3D Coaching Course Interview

By Janet Henne

I interviewed the Activities Director for North Platte Public Schools, Jordan Cudney.  Mr. Cudney oversees multiple athletic and extracurricular programs.  During this interview, Mr. Cudney discussed his role as an AD, what he looks for when hiring, requirements and professional development, and types of training and resources available to help develop 1, 2, and 3 Dimensional strategies.   Mr. Cudney shared the department’s mission statement, “To pursue academic, athletic, extracurricular excellence through participation in high quality activities program, which is committed to its values delivered by highly effective lessons in a safe, caring, and supportive environment”.

According to Mr. Cudney, as an AD, one of his primary roles is to support and serve not only coaches, athletes, staff, referees, and other schools, but also the community.  Mr. Cudney is responsible for hiring coaches and evaluating the effectiveness of all North Platte athletic and extracurricular programs and making suggestions for improvements. When hiring a coach, Mr. Cudney looks at quality of character, relationships with youth, and ability to work with others. He claims these three things are vital to the success of a program because we want students to have a good role model that will not only “talk the talk”, but also, “walk the walk.”

We discussed the requirements coaches must complete and what continuing education courses or training must be completed to maintain coaching eligibility.  Mr. Cudney informed me that the coaching requirements have changed starting this year.  In the past, coaches were required to complete 3 required NFHS courses as well as a set amount of continuing education hours every 3 years. Now, in addition to those requirements, North Platte middle school and high school coaches must complete the 3Dimensional Coaching course for certification.  Coaches must also meet with Mr. Cudney on a yearly basis to re-evaluate their programs.

     Mr. Cudney discussed 3 Dimensional coaching and what he does at each Dimension to support his staff.  When it comes to the 1st Dimension, he schedules time for coaches to collaborate with other coaches on Professional Development days.  He makes sure coaches and sponsors have what they need for their programs by providing money to meet all activity needs. He evaluates his staff yearly and provides specific feedback to help them become better coaches.  When it comes to the 2nd and 3rd Dimensions, Mr. Cudney brings in guest speakers.  He sets up cohorts and meets with each group as they complete the 3 Dimensional Coaching course for certification.  Mr. Cudney stressed that personal development is extremely important.  He personally reads 10-12 books a year, communicates with other AD’s throughout Nebraska on a weekly basis, attends the Nebraska State Athletic Administrators Association (NSIAAA) conference yearly, and serves on the NSIAAA board.

     Overall, I feel the NPPS district is headed in the right direction when it comes to 3Dimensional coaching.  Since we are in the early stages of the process, I don’t currently have any suggestions to better meet the needs of the coaching staff.