



Episode 151

Relationship Building with Former Players

Links

[iTunes](#)
[Google](#)

[Spotify](#)
[Soundcloud](#)

[Youtube](#)

Competitive Cauldron Course: Get it [HERE](#)

Schedule a call with J.P. or Nate to discuss how we can support you!
thriveonchallenge.com/schedule-a-call/

Follow JP: [@jpnerbun](#)

Follow Nate: [@coachnsanderson](#)

Episode Notes

- **Coach Dean Smith:**
 - Coached 184 players in his career, he called all 184 on their birthdays!
 - Left \$200 checks for every former players when he passed and told them to go to a dinner with their family with the money
 - Coach Smith created a legacy and fraternity between generations of players
- **Caring about your players as people first:**
 - Nate's former players told him it became obvious that he meant what he said about caring more about them as a person when he still invested in the relationship after they finished playing
- **Ways to connect with former players:**
 - Invite all former players to a Friday night game, then a meal afterwards
 - Invite former players back for a scrimmage against current players
 - Get creative and change it up
 - Give former players advanced noticed



- **Connecting former players with current players:**
 - Why it's valuable...
 - Former players bring a valuable perspective to current players
 - They'll likely emphasize the right things, relationships, fun, the team, etc.
 - The shooting Olympics
 - If you won the shooting Olympics, you had to come back the next year to defend it over Christmas break
 - Current players cook and serve a meal to former players
 - Give former players an opportunity to address the team
 - Could be pregame, practice, team meal, etc.
 - Answer 3 questions:
 - What are you doing in life?
 - What do you miss the most about your HS basketball experience?
 - How did your HS basketball experience shape you as a person or what you're doing today?
 - It makes former players feel highly valued and honored
 - Have former players come in and participate in practice
 - They can model to your current team what you're wanting to see in practice and games
 - The voice of a former player is really powerful for a current player
- **Showing former players you still care:**
 - Commit to sending a text, email, or note to a former player once a week, or once a month
 - Send them a message on their birthday!
 - "I loved having the opportunity to coach you!"



- **The power of connecting with former players:**
 - During low points in coaching or a season, connecting with former players can...
 - Give you affirmations you need to continue on
 - Give you insights into your coaching to help you grow or evolve as a coach
 - Ask former players questions about their experience with you as their coach
 - Reminds you that great relationships take time and are worth it
 - Especially when you move programs
 - The transformational relationship continues beyond when they stop playing for you
 - Each kid is different, each relationship is different, that's okay!
 - The relationship shifts from coach to mentor
 - Two ways to maintain it:
 - Consistent check-ins
 - Have a meal with them
- **The Holy Grail of coaching:**
 - The player-coach relationships that become life-long friendships
 - JP's examples:
 - Having Christmas dinner with a former players
 - Being there for a former player going through drug rehab
 - Helping a player go through a legal situation that put him in jail
 - It's about showing up and making it known you still care
 - It's often seasonal and dependent upon where your former players are at in life
- **Call to Action:**
 - Send a note, email, text to a former player!
 - Send JP and Nate an email letting them know what the response was like!