



Coach Raveling Addresses AAU Sports Directors and National Commissioners



Coach George Raveling

Six time NCAA National Basketball Tournament and two time NIT Champion **Coach George Raveling** was the keynote speaker at the Amateur Athletic Union's mid-year meeting for boys and girls basketball. Coach Raveling came to Phoenix, Arizona January 17-18 to address district basketball directors and national commissioners who were there to review rules and procedures that are to be used to conduct 2014 national championship tournaments.

Coach Raveling highlighted opportunities, priorities, challenges and realities facing AAU, such as rebranding youth basketball, striving for simplicity and efficiency, making bold choices/challenging status quo, and realizing that the competitive landscape is changing. He challenged the audience to be the change they want to see in youth sports by answering four fundamental questions: where are we going, what are we doing to get there, how we can contribute and what rewards are in it for us? He also outlined nine growth connectors and identified several strategic targets for growth. He closed by offering words of wisdom that included, "To positively influence others, your message must be clear, understandable, believable and consumable."

Coach Raveling is certainly a man of distinction. Of particular note is that he is the owner of the original Dr. Martin Luther King "I Have a Dream" speech for which he has been offered up to 35 million dollars. Coach Raveling insists that he will never sell the document.

Baltimore City Jumpers Participate in AAU Regional Invitation Tournament

Led by the Manager for the Northeast Area, Dorothy Mann, Recreation Center Directors and Staff Terri Fulp, James James, Pam Love, Anthony Watkins and Keesha Lewis rose early on Saturday, February 1 to reach their respective Baltimore City Recreation Centers to gather their kids. Kids who arrived on time were dispatched to go knock on the doors or missing jumpers so that they would not be left behind. The one jumper who did not arrive before her group departed was picked-up by her grandfather and driven to the J. Arthur Community Center in Cooksville, Maryland where they competed in the AAU Regional Invitational Jump Rope Tournament. Twenty-six jumpers from Greenmount, Gardenville, Samuel Morse, Woodholme, and Chick Webb Recreation Centers MD competed in the tournament's Novice Division. It was the first time kids from Baltimore City competed in the non-traditional sport of Jump Rope.

All jumpers received a ribbon for participating. Eleven year old Terriyah Mosby received a 7th place finish and eleven year old Sidhai Madden received a 6th place finish. Both represented the Greenmount Recreation Center. Keisha Knight from Samuel Morse came in 4th place in freestyle. Woodholme's Dennis McGougan won a 3rd place ribbon for freestyle and speed. Diamanae Jackson, also of Woodholme came in 8th place in freestyle. Calvin Lewis of Chick Webb won first place ribbons for freestyle and speed. While Casandra Wilson was an 8th place finisher in freestyle.

Eighty percent of the jumpers polled said jump rope is the first organized sports they have participated in. Jumper Cassandra Wilson said, "Before getting involved in jump rope, I did not exercise at all. I now practice and exercise one hour a day."

Important Announcements:

- **2014 MD District AAU Taekwondo Championship**, March 29, 2014, Capital Clubhouse, 3033 Waldorf Market Place, Waldorf, MD. 20603, Contact info: Scott Fiorillo Email: smtkd@yahoo.com Phone: 301-373-5568
- **3 ON 3 BASKETBALL ANYONE?** "3 ON 3" basketball is the next big thing in AAU Boys Basketball! Let us hear your thoughts or your organization's interest in participating in any age group. Interested? **Contact Us TODAY! 443-794-8967**