Scheduling - Philosophies and Strategies

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Our Background

Chris - 22nd year in education, all in the St. Louis area. Math teacher (MS, HS) for 19 years at 3 different schools. 8 of those years as Assistant AD. In 3rd year as AD. My current school is an all-boys Jesuit school with an enrollment near 1000 students. We have 19 programs - 4 in the fall, 5 in the winter, and 10 in the spring.

Mike - Been in education for 22 years. Served as an AD for the last 19 years in 4 schools. Two rural schools that were small ranging in populations from 95 students to 250 students and two metro schools, one new school that grew from 1000-1450 during my time there and now at Lakewood HS with a population of 2150.

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The Message

When you leave today:

- Philosophy of Scheduling
- Understanding the constraints of your schedules
- Areas to consider when scheduling
- Pragmatic ways of organization
- Being a problem solver with your schedules - out of the box
Scheduling Issues???

Some days just don’t go like you thought….. Peter and a typical day

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Disclaimer

- What we are presenting to you today are our ideas and best professional practices that we have accumulated over our time as AD’s. These ideas may not work for you and/or your school. We just hope that you have an open mind and will participate in the activities we present today.

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Questions

Partner up with someone close to you

- Tell your best scheduling story
- What is your biggest scheduling challenge?
- Which sports are your hardest to schedule for?
- Has scheduling for you become more challenging or less challenging over the last 5 years? Why?

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Our Approach

Many factors we consider that are important to us and how we schedule:

Meraki - Passion, Purpose, and Soul

1. Developing, executing and maintaining a scheduling philosophy
2. Factors in scheduling for you to consider
3. Critical Components of a complete schedule
4. Handling scheduling challenges
5. The impact of scheduling on school culture

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Quick Situation

550 Miles - 9 hours -
Regular Season Football Game
Is this what we should be about?

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Missouri Scheduling Example

Christian Brothers College

- Private, all boys high school, with enrollment of approximately 1,000
- Have won 30+ conference games
- 2017 Class 6 State Champions
- State Semifinalist (or better) in each of the last four seasons

In the fall of 2017, they played Friday night games:

- At Rockhurst HS in Kansas City, MO - 8-hour round trip
- At Christian Brothers in Memphis, TN - slightly over 8-hour round trip

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Philosophy of Scheduling

- Do you have a scheduling philosophy?

What to consider:

1. What is your school philosophy?
2. What are the core, non-negotiables you have?
3. What are your strengths?
4. What are your limitations?

- CAN YOU SIMPLY JUST DO WHAT IS BEST FOR YOUR STUDENTS?
- IS YOUR PHILOSOPHY SHARED WITH YOUR COACHING STAFF?

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Philosophy

- Maintaining takes great communication and a commitment from everyone.
- Traditional Contests
- League Rivals/Trophy Games
- Expectations from the community
- How does this shift? Via Sport/Year/Coach
- Equity
- Practices & Facilities

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Philosophy on Individual Sports

- REPEAT - your philosophy needs to match the school mission and vision
- Split teams
- Do you have the opportunity to break up your teams for individual needs and desires?
- How do you promote school and community in individual sports and enhance your culture?
Factoring in competitive balance, you should always have:

\( \frac{1}{3} \) of your games against programs that you feel on an average year you are certainly as good as or typically better than.

\( \frac{1}{3} \) of your games against programs that are on your playing field with numbers, talent, and other variables

\( \frac{1}{3} \) of your games that are going to stretch you and really push you physically and mentally to be successful.

- Is this a reality?

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Ratings Percentage Index

Colorado RPI - For a consistent approach for all schools.

25% WINNING PERCENTAGE

50% OPPONENTS WINNING PERCENTAGE

25% OPPONENT OPPONENT WINNING PERCENTAGE

Only criteria that is used to determine playoff qualifiers in most sports.

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Missouri District Football Seeding Formula

Points for a Win/Loss or Tie: 20 points for a win, 10 points for a loss, 15 points for an overtime loss; Add up the total points and divide by the number of games played.

Points for Playing Up or Down a Class: 10 points CREDIT for each class you play up (i.e., a Class 1 team plays a Class 3 team: 20 points). Divided by the number of games you played; There are no points taken away for playing down.

Points for Strength of Schedule: Take the sum of the win/loss record from each team you have played times the points for a win (20) and loss (10), minus your contribution to the opponent’s record, divided by the total number of games played minus the number of games you played.

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Factors in Scheduling - The Concrete

- Game Limits/Participation Limits
- School Off Days/Breaks/Vacations
- League
- Homecoming
- Big Events
- Geography - Urban/Rural
- Public or Parochial/Private

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Factors in Scheduling - The Variables

- Coaches Scheduling
- Reschedules
- Size of Your School/Roster Limitations or Ability per Level
- Levels of Competition
- Budget
- Facilities/Rentals/Field Availability
Culture of Scheduling

What does your scheduling build in school culture?

- Alignment is critical
- Dominant sports
- Financial contributions to these contests provide inequity
- Gender balance

Does the culture of your school allow for your scheduling to be best for kids?

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Partner - Questions

- Which factor is the most important for you and your school?
- Does Geography affect you in regular season? Post-season?
- Do your facilities limit you?
Coaches Scheduling

- Do you allow it?
- Priority Scheduling/Budgetary Understanding
- No play schools for personal reasons?
- How much influence or control do they have?
- Travel Policies - Bans on certain roads or areas? Mileage Restrictions
Organizational Structure

What is your scheduling technique?

- Paper Schedules/Computer Schedules
- Google Sheets/Spreadsheets/Word/Excel
- Electronic Scheduler - Rschool, Schedule Star, Arbiter, 8 to 18
- Binders - always a place to access
- Access on your mobile device
- Reschedules
- League Scheduler/League Czar/County Scheduler/Stadiums
- Planning Methods

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Scheduling Communication
When it is complete?

Complete schedules have these components communicated:

- Game Scheduled
- Officials Scheduled
- Site/Facility Scheduled
- Transportation Scheduled
- Website updated and schedules Published and Shared
- Game Verified
- Officials Verified

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Circumstances that Necessitate Flexibility

- Weather
- Bus Breakdowns/Mechanical Issues
- Officials Do Not Show Up/Are Not Available
- Traffic Issues
- If you have to reschedule, what openings remain?
Get out of the box

Administration Desires/Athletic Director & Coaches Desires - can be a disconnect

Things to Consider:

- Scheduling Software
- Double Headers/Triangulars/Quads
- Lower Level Mini-Tournaments
- Neutral Field considerations
- Travel Partnerships
- Transportation Partnerships
- Game Times - early/late- Saturday’s - What does your state do on Sunday’s?
- Overnight/Out of State Travel Trips

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Q&A

Any Questions?

Happy Holidays to you and your family

Meraki to everything you do as an AD.

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