

# Lefty Driesell's Smith Center return: fun for all ages

It's great to see Lefty Driesell back on the sidelines, even if it's just for a few days. Driesell, the former University of Maryland coach who still owns the distinction as the only coach to beat Dean Smith in his Dome, is coaching the East team at the Olympic Festival.

After watching his team get pounded by the heavily-favored North in Saturday's men's opener, Lefty came back with a win on Sunday over the disjointed West team. Though the patented stomp was missing, Driesell's sideline antics were still entertaining.

It was in the post-game interview room, though, where the ol' Left-hander really shined.

"I never got out of the swing of things," Lefty said, dismissing a questioner's implication that he might be uncomfortable calling the shots. "I coached for 32 years, so one year out of coaching isn't going to affect my attitude.

"Besides, I did (television) commentary for five or six games last season, and I was coaching both teams then."

## Mike Berardino

### Out of Bounds

Driesell also downplayed the significance of his first coaching victory since Maryland beat Pepperdine in the first round of the 1986 NCAA Tournament.

"Winning or losing isn't what this thing (the Festival) is all about," he said. "It's more important to let the kids play so they can improve and you can see who's got a chance for the Olympics next year."

Because the Festival is played under international rules — which, among other things, features a 30-second shot clock, a wider key area, and more physical play — Lefty was asked for his impressions of the unfamiliar rules.

"I like the international rules better than ours. I like how on fouls at the end of the game, you can either take the ball out of bounds or shoot the free throws, and I like the fact you only have

two timeouts a half.

"Those two rules stop all that winning-by-fouling that goes on in the States. I don't like to see people win basketball games by violating the rules and intentionally fouling at the end of the game. I also like the 30-second clock more than the 45-second clock."

Driesell didn't stop there, however. Unsolicited were his ensuing jabs at the NCAA rules committee, which Lefty said "didn't want to go to a shot clock for many years because the NBA had one. That's ridiculous. Most of the things I do as a coach are copied from someone else. It's not like I make up my own drills or anything."

"Most car manufacturers do the same thing. They're always copying some other company's design."

West coach Andy Russo, of the University of Washington, was the only coach, men's or women's, whose team was still winless after Sunday. Despite the presence of such standouts as Michigan-

bound Sean Higgins and Kentucky-bound LeRon Ellis, Russo's Westerners were struggling in a big way.

"Our motto is 'All for one, and one for all,'" Arizona's Sean Rooks said after Sunday's 100-82 loss. "We just don't use it."

Though not using it as an excuse, Russo complained about the inconsistency of the officiating at the Festival.

"I don't mind the international rules, but what bothers me is that we're playing half and half (international and U.S.)," he said.

"During the week in our scrimmages, they (the officials) were letting us play. But now, in the games, they're calling it real tight."

"Plus, I've noticed that anytime a rules decision needs to be made, no one seems to know how to handle it," Russo said. "They gave us about five pages of rule differences when we got here. All you have to do is read them. It's a very elementary thing."

Russo also wondered whether one week was enough time to

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