

Foreword

**BY LUTE OLSON, HEAD COACH OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF ARIZONA MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM**

Throughout my time with the game of basketball, I have learned a great deal both on and off the court. In the more than thirty years as a head coach at the Division I level, I have coached more than 700 winning games. Each one was special to me, and I will always remember the players, coaches, staff, and family that helped make that happen.

Although basketball has been my career and is a fascinating, challenging, and often breathtaking game, the game of life is even more so and is something that each player and coach must take seriously day in and day out. Getting players to compete at a high level while also teaching them about life can be a task in its own right, but it is a task that any good coach knows is critical to overall achievement.

As I move onto my 24th season at the University of Arizona, I still learn daily about the game and my life. When you stop learning, you stop growing. I try to convey this to my players each time we get together on the court - that both on and off the court, they

must grow as individuals. It is great to play basketball, but balancing it with other parts of life is essential to success.

In *Open Your Heart With Basketball*, Chris Bibey opens his mind to share his life on and off the court. As you read about Chris's life on the court from the early years to his college career, you will find the book educational, inspirational, and fulfilling. Chris has learned a great deal about life from the game of basketball, and he put this to good use during his fight with cancer. When you are done reading this book you will have a different and better outlook not only on sports, but life in general.

Chris is compassionate and thoughtful, and he offers a great story not just to coaches and players, but to anybody who is looking for a good read. His story of determination and persistence through the game of basketball will inspire everyone.