

Friends of the Institute

Institute for Sport Coaching

Serving America's Sport Coaches

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Hickey Speaks at National Coaching Educators' Conference

In mid-June, Institute Director Christopher Hickey traveled to Michigan State University (MSU) to speak at the National Coaching Educators' Conference. Hickey's presentation, "Completing the Circle; Recruiting & Retaining Quality Sport Coaches" was very well received. Dan Gould, Director of MSU's Center for Study of Youth Sports, commented that Hickey's presentation "covered areas that are not being addressed at all." Since the conference, NCACE leadership have invited Hickey to speak at next year's conference in Indianapolis.

Sport Coach USA Training Center - Cancelled

In early June, the Institute leadership team, due to several factors, decided to cancel this summer's Sport Coach USA Training Center @ Smith. A late start in marketing the Training Center caused interest to be below what was required for it to break even. Fortunately, a few positives emerged from this experience including a new record of visits to the Institute's website as well as gaining of invaluable lessons learned in organizing future coaching education programs. Discussions with Smith are ongoing regarding future collaborative efforts.



Junior Coaches Leadership Academy

Over the past six months, Institute Director Hickey has been working with John Mason, Executive Director-Assabet Valley Boys & Girls Club in Maynard, Massachusetts, to develop a Junior Coaches Leadership Academy (JCLA) for young adults (14-18 yrs old) in the Maynard area. The JCLA is designed to identify and train interested teenagers to be youth sport coaches. Incorporating lessons learned from Professor Don Siegel's Project Coach @ Smith and the Center for Study of Sport in Society @ Northeastern's Junior Coaches Academy, the JCLA will provide:

- 30 hours of coaching education covering topics such as teaching sport skills, developing a coaching style and understanding motivation.
- 30 hours of service learning as an assistant coach using the National Federation for High School's Future Coach Program as a guide.
- Red Cross Sport Safety Course (CPR/AED/1st Aid)

Modeled after the Smith and Northeastern efforts, the JCLA is a very unique undertaking to expose young adults to coaching. The JCLA will take place during the winter and spring school vacations with the service learning component to be accomplished by the end of the school year. Currently, the Institute and the Assabet Valley Boys & Girls Club are seeking funding to support this initiative.

49% of Olympians (1984-1998) identified excellent coaches through out their development as having a significant influence on their success.

29% of Olympians (1984-1998) identified lack of good coaching as an obstacle to their success. Lack of good coaching related to coaches with limited knowledge or expertise.

The Path to Excellence: A Comprehensive View of U.S. Olympians

Investing in America's Sport Coaches

The Institute sincerely thanks the following for their generous donations. Their support enabled Hickey to attend the National Coaching Educators Conference.

Platinum Level (\$500+):

Gold Level (\$250+): CDR & Mrs. Mike Bee USCGR
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Granata
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Hickey

Silver Level (\$100+): Dr. Lyle Micheli M.D.

Bronze Level (\$50+):

Copper Level (\$25+): CDR & Mrs. Christopher Glass

A special thanks to Christine Patke, CEO, JPR Developers, for her continued support of the Institute's website.

Odds & Ends

- Institute Director Hickey will be the keynote speaker at the annual St. Francis Hospital Coaching Clinic on Sept. 13 in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. He will be presenting a workshop on "Evaluating Your Coaching," and also speaking on avoiding burnout and the value of quality sport coaches.
- After a tough audition in New York City on August 26,

Hickey was accepted into the [Positive Coaching Alliance's](#) (PCA) trainer certification program. Once he completes a 90 day mentorship, Hickey will be one of the few certified PCA Double-Goal Coach Workshop trainers in New England.

- In June, the Boston Youth Sports Initiative published its report, *Helping Out: Volunteerism in Youth Sports in Boston* highlighting a number of issues surrounding youth sport coaches. Of note, a number of concepts on how to better serve youth sport coaches, suggested by Hickey, were included in the final report.

Metro Boston Youth Sports

In early July, Hickey and Institute Director Charlie McGrath, met with Peter Roby, Executive Director of the [Center for Study of Sport in Society](#) @ Northeastern, to discuss the important role of sport coaches in our communities and ideas on how to enable their success. After a spirited discussion which revolved around how underserved coaches in New England are, Roby requested the Institute prepare a proposal for an "Urban Coaches Academy." In early August, Hickey delivered the proposal for a "Metro Boston Coaches Academy" to Roby and his staff.

Related to the conception of the Metro Boston Coaches Academy, Hickey and Institute Director Hillary Wells, met with Chris Lynch, Coordinator, Boston Youths Sports Initiative in late July about next steps resulting from the recommendations from its report, *Helping Out: Volunteerism in Youth Sports in Boston*. Lynch is very interested in the Coaches Academy and is looking to bring together all parties interested in improving the status of youth sport coaches in Boston.

The View from the Director's Chair

The last few months have been a whirlwind of activity ranging from the Sport Coach USA Training Center effort to auditioning to be a Positive Coaching Alliance trainer. During this time, I was reminded of the old but still meaningful saying, "when a door closes, another door opens" when I decided to cancel the Training Center. Obviously, I was feeling a bit down and needed a "victory" to lift my spirits. First came my successful presentation at the National Coaching Education Conference and then my meeting with Peter Roby and his staff which resulted in his request for a proposal for an "Urban Coaches Academy" which both helped me rebound.

So what does the future hold? Growing working relationships with several notable Boston-based youth and sports organizations, an expanding public speaking schedule and the soon to be published

Sport Coach USA Guide to Coaching Education. This volume of projects and initiatives screams for help. I realize, in order to achieve the Institute's goals, that I cannot shoulder this effort alone. I will be also searching for at least two more New England-based directors and some volunteer staffing.

I also sincerely appreciate the wise advice that Directors Charlie McGrath and Hillary Wells have shared with me over the past 3 months to guide me through this busy period. Their insight has been invaluable.

The journey continues.....

Christopher Hickey
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