

Interview with a District Basketball Guru – Donny Melendy

The District has two basketball experts who know a considerable amount in filling out NCAA Brackets. One is **Chris Kelley**, who has coached local basketball teams for many years. The other local coaching guru is **Donny Melendy**. Donny has worked for the District for 14 years. His job responsibilities are assisting with the operation and maintenance of the District water system, including the Treatment Plant, collection facilities, storage facilities and distribution facilities. Donny is a wonderful man with a very strong work ethic, a high degree of loyalty to the District and 100% honesty. His real passion is for basketball.

Q. Donny, how are your teams in your bracket holding up?

A. My team Gonzaga is out – now I'm for Loyola of Chicago.

Q. Ever won any \$ on your brackets?

A. No, not yet.

Q. You've actually been to an NCAA tournament in person. What was it like?

A. Three Final 4 games, two of those with Chris Kelley. The last time was in San Antonio, TX, 10 years ago. The same location as this year's championship game.

Q. Do you have a favorite team to cheer for?

A. Yeah, No. 11 seed underdog, Loyola of Chicago.

Q. As of today, Loyola of Chicago is still one of the final four. Their chaplain is 98 years old, Sister Jean. Do you think she has helped her team in being successful?

A. Yes, motivation and longevity. The players hug her after every game. Q. Who do you like for the National Championship?

A. Villanova.

Q. Did you play basketball in school or adult league?

A. Yes, in high school I played point guard, Novato Hornets. Bill Ayers was my coach. He played into his 70's.

Q. Any bracket advice for choosing a winner?

A. Close your eyes and pick one – have fun with it. Don't get too serious.

Q. You got married 5 years ago and bought a house in Stinson Beach.

A. I did not think I could ever afford to buy a house.

Q. Does she enjoy basketball?

A. She knows I enjoy it so she now enjoys it, too.

Q. What is the best thing you like about coaching?

A. Seeing the kids develop and learn and grow, plus being able to meet them nowadays, where we all have fun memories and good relationships.

Q. You have been a key employee in replacing over 700 water meters. That is an immense accomplishment.

A. And a lot of fun, too. Getting out and seeing the people around town and making things better for the community. Just finished Tank #1 online and getting the new well online. The Steep Ravine Tank site got cleaned up. Putting in a new hydrant in Seadrift. Installed several new water meters for some new homes. Closing thought. This is a great time of year.

PLEASE VOTE "YES" FOR MEASURE H ON JUNE 5, 2018. If Measure H is approved, the Water District will be able to retain its full pro rata share of property taxes collected by Marin County. Without this measure, tax revenues over the appropriations limit must be given to the State of California. The lost tax revenue would then have to be made up by an increase in local water rates.

- Passage of this measure will not increase your taxes or other costs. It will keep the Water District's share of property tax revenue "at home," in our community.
- Passage of this measure will allow the District to maintain existing service levels without increasing water rates to make up for lost tax revenue.