

# The Impossible Shot

It was supposed to be a joke. Joel Branstrom, a science teacher and girls' high school basketball coach, was told he would win tickets to an NCAA tournament game if he could make a basket from half court while blindfolded. In truth, there were no tickets to be had.

No one at the school expected Branstrom to land the shot. They were just pulling a good-natured prank on one of their beloved coaches.



But Branstrom was up to the challenge. He was blindfolded, turned around once to throw him off a little, and left standing at half court with a ball in his hands.

He took the shot – and made the basket!

When word started to spread about what had happened, an anonymous donor contributed both the tickets to the game and hotel accommodations for the coach and his family.

Coach Branstrom says, “You’re only as good as your last shot,” and he has no plans ever to try again what no one thought he could do in the first place. At this point, he has nothing else to prove.

At least three lessons are drawn from this story:

1. Pranks can sometimes backfire.
2. Predicting the outcome in sports, or any endeavor, is risky business.
3. Even the “impossible” is possible.

– Beecher Hunter