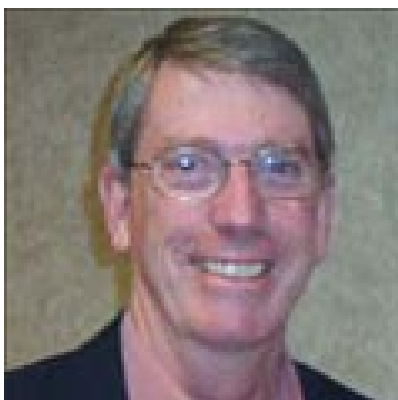


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A TREMENDOUS LOSS



DON CLINE (1947-2011)

Don Cline, current Past-President of CABO, died suddenly on Sunday, October 23, 2011, at the age of 64.

After earning his FIBA licence in 1975, Cline refereed around the world. He officiated at the 1984 LA Olympics and 1996 in Atlanta. He also called two men's world championships in the Philippines and Colombia, two women's world championships in Russia and Brazil and three Pan American Games in Mexico, Cuba and the United States.

Don was generally accepted as one of the best – if not the best – Canadian officials ever. He refereed 22 Canadian Interuniversity Sports (CIS) men's championship tournaments, including officiating the final game 19 times.

Cline worked for the Public Utilities Commission in the City of London, Ontario and retired from active officiating in 2002.

Don served as a member of the National Evaluators panel for many years and evaluated at many tournaments at the CIS, CCAA and Canada Games levels. He had a keen eye for identifying talent and was able to see the future success for a number of our FIBA carded officials like Dawna Townsend.

Don joined the CABO executive as Vice-President in 2001. He served four years before succeeding Bill Crowley as President in 2005. Don served four years as President, completing his term in 2009. During his time on the CABO Executive, Don led us successfully through some tumultuous times. His legacy is that CABO is stronger especially in its relationships with the provinces, Canada Basketball and our national partners the CIS and CCAA.

I had the distinct pleasure of serving as Don's Vice-President and succeeding him as President. Don was always focused on doing the right thing, whether it related to provincial equity or development of young and/or female officials. Don's vision was for CABO to continue to develop as the strong officiating voice in this country and he worked tirelessly in setting us on the road to continued success. During his tenure, we developed and rolled out the National Officials' Certification Program, which stands as the national standard for officials' certification in the country.

Don and I became good friends as we often roomed together at meetings or other basketball events. He was a loyal and loving husband and father and I was able to learn and appreciate how deeply he loved his three girls – Jocelyn his wife, and Becky and Emily his daughters.

CABO has lost a great mentor and friend.

To Jocelyn, Emily and Becky – thanks for sharing Don with the CABO family.

**Jim Walsh
CABO President**

ON-LINE RULE EXAM FOR 2011-2012

As most members must now be aware, the on-line exam is currently accessible on the CABO website. A reminder that all officials who aspire at officiating at a national tournament in the spring or summer of 2012 must write the exam on line and achieve the passing mark of 86%. The CABO website gives instructions as to how to access the exam. Dave Werry, Interpreter for Saskatchewan, wrote a memo to his provincial members with additional information. With a few modifications to fit the national readership, it was deemed useful to reproduce the contents of Dave's memo in this issue of Post Play Express.

1. Go to the CABO website at www.cabocanada.org.
2. Under the heading on the main page "CABO 2011 Exam" there is a link for every province to proceed to the exam. Click the proper link to write the exam in English or in French.
Your username is your last name followed by a space then your first name (ALL UPPERCASE LETTERS). (Example: John Smith would have a username of SMITH JOHN.
3. Your provincial interpreter was given the password that you should use.
4. ALL information on the login screen is mandatory to help your Provincial Interpreter in sorting the results. Use the local/regional association/board in which you officiate for the Association information.
5. Once started you have 2 hours to finish - you may save and exit, but the clock does NOT stop. Write down the access code before starting the test (the code is case sensitive). When you log back in (using the code) you will only have the remaining time from your initial 2 hours. Ex: You have been writing the exam for 15 minutes and you have to take an important phone call so you save and exit the exam. After 15 minutes you return to your exam using the access code. You will only have 1 hour and 30 minutes left to complete the exam.
6. Please make sure you are going to be able to complete once you begin.
7. You may only take the test online ONCE. The system will NOT let you take it a second time - please make sure you review all questions and have an answer for each.
8. All questions are yes/no as in past years - read each question carefully.
9. There are 50 questions, but they are randomized for each person - so your question order will in all likelihood NOT be the same as anyone else. Everyone has the same 50 questions, but in different orders.
10. When finished and satisfied please submit the exam. Your score will be totaled and shown to you upon completion (# correct out of 50 and %) - but you will NOT be able to review the exam until January.
11. If you skip a question on the exam, the test program does NOT inform you after you have answered the 50th question. If you hit submit, the skipped question will be listed as answered incorrectly. Please make sure you back track and review to make sure every question is answered.
12. Deadline to write the exam is December 31, 2011.
13. If you have any questions please contact your regional or provincial interpreter.

A SPECIAL GUEST AT THE SASKATCHEWAN SUPER CLINIC

The following article written by Ryan Stone was published in the Regina Leader Post and is reproduced with permission.

REGINA -- Tommy Nunez fouled out long before he became one of the most-accomplished referees in NBA history.

"I was ejected from high school," Nunez, 72, recalled with a chuckle during a weekend visit to Regina. "I got in a fight with the same guy four times, and he whipped me all four times.

"I don't know why I kept looking for him."

Nunez then looked toward another avenue after his expulsion from St. Mary's High School in Phoenix. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps at age 17 and earned a high school diploma while serving his country in Okinawa, Japan.

"The Marine Corps turned me around," Nunez said. "It's the best thing I ever did".

"I tell kids, 'I'm a trained killer.' They say, 'How many wars did you fight?' I say, 'Forget that! I was there.' "

The same can be said of his on-court career in the NBA, which began in 1973 and lasted for 30 years. He was the first person to referee 2,000 games, and eventually hit the 2,300 mark.

"I was blessed," said Nunez, who remained with the NBA as a supervisor for five years after he decided to hang up his whistle. "Those were the glory days for the NBA. They treated me great for 30 years."

Nunez punctuated his career by officiating in Michael Jordan's last game, which His Airness played in 2003 as a member of the Washington Wizards.

"I've got the game ball," Nunez said. "They brought it to my retirement party. There were 700 people there."

Nunez is not the retiring sort. He is an outgoing, engaging gentleman who seizes every opportunity to fire off a one-liner or to promote the game he loves.

On Friday and Saturday, he conducted several sessions as part of Saskatchewan Association of Basketball Officials' Super Clinic. He was joined by Fred Horgan, who is the president of the FIBA world technical commission.

Nunez has travelled extensively on behalf of FIBA, and with the objective of helping the sport of basketball and its developing players and officials. He has been instrumental in organizing summer sports camps and youth programs.

He received an honorarium for his appearance in Regina, but donated the money to the Tommy Nunez Foundation, which educates young people about the dangers of using drugs and dropping out of school.

"I'd tell my kids to stay in school and they'd say, 'Like you did?' " Nunez said with a laugh.

Nunez does not advise others to follow his path, but instead outlines the best choices and helps to provide opportunities through sport — such as the National Hispanic Basketball Classic. Nunez was the first Hispanic referee in any North American major professional sport.

During 30 years in the NBA, he worked in two all-star games — including the 1992 classic in which Earvin (Magic) Johnson returned to the court after retiring as a result of an HIV-positive diagnosis. Johnson was named the most valuable player of that 1992 classic.

“I was just excited about that game in '92,” Nunez said. “I don’t think I blew my whistle for five or six minutes. I was just in awe.”

That game also included luminaries such as Jordan, Larry Bird, Isiah Thomas, Charles Barkley, Patrick Ewing, Karl Malone, Hakeem Olajuwon and John Stockton.

“Michael Jordan was the best player in the history of the NBA,” Nunez said.

The best dunker? Jordan also figures in that discussion, according to Nunez, along with David Thompson and Julius Erving.

“But I don’t think there was ever a dunker like Connie Hawkins,” Nunez said. “He was the best dunker I ever saw.”

By and large, the best players were also among the best people, which is one of many reasons why Nunez treasured his involvement with the NBA.

“When Michael Jordan, Larry Bird or Magic Johnson complained, they were usually right,” Nunez said.

“They didn’t complain to complain. They were great guys — true legends.

“I never had a perfect game. The players are too good. They’ll always be ahead of the referees. We’ll always be chasing the players and their talent. They’ll always be better than us.”

Life could hardly be better for Nunez, who lives in Phoenix — where he grew up — with his wife of 55 years, Mary Ann. The couple exchanged vows when Nunez was 17.

“I still had acne when I got married,” Nunez said. “Who has acne at their wedding?”

Tommy and Mary Ann Nunez have three children — including Tommy Jr., who is currently employed as an NBA referee. His father, meanwhile, continues to spread the gospel with enthusiasm and humour.

People have taken notice of his attributes, far and wide. In 1994, his integrity and leadership were lauded in the United States House of Representatives, shortly after he was honoured at the Hispanic Heritage Awards Dinner for excellence in sports. That is one of many accolades that he has received as a result of his tireless devotion to sports and to helping young people.

“I’ve had a good life,” Nunez reflected, “and it’s still going on.”



Fred Horgan and Tommy Nunez