

The Sixth Mom

Most people overlook this woman in the course of a basketball game, but she is without a doubt the most influential person off the court. She is at every practice and team meeting; the only reason she would not show up to the game is because it got cancelled. Always equipped with an endless amount of Gatorade, a first-aid kit, and of course one of her son's many red, white and blue shirts, she is unlike any other fan in the crowd. She is The Sixth Mom.

The Sixth Mom can be compared to the sixth man of the team. She is willing to sit on the sidelines of every game and give the players on the court constructive criticism. She feels obligated to do what is best for the team even if what is best for the team is not what is best for her. The sixth man of a basketball team has to go through all of the early morning practices and work just as hard, if not twice as hard, as the starters because he never knows when his number will be called. The Sixth Mom, like all of the other players, has to leave the comfort of her bed at six o'clock in the morning just to go to practice, and from there her job has just begun. She has to be sure that her son's under armor is washed, give him proper nutrition so that he can make it through the practice-filled week, and most important of all she has to show up to every game with her endless supply of Gatorade and her first-aid kit. Both the sixth man and The Sixth Mom go through limitless preparation and practice, knowing the risk that it might not be needed.

She is not your typical fan. She is not satisfied with only going to the home games and cheering when her team is winning. She is not content with screaming along with the crowd. She feels that it is necessary to taunt the other team and the referees at the quietest moments of the game to ensure that what she has to say echoes throughout the entire gymnasium. She is unlike any of the other players' parents, who sit peacefully as they watch their sons play. In the

beginning of the game, she will watch as all of the other parents do, but the moment she sees her son or the coach make a mistake, she will be the first to pounce on it and alert everyone within a five mile radius.

The Sixth Mom is just as obsessed with basketball as the players on the team, if not more. No matter what the situation may be, The Sixth Mom will be the first one called on, and she will undoubtedly be the first one ready to perform her duty. The Sixth Mom, with her never-say-no mentality, has often been taken advantage of. On numerous occasions people have asked her to work at the concession stand as her son was playing. Although she wanted to see her son play, she selflessly has said “yes” with a smile and without complaint.

She is well respected by the entire team. She is always there to lend a helping hand to her fellow teammates. She is truly considered a “number one fan” and the most influential player off the court. She is The Sixth Mom.