**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Mishawaka, ‘Cave’ Host**

**Organ Donation Classic**

***Four Games Scheduled for January 19***

**For the last 22 years, Mishawaka basketball coach Ron Hecklinski has been on a mission. He wants to solicit funds and raise awareness for Indiana Donor Network.**

**Hecklinski can speak first-hand on the importance of persons donating their organs. It was 22 years ago when he was desperate for a liver transplant. The veteran coach received a transplant and he has been alive and well in coaching high school basketball in Indiana.**

**And he has pursued his passion of unofficially becoming a spokesperson for organ donations in the Hoosier state.**

**“Don’t take your organs to heaven,” said Hecklinski, in his second year at the helm of Cavemen basketball. “Heaven knows we need them here.”**

**With Hecklinski as the driving force, the first Mishawaka Organ Donation Classic is set for Saturday, January 19 at the Cave. Four games are on tap, starting at 2 p.m. when the Mishawaka girls face South Bend Clay. At 4 p.m., the South Bend Adams boys host Indianapolis Scecina, and at 6 p.m. Edwardsburg, Michigan battles Mishawaka Marian.**

**The nightcap at 8 p.m. features the Mishawaka boys hosting Lakeland.**

**The event is sponsored by Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance, United Federal Credit Union and BSN.**

**Proceeds from the games and sponsorships will be donated to the Indiana Donor Network in the Hoosier state.**

**“Twenty two years ago a liver transplant saved my life,” remembered Hecklinski. “I am thankful every day for my Donor. The 2019 Mishawaka Organ Donor Classic will certainly raise organ donor awareness.”**

**This is the second Donor Awareness Night at Mishawaka by the Cavemen and Hecklinski. Hecklinski and promoter Ray Compton of Compton Strategies held another four-game event when Hecklinski coached at Anderson.**

**“This is a great night and all of us should salute the work and passion that coach Hecklinski puts into this crucial campaign,” said Compton. “We are honored to again work with him on this event and we are grateful for the other schools to join us on January 19.”**

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