

Martelli set for basketball clinic in Lancaster

Popular Saint Joseph's coach will conduct clinic at Boys and Girls Club facility. He'll also help start online auction to raise funds.

BY JIM HERSH
Sports Editor

Joe Besecker says Phil Martelli "transcends basketball."

That's why the local businessman is so excited that the popular Saint Joseph's University basketball coach is coming to Lancaster on Tuesday.

Martelli, last season's national coach of the year, will conduct a basketball clinic for area youth, coaches and referees from 4 to 5 p.m. at the Boys and Girls Club of Lancaster's Jack Walker Clubhouse gymnasium, 233 W. Lemon St.

From 5-5:30 p.m., he will help kick off an online auction of sports memorabilia at the Auction Inn office in Connections Cafe, located beside the Jack Walker Clubhouse.

And from 5:30-6:30 p.m., Martelli will sign autographs and meet with the public at the Auction Inn office.

"He'll give a basketball clinic for about 45 minutes, then talk about life lessons for 15 or 20 minutes," said Besecker, a member of the Boys and Girls Club's board of directors. "He teaches a lot more than just basketball."

Besecker, a Saint Joseph's graduate, is the founder and president of Emerald Asset Management, a local investment firm.

He's also the founder of Auction Inn, a pilot program that provides job experience for Boys and Girls Club youth. Auction Inn is an eBay facilitation center for selling local community merchandise online.

Besecker, who's known Martelli for about 15 years, says the coach is enthusiastic about help-

ing others in the community.

"I think he'll be an ambassador for what we're trying to do here," Besecker said.

Auction Inn's online auction, being run in coordination with WLAN-FM 97 radio, will benefit the Boys and Girls Club of Lancaster.

Jennie Knox of Auction Inn said the sports memorabilia to be auctioned include items from Saint Joe's, a hockey stick autographed by the Flyers' Eric Desjardins, several pieces from the Eagles and Phillies tickets.

Martelli is one of the hottest figures in college coaching.

He coached Saint Joseph's to a 30-2 record last season and their fourth NCAA tournament appearance in nine years. The Hawks,

led by Jameer Nelson and Delone West, reached the NCAA Eastern Regional final before losing to Oklahoma State, 64-62.

Saint Joseph's will open this season against Kansas on Nov. 23 in a game to be televised by ESPN2.

Martelli, who is starting his 10th season, has a 179-99 career

record. The Hawks are 98-28 in the last four years.

Martelli recent signed a two-year contract extension. He's now signed through the 2011-12 season.

Nelson and West were taken in the first round of the NBA draft. But the Hawks return three starters from last year: Pat Carroll, John Bryant and Dwayne Jones.

Space is limited for Tuesday's basketball clinic by Phil Martelli. For more information or to register, go to www.AuctionInn.com or call Jennie Knox at 509-6592.

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