- Brown heavily emphasized that coaches should not put in drills or concepts that they don't feel comfortable teaching. Spending time with Smith, Knight, and Iba he never saw them do something with their players that they were not 100% confident in teaching
- His teams did shell drill every single day
 - He focused on primarily improving the defense
 - His assistants focused on the offense
- Encourages coaches to play 1 v 1 / 2 v 2 / 3 v 3 every single day
- Instead of doing rebounding drills, says to just emphasize and chart rebounding in your defensive drills
- Felt like he benefited at both levels by having NBA and NCAA experience
 - Would like the game to move to having one set of rules
- Scouting – split between different coaches / coaches went over pregame scout at shoot around
 - How did they guard ball screens?
 - How did they guard the post?
 - How many teams did they send to the offensive board?
 - Did not spend a lot of time watching film as a group because limited attention time / Watched more individually with coach (players more receptive)
- Discussed the pros / cons of AAU
 - Great opportunities for the kids to travel and see these places / great competition
 - Play so many games and that waters down winning and losing
- Should be able to walk into a practice and see what a program emphasizes and values
 - Coach Brown is asked to come view numerous practices every year / he always learns
- Coaching Tree
 - Calipari, Al Gentry, R.C. Buford, Bill Self, Greg Popovich, Danny Manning
- Coaching Advice for a coach taking over first job – surround yourself with a staff that is knowledgeable but more importantly loyal and cares about the kids you're working with