

Exemplar

Reading Response – 1/29

“Going to the Aud.” Joe Deffner, Vermont Life, Spring 2003.

Possible controlling ideas

The Barre Auditorium represents historical significance to the people of Vermont

The Barre Auditorium contributes to an increase level of excitement for the VT high school basketball tournament.

Achieving a slot in the playoffs at the Barre Auditorium is more important than making it to the playoffs in general.

The unique experience of playing at the Barre Auditorium is due, in large part, to the dedication of the volunteers who focus on creating a caring and professional atmosphere.

Often described as a “white elephant” sitting on the hill overlooking the town, the Barre Auditorium is host of the VT high school division II-IV basketball tournament. The ‘Aud’ was built in 1939 and has been hosting these tournaments since 1941. Dozens of Vermonters volunteer every year to make the tournaments run smoothly. *These volunteers help create the unique experience of playing at the Aud.*

One way that the volunteers work to create a unique experience for the players is by greeting them at the door and treating them as professionals. When players get off the bus they receive a tournament program and a white ribbon that reads ‘player.’ (47) This adds to the unique experience of playing at the Aud; players in Division I don’t receive such special attention when they play their tournament games at Patrick Gymnasium in Burlington.

There is also a sense of dedication to the tournament by the volunteers. “Between the seven or eight official scorers, timers and scoreboard operates Miana estimates that there is more than 200 years of

tournament experience” (48). This shows that the volunteers keep coming back because they enjoy creating this unique experience.

Finally, the volunteers have worked so hard to create a unique experience for players that they were even able to move venues and keep the tradition of the Aud alive. In 1984, during a meningitis outbreak in Barre, tournament organizers moved the semi-final and championship games to Middlebury. “When the first guy came through the door he said he thought we were back at the Aud” (48). No matter where the tournament takes place the volunteers provide the same unique atmosphere for the players.

In conclusion, the volunteers help create the unique experience of playing at the Aud. Whether it is greeting players as they get off the bus or moving the entire tournament without missing a beat, the volunteers treat all players as professionals. In the words of Executive Director Jim Hoag “You’ve worked hard and were good enough to get here . . . for one game a season does not make. There are no losers at the Aud.”