

**MARK ATOR**  
**BOZEMAN SCHOOLS**  
**406.740.2165**  
[mark.ator@bsd7.org](mailto:mark.ator@bsd7.org)  
**BHS GHS**

### **Basic Info**

- 1) 31 years in Education-29 years at Colstrip; 2 years at Bozeman
- 2) Class C Kid, Class A and B Coach Admin, Class AA Admin
- 3) Love of Kids, Love of Sports, Love of the people I work with
- 4) I started coming to the MCA in the fall of 1990 ☺

### **Deciding To Change—(Change can be Good) Working at Bozeman**

- 1) Going from Colstrip to Bozeman—Learning Curve
  - a. I work with great people—Coaches and Administrators- AA AD's
  - b. Challenging parents-some are entitled
  - c. First big issue-Alcohol at Homecoming—Party at someone's guesthouse (Bozeman thing) Mr. Mills worked with me on investigation (nice to share responsibility)
  - d. Football Championship in Butte—
  - e. I was done working March 15. (Dang Covid)

### **Starting Gallatin High**

- 1) Getting The Right People! Getting Head Coaches
  - a. Rivalry started when we picked Head Football Coach (OneBozeman ☺) (Keep it Friendly-HA)
  - b. Picking our Cross Country Coach
  - c. Overall Coaches—Chester, Big Sandy, Dutton, Plains, Butte, Bozeman, Missoula, etc. (In a town full of out of staters? ☺)
- 2) Ordering Equipment—I drive Upper Admin nuts! ☺ I ask for more
- 3) Facilities—Still a work in progress
  - a. Soccer facilities
  - b. Softball facilities

### **First Year With 2 High Schools**

- 1) Scheduling—AA 16 teams Conference 8 teams (Scheduling somewhat easier)
- 2) Fall is Crazy—Football, Soccer, Volleyball, Cross Country, Golf, Spirit Groups, Marching Band
- 3) Covid, Covid, Covid. (Protocols, Fan Attendance, Quarantine, etc)
  - a. Covid Benefit- Learn to Adjust on the Fly

## Working With Out-of-District Coaches

- 1) Major issue in smaller communities—I was lucky in Colstrip hired former students to be coaches—I was there for long time ☺ Issues in Bozeman—Filling Football and Track Staffs
- 2) Communication, Communication, Communication (Works Both ways—You have to take lead. (Hopefully you have a Great Activities Secretary or Building Secretary)
- 3) Hopefully you had a say in hiring—Hire Character above else-
  - a. Start addressing issues in interview
- 4) Teachers—those in the system are taught right away that everything you do-you are representing the school you work for-Non-educators have not been indoctrinated that way
- 5) Policies and handbooks—Highlights
  - a. Title IX—cant just buy uniforms.
  - b. Budget process
  - c. Volunteer policies
  - d. Student Privacy—Don't discuss a student with other parents
  - e. Don't Assume anything ever
- 6) Required Paperwork each year
  - a. Concussion test every year
  - b. Rules Clinic every year
  - c. NFHS Coaches Education-every 5 years
  - d. 1<sup>st</sup> Aid/CPR. (School policy)
  - e. Working with Dragonfly
- 7) Student Paperwork
  - a. Physicals Current (No exceptions!)
  - b. Concussion Statement signed by athlete and parent
  - c. Permission Slip
  - d. Activity Fee (If necessary)
- 8) Asst Coaches—someone from School?
- 9) Assign School Email—Make sure they are checking frequently
- 10) Texting athletes—establish parameters—send facts only-
- 11) Social Media—avoid ☺ Represent school ☺ Example of my GHS FB assistant and this year. (Dang Covid)
- 12) Chain of Command—MHSA—You are the MHSA contact-not them
- 13) Relationships with Officials
- 14) Meeting with parents—maybe try to be a part of those early on
- 15) Can they attend MCA?
- 16) All-Conference Meetings (Be careful about releasing info from meeting-private)
- 17) How To How Handle Athlete Injuries—Practice, Away game, etc. (Safety first)
- 18) Issues for them—Friends who are parents: Could affect their business

