

GUEST COLUMN

Mitch Henck: Bloody encounter leaves coach without job

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Basketball coaches get mad at officials, but not like this.

Pat Anderson of Madison was one of three officials Jan. 3 working a small college men's game pitting UW-Rock County versus UW-Waukesha. The game was close and tense. Anderson called a technical on a UW-Rock County player early in the game. He then hit the UW-Rock County coach with a technical after giving him a warning.

The calls came in the first 10 minutes, so the coach should have had time to get over it. Four free throws and a made basket were the net result. Host UW-Waukesha went on to win a close game.

Soon after, the tension turned to violence. According to Anderson, UW-Rock County Coach Jamal Mosley told the official he deserved more respect. And as they reached a hallway, Anderson said Mosley used a highly charged derogatory slur and started throwing punches.

Anderson said he put his hands up to block the assault when the coach's non-team member son "came out of nowhere" and punched him in the eye. Anderson said both attackers continued pounding him, knocking him to the ground. Anderson came away with an injured back, a black eye and a bloody cut to his cheek.

Wow. Growing up in Indiana, I thought coach Bobby Knight was volatile. But he only threw chairs and clipboards. I don't think the iconic Indiana University coach was ever accused of actually punching a referee. This goes far beyond standing up to authority.

The episode ended after a female observer began yelling for the violence to stop, according to Anderson, who said the incident caused "acute traumatic stress." After a long review, the Waukesha County District Attorney's Office [charged](#) Mosley and his son J'shon with misdemeanor battery and disorderly conduct.

Mosley declined to speak with me. Police investigators said Mosley claimed he followed the referee after the game to get his name to complain about him. Mosley claimed the referee threw the first punch. Anderson said he threw no punches.

Anderson's lawyer, Bob Gingras, said his client will seek civil damages from Mosley and UW-Rock County for medical costs, pain and suffering from his injuries, and punitive damages. Gingras said the civil court will determine if the attack was racially motivated. Anderson has officiated for 33 years and said nothing like this has ever happened to him.

Anderson and the other two officials are white, while Mosley and his son are black, adding racial undertones to the incident.

"My goal is to give each team an equal opportunity to win," Anderson said. "Ninety-nine percent of the time, the best team that night will win the game."

Dave Kelliher, past president of the Southwestern Wisconsin Officials Association, said in his 43 years as an official, no coach has physically attacked him.

Mosley's Facebook page suggests he is popular as a coach and a youth counselor. Ironically, on Dec. 11, Mosley posted an excerpt from Sylvester McNutt's "Lust for Life". It says: "Control your emotions or other people will learn how to control you by pitting you against yourself. Everything doesn't deserve a reaction. Relax. Breathe."

This reporter has made his share of life mistakes, and I'm the last person to judge someone else for making them. We know humans cross the line, especially in the heat of a sports battle. British golf announcer Peter Alliss was asked why golfers get so angry on the course. "Because they care," he said.

But violence against a sports official is unacceptable and should never be tolerated for any reason.

At the same time, we are all human, and we fall short. We are a country that believes in second chances, because change is possible. I only hope Coach Mosley can get that chance someday. He took the time to coach young people in the first place.

In the future, he may get a chance to prove to young people that human failings can be overcome, and redemption is possible.

Mitch Henck is a Madison, Wisconsin based commentator, broadcaster and standup comic. Watch Mitch's Daily Video, "Two Minutes with Mitch," weekdays at www.madison.com. Listen to his podcasts on www.madisontalks.com and Wednesdays at 6 p.m. on Facebook Live. Contact Mitch at: mhenck61@gmail.com