

## Osseo High School Hoops 'n Hockey

By Jill Ewert

If you're a hockey fan, you know that when rival teams meet on the ice, there's a pretty good chance of a fight. But take those teams off the ice, put them on the hardwood under an FCA banner, and fights become a thing of the past.

According to former Osseo (Minn.) High School FCA Huddle President Angela Mooney, the hockey teams of both Osseo and cross-town rival Maple Grove High School are "pretty rough groups." But when the Osseo Huddle sponsored a charity basketball game between the two teams, the intense rivalry was replaced by friendly banter.

"It was a good rivalry that went well, and there was no trouble," said Huddle Coach Patrick Mooney, who also is Angela's father. "As soon as the concept was presented to [the Huddle members], they said, 'The boys are gonna eat this up.'"

The inspiration for the charity basketball game came straight out of the Osseo Huddle. While reading through the *FCA Playbook* one night, they stumbled upon the idea. The Huddle members liked the concept, but wanted to make it their own, and did so by putting rival hockey teams on either side of the court.

"We wanted other things to happen besides the Huddle events that could bring other people to know what FCA is—something that might appeal to a different audience," Angela said. "This was a way the community could see us and something we could enjoy doing outside of our regular Huddle time."

Not only did the community see a good game, but it also heard a good message. At halftime, Olympic silver medalist Brandon Paulson shared his faith in Christ with the crowd.

"That was kind of a neat opportunity for both him and us," Patrick Mooney said. "He spoke about the issues of setting goals and



Olympic silver medalist Brandon Paulson shared at halftime.

working hard, and also about his personal faith, which is somewhat new in his life."

Knowing the audience, Angela was a bit worried about the level of respect that the crowd of high school kids would give to the speaker, but her fears were absolved as Paulson easily held their attention.

"He gave them a good message," she said. "They heard something that wasn't too overbearing for them, but at the same time made them think about where they were and the decisions that they were going to make in regards to having Christ in their lives."

The feedback from the event was positive, even prompting non-FCA staff members to make suggestions regarding how to improve the event for the coming year. Another year means more outreach opportunities for the Osseo FCA Huddle, which is fine by them.

"The neat thing about these kids is that they're the kind of individuals who are going to be involved in people's lives," Patrick Mooney said. "They don't just sit still. They've got things to do." **STV**

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