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The Brookfield East Connection

The novel GO-5 is more than a story about a mythical college basketball team - the Lakefield Lancers. It demonstrates the impact that a coach can have on a group of athletes and the ever-lasting effects. The book is dedicated to **Lavern Luebstorf**, the now retired, outstanding, long-time coach at **Brookfield East High School** in Brookfield, WI.

The book was written by Rick Birk and its name 'GO-5' was derived from an offensive scheme run during Coach Luebstorf's tenure at **Brookfield East High School**, but more importantly the 'mindset' established at that time. Birk's company, GO-5 BOOKS LLC was named after and the Guiding Principles derived from this sport philosophy which was designed in the late 1980's. Its ideology fostered opportunity through teamwork, integrity, dedication, hard work and the sharing of one's talents. It embodied the concept that the strength of a collective group is greater than the sum of its parts. This first book offered by GO-5 Books is named GO-5 as a tribute to these core values and symbolizes what GO-5 Books stands for as a company.

Although the book is a work of fiction, the character of Coach Lubinski in the book is based on the life and values of Lavern Luebstorf and is truly the motivation behind the story. Coach Luebstorf's desire to always seek the 'greater good' is a tribute to his character. The growth of his student-athletes beyond the game of basketball was his primary focus. His selfless service and compassion towards his players and other students alike is truly commendable.

GO-5 is a story of a group of athletes twenty years past college that meet again under unusual circumstances. As a result, they discover the many ways their Coach worked behind the scenes to have a positive impact on their individual lives. In an effort to make the book come to life, I decided to grace the cover with former athletes from this same era. To achieve this I only had to go back to my days at **Brookfield East High School** where Coach Luebstorf and I coached together for a number of years. Players from the class of 1989, and 1991 took the time to come from cities across the country to convene in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in December, 2008 for a photo shoot. Aune and Adam Hardt worked feverishly to coordinate the group photo shoot and take the pictures. Aune Hardt, once again re-visited and assumed her endearing role as "team mom" to make the cover come to life. The featured former players include: **John Born, Todd DeAmicis, Jay Gibson, Jason Harder, Adam Hardt, Joe Panos, Dan Ryan and Duane Stich**. These players are fine examples of an athletic system that mentored not only basketball skills, but extended into life skills and service to others. The community and the Brookfield school system can certainly be proud of these young adults. GO-5 is a reminder to everyone of the positive impact that sports and coaches can have on our society as a whole.

As Lavern Luebstorf himself states, "After all these years, still the ball only bounces up...."
Rick Birk