January 20, 2015

Countdown to Riverside City College's 100th Anniversary

Bob Boyd, passed away January 14, 2015 at the age of 84 in Palm Desert. He coached the U.S.C. Trojan Basketball team from 1966-1979 achieving a record of 216 wins and 131 losses with four post-season appearances. However he had the challenge of coaching during John Wooden’s tenure at cross-town rival U.C.L.A. As a result the Trojan Basketball program always played “second fiddle” to the Bruins. He went on to coach at Mississippi State University, then retired in 1986. Then Riverside City College entered the picture.

The headline below ran in the May 31, 1988 issue of the “Viewpoints” student newspaper and reported that Boyd had been hired to coach the RCC basketball team for the 1988-89 season.

The accompanying story read:

*Riverside Community College’s interim basketball coach, Bob Boyd, brings a positive attitude*
and 33 years of experience, including 14 years as head coach at USC. David Waxman, RCC's regular coach, is taking a one-year sabbatical to do graduate work. Boyd heard of this through the grapevine and called his friend, RCC's President and Superintendent Dr. Charles A. Kane, to offer his services for the year. “This is a really good opportunity to fill a gap for both RCC and me.” said Boyd. He has been officially retired since leaving the University of Mississippi in 1986. He has been keeping his hand in, however, by doing informal consulting for basketball programs throughout the country. Boyd has already started his work at RCC, at this stage that means watching the players work out and getting to know them. But there is more to come. Originally, Boyd was just going to assume Waxman's coaching duties. Now it looks like Boyd will be taking over Waxman's classroom duties as well, “I think it’s better to be part of the faculty and get a chance to meet the student body.” Boyd is not too familiar with the recent teams at RCC, does not know how his program will differ from Waxman’s, “It is very likely to be different because people will do things differently,” Boyd said. He added he does not believe in change for the sake of change. First on the agenda are some short meetings with the players. Boyd wants to start a “thinking process” to overcome any feelings that they are not as good as they should be. Often “…it is easier for a new person to instill a positive attitude…”, to be a catalyst. Boyd compared building a team to building a skyscraper, “…the taller the building, the deeper the foundation.” In basketball the foundations is team attitude and conditioning. Boyd prefers to work with a squad of 12 to 15 players with a set line-up getting the bulk of the playing time. “I like to define a player’s roles… the trick is to get the player to accept his role… then you can have a style of play.” A self-described optimist, Boyd looks for a group of players to play the best quality basketball that the group can play. That means: Defense without too many fouls. Move the ball without too many turnovers. Keep a good shot percentage from the field. It is important to Boyd to have a strong player-coach relationship. If this relationship can stay strong despite the many stresses of the season, then success is just a jump shot away.

Expectations were high for Boyd and his RCC team. The headline below from the November 23, 1988 issue of “Viewpoints” told of a number one ranking.

Basketball Tigers ranked number 1

The article read:

Even before the first tip-off of the season the basketball Tigers of Riverside Community College have been ranked number 1 in California under new coach Bob Boyd. Last year, RCC finished the season 1-9 in Orange Empire Conference play and 11-20 overall. “We were ranked the number one team in the state; I have no concern about that,” said Boyd, “It may create a little more pressure on our players (being No. 1) but I haven’t sensed it.” Boyd said. “It creates no more pressure on me because it wouldn’t be my purpose to get this team to be ranked number one in the state, my purpose in teaching...(the players)... to play the best quality basketball they can play. If it warrants... a nigh ranking, so be it.” Boyd, who has been head coach at USC and Mississippi State, is filling for RCC coach Dave Waxman, who is finishing classes for his master's degree in education at USC. “We do have some new players here,” said Boyd, “probably a little better than last year’s players. It isn’t because I brought them here, they just chose to come here.” Two of them are All-California Interscholastic Federation players Bobby Joyce of Santa Ana and Evric Gray of Bloomington. Others include Corey Arnett from Inglewood in his second year at RCC, selected as one of the top 30 junior college sophomores in the nation by The Sporting News. A 6-foot-5,
shooting guard, Arnett was 29th on the list. Last Season Arnett averaged 16.3 points a game, sixth best in the Orange Empire Conference. "I'm higher on Corey than others," said Boyd. "I have heard he had his problems (last year), but I think he is a good prospect. I think he is a good talent and will prove it over the course of the season."

Boyd's RCC team had a successful regular season winning the Orange Empire Conference with a record of 11 wins and 1 loss. At the end of the season they were ranked sixth among California community college teams. The February 22, 1989 "Viewpoints" article told of their successful year to date.

The final sports story of Boyd's coaching tenure at RCC appeared in the March 8, 1988 issue of "Viewpoints". The Tigers team made it into the third round of the Community College State Basketball Tournament before losing to defending champions El Camino College by a score of 81 to 65. Of the playoff results, Boyd said:

"It was disappointing, not discouraging. To win the number of games we did — that was very positive." He added that the 1988-89 season was enjoyable. "I had a lot of fun with it. For the most part, we had a pretty good basketball team,"
It is 1 year and 7 weeks until RCC’s 100th Anniversary on March 13, 2016.

The Riverside City College Instructional Media Center is bringing you this five year countdown to RCC’s 100th Anniversary. Our intention is to give everyone a weekly glance at the many people and events that have been a part of the college. Our thanks go to the RCC Digital Library Archives and the District’s Office of Strategic Communications and Relations for allowing us to use their photo and newspaper collections. Thanks as well to all of the RCC students and Faculty Advisors that were a part of the yearbook and newspaper staffs. Thanks also to Tom Johnson and Gilbert Jimenez who wrote “the book” about RCC’s history. “Riverside City College 1916-1981- A 65 Year History” is available in the RCC Digital Library. For copyright purposes, all images originating from Riverside City College publications and the District’s Office of Strategic Communications and Relations are the property of the Riverside Community College District.