



JUMP SHOT

Newsletter

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NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

In the May issue of Jump Shot we included an article entitled "Where Are They Now", which featured former AAU participant Craig Carter. I was so moved by the success of this young man and his balanced perspective of participation in sports and securing a future off the court that I requested that the editor include a similar article in each future issue of this newsletter. I was also moved by Craig's perspective because it so closely mirrors my view on the value of using basketball or sport in general as a means to an end.

The chances of a kid's basketball talent earning him one of the National Basketball Association's (NBA) 450 roster slots is about impossible. The odds of the same player's talent earning him a scholarship and a college degree are far greater. The odds of a Division I college player going to the pros is less than 1%. Many teams, starting with eight year olds, are now requiring kids to post passing grades before they can suit up and step onto the court. I applaud these measures as I'm sure most of the parents do.

Like Craig, who has earned a degree in engineering and the earning power to live a very comfortable life, I'm confident that the almost three thousand 2010 participants in the Maryland State Championships

will one day reflect on the joy and value of participating in AAU basketball and will have secured their future without the basketball by building their skills in the classroom.



Benjamin DuBose
Director, Boys Basketball

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Team Melo Honors Ben DuBose

Players and coaches of Team Melo's 14U Team honored Sports Director of Boys Basketball Benjamin DuBose with an award for his help and support.

CITY COUNCILMAN PRESENTS MEDALS

City Council President Bernard “Jack” Young presents medals to participants at the Maryland Amateur Athletic Union’s 2010 Championships



Award winner and Bernard “Jack Young



“Basketball is a positive vehicle of distraction from crime and idle mischief. Its discipline promotes future life accomplishments.”

WHERE ARE THEY NOW

“Where They Are Now is usually reserved too highlight former AAU participants who have reached adulthood, are established in their careers, and who have a story to tell about their AAU experiences. In this issue we have departed from that format to highlight kids who started playing AAU at the 8 year old and under level and continue to participate today. Two such players are Delaszo Smith and Connor Cox who both play for AAU’s 15U State Champion South River Shooters. Both Edgewater, Maryland residents started playing AAU at 8, both play point guard for South River High School and both have achieved the unusual feat of playing varsity ball as freshmen.

Delaszo’s accomplishments are stellar for a freshman. He is 3rd in county in assists, among the top twenty five in scoring and second team all county. “My involvement in AAU taught me to be more aggressive and helped me improve my skills as I played against better competition.” Delaszo plans on attending college, but hasn’t decided what his career might be if the NBA doesn’t work out. Karen Smith, Delaszo’s mother, who is his greatest influence, just wants to keep her son focused.

Connor, a three sport standout participates in basketball, football and baseball. If the NBA, NFL and MLB don’t work out, Connor plans to become a sports commentator.

Connor is looking forward to going to Memphis, Tennessee to participate in the national tournament. “There is better competition there and people recognize your skills.”

When asked who his greatest influence is, Connor says, “My dad is my greatest influence, he played major league baseball. My uncle Willie is also my greatest influence. He taught me everything I know about baseball.” Connor also plans on attending college.

Both of these kids are quite special. They make good choices with the ball and are quite mature in how they see the floor. If they remain focused on academics and improving their basketball skills, they will be a great asset to any college team they play.

KEITH GOODIE LANDS AT MORGAN

Morgan State University's Assistant Coach Keith Goodie has traveled a long and often uncertain road to Morgan. Keith was raised in the public housing projects of Cherry Hill, a community fraught with violence, drugs, and a future that was anything but certain. At nine years old, Keith immersed himself in the Baltimore Neighborhood Basketball League (BNBL) and the Project Survival Basketball Program. Keith didn't play basketball when attending Dunbar High School. Graduating Dunbar in 1984, Keith attended Essex Community College where he played point guard before graduating in 1989. His educational journey took him onto the University of the District of Columbia where he attended and played for one year. Keith graduated cum laude from Morgan State University in 2008 with a 3.7 cumulative average and a degree in Sociology.

With today's gang involvement, it is vital that kids get involved in sports." AAU was a blessing. It put me in the position to choose the dream that I am now living."

Keith's first coaching experience came at age 22 when he coached an 18U BNBL team in Cherry Hill. He later became coach of Baltimore Select, an AAU Adidas team. Many of his players attended major colleges and universities such as Providence, DePaul, Syracuse, Manhattan, George Mason and LaSalle. "AAU was a great training ground for someone looking to make coaching a career because for the most part you have to coach on the fly. You don't have the benefit of breaking down film or scouting players. You had to adjust to players quickly. Additionally, coaching in AAU spawns relationships with coaches. When recruiting, I don't have to introduce myself to coaches. They already know me. I have competed against players who are now local and regional coaches." Under head coach Todd Bozeman and his assistance coaches, Morgan has won three seasons and two tournament championships.

"Coming from Cherry Hill helps me in recruiting. It helps me relate to kids who come from the same type of neighborhoods I grew up in. I personally

know fathers, mothers and uncles of players that were recruited to Morgan."

Jerrel Greene, who was one of those players, now coaches the Banneker Kings in the 2010 AAU Championships. Greene stated that "If it wasn't for Keith, there is no way I could have finished college. He helped me on and off the court. He showed me patience and helped me gain confidence in my ability. I am now never afraid of anything on or off the court." Jerrel, now 24, is a Behavior Therapist who works with troubled youth.

Keith strongly emphasizes, "If basketball can save a person like me, it is worth participating in."



Keith Goodie and Jump Shot Newsletter Editor McCarroll Nole

Working together at the Maryland State AAU Championship being held at Morgan State University.

CHICK WEBB WINS 8 & UNDER AAU TITLE

I am often amazed at the energy, the endurance and the pure enjoyment eight year olds get out of playing the game of basketball. More often than not the ball that they toss at the basket in an attempt to earn points misses their mark. Another trip down the floor and another attempt to earn two points begins again. Jay English, head coach of the 8U Chick Webb team knows well the frantic pace of play at this level. His team won the 8U state championship.

Jay, who played his high school ball at Mount Saint Joseph and college ball at Virginia State University, is in his first year of coaching the little ones. After 12 years of coaching at the high school level, his seven year old son's interest in basketball and the encouragement of team parents led him to coach.

"I teach what I have learned through AAU. AAU has taught me to be patient, play hard, and do my best. Then I let the chips fall where they may. I want kids to visit states that they would never have had the opportunity to see."

Assistant coach Kerry Martin said, "Last year we went to the nationals and won only one game. The kids saw how much hard work is needed to win. They put the work in, which resulted in a championship."

WELCOME NEW CLUBS TO AAU

Running Rebels – Rosedale

Cecil County Slam – Cecil

Maryland Marauders – Owings Mills

South River Shooters – South River

Together Everyone Achieves More – Brooklyn

Loch Raven Ravens – Baltimore

Basketball Coaches without Boundaries – Frederick

BNB Franchise – Randallstown

Howard County Crew – Ellicott City

Next Level Elite – Baltimore

Severn Seminoles – Anne Arundel

Randallstown Running Rebels – Randallstown

Maryland's Finest – Waldorf

GGB Terps – Glen Burnie

CC Jackson – Baltimore

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