



Sports Short

Officially Speaking

2015 Earlham grad is 1 step away from the NBA



Walker Hale shoots a jumper against Pleasantville. The Cards split a doubleheader with the Trojans on January 10. Story on Page 8. (Photo by Todd Weber.)

By Todd Weber

Like just about every kid that has ever picked up a basketball, Grant Detrick had NBA dreams back in the day. For most everybody, the cold reality that professional basketball will never happen eventually sinks in—but for the 2015 Earlham High School graduate, that dream is still alive. Since graduating, Detrick has been on the fast track with his career as a basketball official, and he's currently in his second season working in the G League, the NBA's minor league.

Making the NBA as an official is even more difficult than getting there as a player. There are only 74 officials currently working in the league—and there isn't a lot of turnover. While Detrick has his eye on the prize, he's staying patient, too, focusing on putting in the work.

"It's like any job. It's not time based; it's development based," he said. "It's when they think that you're ready. You can try to figure out what that puzzle looks like, but I just stopped worrying about it. The thing that I'm doing is falling in love with the process. I know that's an overused cliché, 'Trust the process,' but you have to. You will drive yourself crazy trying to figure out, 'What do I need to do?' The reality is that they give you the roadmap. It's simply: do

what they tell you to do, develop, and get better."

Detrick, who now lives in Tucson, AZ, started his career officiating high school games in Iowa, then eventually advanced to working college games. While the majority of his time is spent in the G League, he still works college games for the Missouri Valley Conference.

"That's kind of cool," he said. "It's a good opportunity to get to come back and come home. Being able to work at Drake or UNI, anywhere in the Midwest, it's always good."

Working in two leagues makes scheduling particularly difficult. A coordinator with the G League gives the officials 'hold dates' for the season,



Grant Detrick near his home in Arizona.

so they will know they have a game on a certain date—but they just won't know where. About a month out, the officials get the locations and can start making their travel arrangements. After that, they can start scheduling 'extra' games. Detrick updates a web site that the college coordinators can access and check on his availability to work their games.

"One thing that's really cool is we can put in the time and location, so that person making that schedule for college can see, 'Oh, Grant's in Dallas tomorrow, so maybe the next day he can drive and do this here.' There are a lot of moving parts in this job and there are a lot of games to cover. So we try to provide them with as much information as possible to make it as easy as we can."

But the G League is Detrick's priority, and those games have taken him from Maine to Mexico City—and everywhere in between—already this season. That makes for a lot of airports—and a lot of coming and going. When asked where he was headed next, he wasn't quite sure of his itinerary.

"I remember where I came from a lot better than where I'm going," he said with a laugh. "I make all my travel arrangements, then I just pull up my Delta app, and it's wherever it tells me to go. Sometimes I go to the airport and I don't even know where I'm supposed to go."

For most of us, air travel is a fun adventure. For those that travel a lot for their jobs, traveling is still

an adventure—just without the 'fun.' Before Christmas, Detrick was scheduled to work a game in Sioux Falls on a Tuesday. Due to bad weather, it was postponed to Wednesday. No problem—except he was scheduled to work a game in Los Angeles on Thursday.

"Have fun getting from Sioux Falls to L.A. overnight," he joked. "We had to drive after the game. The three of us (in the crew) drove to Minneapolis and got a non-stop flight out the next morning. But the weather was horrible. It's normally a three-hour drive and it took six."

Detrick was a fan of the game long before it was his occupation. Working just one step below the NBA, he is witness to some incredible talent and amazing feats.

"The speed and athleticism of this game is unparalleled. It is so crazy," he said. "These are the best athletes in the world. But you get so locked into the game, sometimes I don't even notice these things until after when I'm watching myself on film. You flip a switch. You're in referee mode when you're on the floor and you're just looking for legal versus illegal acts. And then afterwards you can look at the film and you're like, 'Man, that dunk was crazy.' It's funny to look at the game through those two lenses."

Detrick is one of 60 G League officials. They work in three-person crews, but usually don't work with the same people every night.

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Happy Birthday, Dorothy!

Dorothy Weller of Earlham turned 104 on January 14. She celebrated with her friends at the Earlham meal site on the 13th with a terrific lunch, a beautiful cake, and cupcakes.

Dorothy grew up on a farm in Nebraska. One of her earliest memories was riding in the family car, a Ford Model A, to the doctor after she cut her head!

Dorothy was born in 1919. Other significant events that year include: "Spanish" flu pandemic. Ratification of the 18th Amendment, Prohibition. The top movies were Daddy Long Legs starring Mary Pickford and Young Mr. Jazz starring Harold Lloyd. The Cincinnati Reds won the World Series, which came to be known as the Black Sox scandal.

In 1919, round steak was 13 cents a pound, and bacon was a penny more. Eggs were 21 cents per dozen, milk sold for 14 cents per half gallon and butter cost 26 cents per pound. A 10-pound bag of potatoes was 14 cents, and a 5-pound bag of sugar cost 31 cents. The national average price of gasoline was 25 cents per gallon.

(Photo by Todd Weber.)

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ECSD Needs Assessment

by Steve Kaster

The Earlham Community School District is currently working to complete a district needs assessment. To create a long-range plan for facilities, the school board determined the need to work with an expert in the area of construction management. Back in August the board selected Boyd Jones as the team to begin working with to gather details about our current facility and also gather information about the facility needs of the district. By gathering this information Boyd Jones will compile a formal district needs assessment. This assessment will be used by the district to create a long-range plan to drive the facility needs as well as upkeep of the current facilities. This planning will also allow the district to plan for the financial commitment that may come with the identified needs. The team from Boyd Jones has already gathered information about the current facilities by performing evaluations of our classrooms, mechanical rooms, and overall structure of the current buildings. The next step is to gather feedback from the public on their vision for facility needs.

If you would like to be a part of providing input to the team from Boyd Jones, please mark your calendar for Wednesday, January 18 at 6pm. Please plan for 60-90 minutes of conversation and input regarding the needs of our facilities. We will plan to meet in the commons but depending on the number of participants, we may adjust the location. If a location adjustment is made it will be posted when you arrive. If you have any questions about this meeting or questions about the facility needs assessment, please let me know. I can be reached at 515-758-2235 or skaster@ecscards.com.

I'm also available at Conversations Over Coffee held monthly at Beans and Beignets on the Tuesday morning before our regularly scheduled school board meetings from 7:15-9:15. I will be there the following dates: Feb. 7, Mar. 7, April 11, and May 9. Otherwise, please reach out and we can set up a time to meet and discuss this or any other topic you wish to discuss. Thank you in advance for your input regarding the current and future facility needs of the Earlham Community School District.

ISU Grant Writing Workshop Offered

Representatives of non-profits, local government, schools and other organizations from Madison County and the surrounding area are encouraged to register for the Grant Writing 201 workshop presented by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach - Community & Economic Development Specialists.

Grant Writing 201 Grant writers who want to upgrade and polish their skills are encouraged to register for Grant Writing 201, which will be presented from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 2nd, in Winterset, IA.

The target audience for Grant Writing 201 is individuals with prior grant writing experience and who have previously participated in Grant Writing 101. If you have grant writing experience but have not previously participated in Grant Writing 101, please email Lindsay Henderson at lindsayh@iastate.edu prior to registering and describe your prior grant writing experience in the email.

Participants are expected to work on a grant application during the workshop and should bring the grant announcement, request for proposal, or information of interest to the February 2nd workshop. They should also bring a laptop or tablet device.

Topics that will be addressed include document-

ing need, methodology, logic models, evaluation, and budgets, with participants encouraged to work on sections of their own grant application during the workshop as those sections are discussed.

The fee to register for the workshop is \$25. The program is hosted and sponsored by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach of Madison County.

The workshop will be located at the following address:

Madison County Extension

117 N John Wayne Rd Winterset, IA 50273

Registration is required by February 1.

Go to <https://go.iastate.edu/CJZQJZ> to register.

Grant Writing 201 will be presented by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Community Development Specialists, Lindsay Henderson and Mary Weinand. They have extensive experience writing and reviewing grant applications and working with various federal, state, local and private foundation grant programs.

For more information about the workshops, contact Lindsay Henderson at lindsayh@iastate.edu or 515-835-6605. For assistance with registration, contact Nicole Navin, Executive Director at the Madison County Extension office by calling 515-462-1001 or email nnavin@iastate.edu.

Grant Detrick

(Continued from Page 1.)

But everyone is skilled and trained in the same way, so there is a seamlessness to every crew and every combination. Crews will typically meet the day of the game to go over any memos or videos from the league office and start to think about the particular matchup that night. They arrive at the arena 1-1/2 hours before game time, where they will meet and do a deeper dive into particular game situations. They usually have a meal after the game and then go back to the hotel for film study.

"That's where a lot of our work is and that's where a lot of our time is spent," said Detrick. "Sometimes we'll get notes from our management team. We have a really cool app called REPS (Referee Engagement and Performance System). It's an interactive platform where our games get uploaded. It's kind of like Facebook for refs. Our management team can go on and view these games and they'll watch a certain play situation, and they can send us instantaneous feedback. Then we can go in, look at the play, look at their comments, and then the expectation is that we can respond that night."

From peewee leagues to the pros, players and coaches are going to be upset about calls that don't go their way. This happens in the G League, of course, but not as much as you might think.

"The media and cameras are drawn to drama," said Detrick. "There may be 70 interactions between players and referees during a game and the only one that gets cameras on it is the one where a guy is absolutely irate. People want to see that."

Part of the growth process of any official is not only adjusting to the physical differences in the game at the highest levels, but also dealing with coach and player interactions.

"The pro game is different," said Detrick. "It's very player focused. So, players are vocal. Ninety percent of the time, there's dialogue and there are conversations that are happening, but it's respectful. We kind of want that. It's weird to go out and work games and not hear anything. 'Respect for the game' is a big emphasis from the league office. This thing of basketball is bigger than me, it's bigger than you, it's bigger than any player. Respect for one another comes from respecting the game."

But of course there will be those moments when emotions get the best of a player or coach and a line of decorum is crossed.

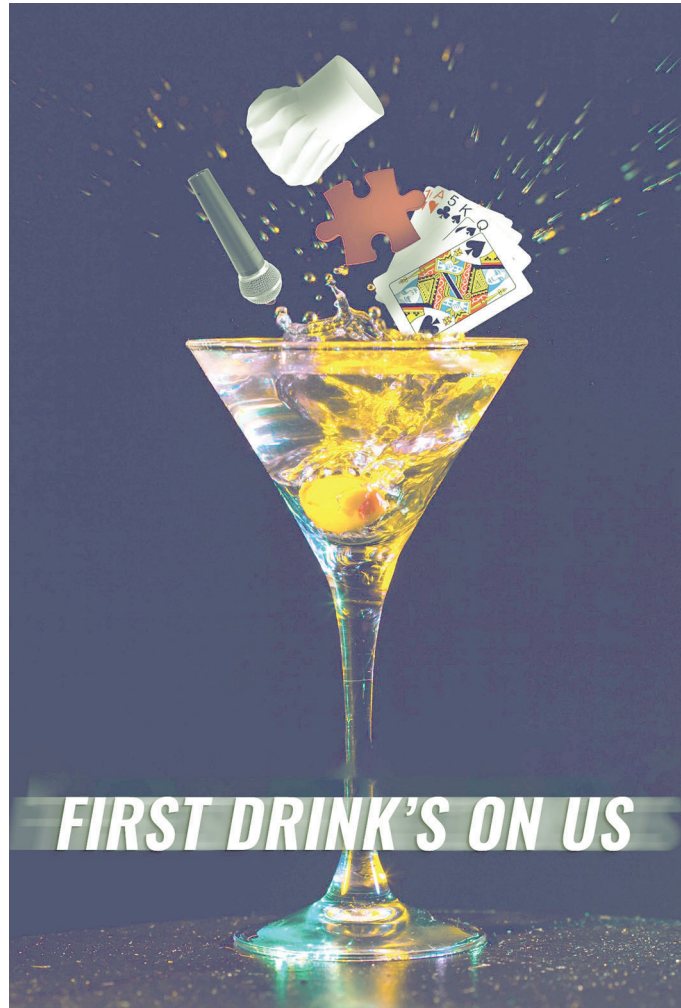
"We have clear guidelines; clear things that are technical fouls," said Detrick. "And then you have to learn how to navigate through these difficult situations within your own personality. The thing I've learned is to understand that there are a lot of really good people in this business, and people are not who they are on the floor. I'm not who I am on the floor. Coaches are not who they are on the

floor. Coaches and players have a vested interest in the outcome of the game and the decisions that you make. We try to have that in the back of our mind when we're dealing with those interactions."

The off-season is a chance for Detrick to re-connect with friends and family, avoid airports, and just decompress for a while. But it's not like summer vacation. The season ends in April, but there are camps in May and June he has to attend, and then the NBA Summer League in July. Then another season rolls around quickly.

In sinking his heart and soul into this exciting career, Detrick is not only working on becoming a better official, but he's also trying to become the best person he can be.

"I go back and look at my films from last year and it's, 'Wow,' I see growth in myself," he said. "And to me, that's the rewarding part. I'm not chasing a league; I'm not chasing an assignment. I'm just trying to extract and glean as much as I can out of myself, and hope that gets me to wherever that is. I think that's a healthy way to go about it. It's not always easy because everybody wants to be in the NBA, but that's where I've found comfort and a little bit of success in putting that mind game away."



A new group has been formed in Earlham that's been named First Drink's On Us! Their mission is to bring people together through community social events. These events are open to anyone, all are welcome to attend or host and as the name suggests...the first drink's on us!

The first planned event is a 500-piece puzzle contest on Sunday, January 22nd beginning at 2pm at Bricker Price Block. You can have a team of up to 4 people and it's FREE! In order to make sure we have enough puzzles, we ask that you sign up for the event. Please join the First Drink's On Us Facebook group and click on the google signup sheet or email firstdrinksonus@gmail.com. A cash bar will

be available.

The second planned event will be a Chili Cook-Off on Saturday, February 11th starting at 4pm at Bricker Price Block. You can compete by bringing your chili at 4pm or you can be a taste tester by arriving at the same time. There will be prizes for different categories and a celebrity judge. Watch for more details to come on the Facebook group. A cash bar will be available.

If you have questions, you can email them to firstdrinksonus@gmail.com or comment on the Facebook group. We'd also encourage you to add your friends to the group too, so more people are aware of the fun events being offered in our community!



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