

THE ESSIG REPORT METHODOLOGY AND HISTORY

The Essig Report is a computerized tabulation of the comparative strengths of large school Illinois Boys Basketball teams, based on the mean average of results of games played to-date when measured against the strength of the competition.

The rating system was originally developed in 1990 when the author, Charlie Essig, recognized an apparent need for a rating system that took into account something other than someone's personal, biased opinion. What evolved is a computer program that measures the comparative strength of approximately 380 teams based on actual game performances vs. strength of schedule.

The input into the program consists of the point differential in each game - modified to soften the effect of one-sided games - and weighted to place greater emphasis on the more recent games played. The measurement of comparative strength of the competition includes an computed evaluation of the average point differential of both the opponent and the opponent's opponents.

Finally, as more games are played and scores entered into the program, the best and worst 20% of each team's performances are eliminated from the calculations, reducing the potential negative effects of running up the score, or of playing shorthanded or when results are incorrectly reported.

Results of games are tabulated through a daily review of scores posted in daily newspapers, from results published by the Associated Press, from the web sites of many Illinois newspapers and IHSA schools and, where questionable or missing, through calls to media and/or specific schools involved.

The author makes no claims other than to state that every practical effort is used to accumulate, verify and tabulate actual scores that, during the 2008-2009 season, will include the results of nearly 6,000 games.

The rating system has been the subject of articles by numerous newspaper columnists over the years, including Jeff Lampe of the Decatur Herald, Don O'Brien of the Quincy Herald, Bob Sakamoto of the Chicago Tribune, Taylor Bell of the Chicago Sun-Times, Larry Harnly of the Springfield Journal, Lindsey Willhite of the Daily Herald, Jeff Long of the Beacon-News, Don Wojciechowski of the Courier News, Jeremy Hall of the Mt Vernon Sentinel, Mike Clark of The Times and Steve Eighinger of the St Louis Post Dispatch

In the past, a large number of high school coaches throughout the state have been subscribers to the weekly reports, which also have been published, in part, in a number of newspapers.

Essig is a retired long time resident of Aurora and a member of the Illinois Softball Hall of Fame and West Aurora High School Hall of Fame and recently received Best of the Best recognition at the annual meeting of Illinois Park District Association for coaching Little League baseball for the past 32 years.

As a basketball player, Essig captained the 1948 West Aurora team that won the schools' first-ever conference championship, was the conference leading scorer, and was named to the all state team. He later played at Bradley University. After several years of officiating, Charlie served as a play-by-play announcer for seven years with WMRO in Aurora.

Essig's fast pitch softball career spanned 11 years, including participation in 7 world tournaments with Aurora's 4-time World Champions in the late 50's and early 60's.

Charlie Essig