

April 2011



MARYLAND  
DISTRICT AAU  
BOYS BASKETBALL

# jumpshot!

HOOP HAPPENINGS FOR OUR FRIENDS AND VOLUNTEERS

JUMPSHOT Newsletter is produced by Maryland District AAU Boys Basketball /// Editor: McCarroll Nole /// Director: Benjamin DuBose

## Notes from the Director

By Benjamin DuBose

The Maryland Public High School Championships have just ended. It was the last game on the hardwood for seniors, many of whom have already committed to taking their talents to the college ranks. We congratulate the players who have decided to pursue a higher education. The underclassmen will challenge themselves to become better players in the off-season with an eye toward competing in the state championships next year.

The greater majority of these players will enter the AAU championships in a different uniform, with a different coach and different teammates. The attitude, however, will remain the same. They will work on their game, give their best effort every time they step onto the floor, and compile additional experiences for storage in their bank of lifelong memories.

Through the Jump Shot Newsletter and the AAU website we will examine the many components of AAU Boys Basketball by highlighting organizations and individuals for their commitment to the youth in their communities, continue to track down former AAU players to find out what they are doing now and the role AAU participation played in their lives, and partnerships will colleges, community groups and businesses.



As reported in the November 2010 issue of this newsletter, the National Boys Basketball Committee instituted new rules governing boy's basketball for 2011.

The first and most significant is the eligibility rule. Eligibility is no long governed by age. Eligibility is now governed by grade. Whereas groups were formerly categorized as 8 years of age and under through 19 year of age and under, the groups are now categorized as 2<sup>nd</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The new rules were presented in detail to Maryland team representatives and coaches at their mandatory March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting and accepted.

We have been fortunate enough to attract outstanding hosts for the 2011 season. We are excited about playing at the Essex Community College, Randallstown Community Center, Loch Raven High School, Randallstown High School, Deer Park Middle School, and Old Court Middle School.

We hope you enjoy this issue and we encourage your feedback!

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## Where Are They Now?

By McCarroll Nole, Editor

The road to success is as much about individual choices as it is about the support you get along the way. Terry Kevin Oliver, Jr., a 6'6" 20 year old guard has chosen to pursue a most challenging path to professional basketball. Terry made this choice not for the money and fame of being a professional player. The love of the game and coming to the conclusion that the pursuit of higher education is not his path right now drove his decision.

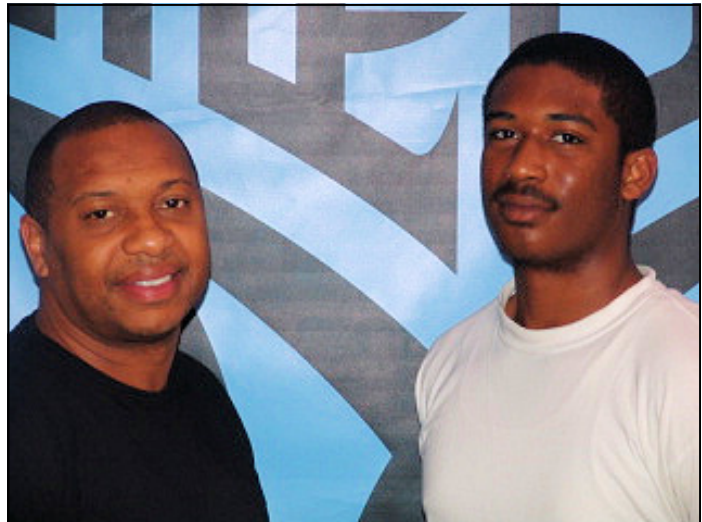
Terry began playing AAU basketball for Harundale where he was coached by his father Terry Sr. from the age of seven through age twelve. He continued to play in the Ferndale organization from twelve through fifteen for Coach Anthony Archie. Terry played for Coach Fred McCatherin and the First Baptist organization from age 15 through 17, while also playing standout basketball for Glen Burnie High School.

Pursued by George Mason University, Delaware State University and Loyola University, Terry decided to attend Burlington Community College where he majored in Engineering, later changing his major to Liberal Arts.

After completing his two year career at Burlington Community College, which is located in Pemberton, New Jersey, Terry informed his parents, Terry and Ernesco Oliver, that he didn't want to continue pursuing a college degree, but instead wanted to pursue a career in basketball. Specifically, he wanted to try-out for the Washington Wizard's Development League team, the Dakota Wizards, with the ultimate goal of playing in the European League or NBA. Landing a spot on a D-League team is almost as precarious as getting into the NBA. The Dakota Wizards is one of 16 NBA D-League teams with affiliations to NBA franchises. Only one hundred and twenty-eight players fill the rosters of D-league teams. The good news is that twenty percent of players in the NBA boast D-League experience.

Terry's parents agreed to support their son's pursuit of his dream. The eternally optimistic Ernesco, said, "What God has for you, no man can stop." The pragmatic Terry Oliver, Sr., said, "Men are providers and must provide for their families. If you are not going to pursue an education, you must get a job." The family agreed to support their son's dream for one year. Even little sister Briana, a tenth grader and two year varsity starter at Arundel High School who has dreams of becoming a North Carolina Tar Heel, attending law school and playing in the WNB, supports her brother's choices.

Why the Wizards? Other than the fact that the Wizard's facility is a short distance from his home, Terry chose Washington because he knew rookie sensation John Wall. Terry attended camps with Wall. Ernesco, Terry's mother, went on-line to research the Wizards Development League and discovered that players interested in D-League try-outs could file an application. She pulled down the application; she and Terry Jr. completed it and mailed it in. They received an invitation for Terry to try-out.



Kirk Lee (left) with Terry Kevin Oliver, Jr.

In November, 2010 Terry took his talent and his dreams to Washington, D.C.'s Verizon Center for try-outs. "Leaving home I was nervous, but I stayed confident. I stayed confident on the court as well", says Terry. Of the sixty-four players that tried out, Terry was one of the first round cuts. "I was a little upset that I got cut, but I couldn't be mad at myself because I knew I played well. There were lots of good athletes there. The cut just let me know that I had a lot to work on."

Days later, Terry, Sr. ran into former coach and AAU Commissioner Howard Williams. The two men discussed Terry, Jr.'s quest, after which Howard recommended speaking to Maryland coach Keith Booth. Terry was referred to former NBA and European League player and current athletic trainer, Kirk Lee. Lee trains athletes who want to pursue playing over seas. In January, 2010 Terry began training three days per week, then reduced to two days per week. The training, which consists of ball handling, strength, endurance, shooting, and form, has returned to three days per week. Terry says he has seen definite improvement in his endurance and his shot. Terry will train through summer 2011, and then aggressively pursue teams to play with in the Euroleague.

- Continued on page 4...

## You Don't Have To Be A Star...

Under the direction of its President, **Cliff Eubanks**, and his team of coaches, the Maryland Suns Youth Basketball Organization has entered its teams in the AAU State Championships for the first time.

The Ann Arundel County based organization, which is located in the Fort Meade area entered sixth, eighth and twelfth grade teams in the tournament.

Organized in 2009, the 501c3 non-profit organization was formed to provide basketball opportunities to novice skill level kids.

Cliff Eubanks is a Research and Development Chemist who has five kids ranging from second grade to college sophomore.

He coached youth football for five years and at the end of the season players wanted to play basketball, but didn't have a program to participate in or a coach to coach them.

Cliff decided that he would found an organization, which includes his wife and daughter, that would fill the void.



*Cliff Eubanks and Maryland Suns Coaching Staff*

The Suns is a 100% volunteer organization, which operates solely on individual sponsorships and donations.

## The MVP Showdown In Hampton!

The national economy and the high price of oil are affecting every part of our sporting lives.

In past years, teams would get into their vehicles and travel great distances to participate in tournaments that presented stiff competition and additional experiences for players.

They would travel as far as New York to the north and Florida in the south.

Additionally, they would fly to Chicago and Cleveland. With many businesses tanking or having to tighten their belts, sponsors are more difficult to come by.

A new tournament for teams to consider is the MVP SHOWDOWN,



which is an invitational tournament that will be held June 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> at the Boo Williams Sportsplex in Hampton, Virginia.

The site is close enough to Maryland to make participating affordable.

The tournament will accommodate 12 teams from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade level and seek the best teams from

Maryland, Virginia and Potomac Valley.

Interested teams should visit the AAU website at [www.marylandaau.org](http://www.marylandaau.org) or call Benjamin DuBose at 410-340-0635.





## New Staff Joins Boy's Basketball

We are proud to announce that four new volunteers have joined the staff, bringing added expertise and flexibility.

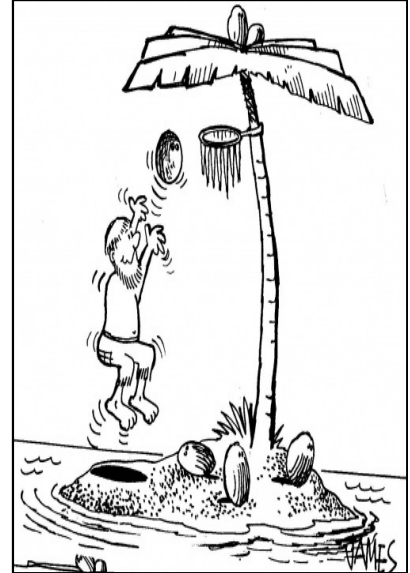
Joining the eleventh and twelfth grade team is **Ronald Holcumbe**, a retired Post Office employee who will work with Commissioner Howard Williams and the senior boys.

**Darlene Young**, a Johns Hopkins Hospital staffer, joins the Commissioner Joyce Venable and the eighth grade team.

**Joseph Thompson**, a 16 year veteran referee and teacher in Baltimore City Public Schools and **Patrick Gregg**, a 10 year veteran referee and Eatable Arrangements employee will assist George Pinchback in coordinating referees.

**Collin Nole**, Director of the After School Program at Rayner Browne Elementary/ Middle School, brings 13 years of experience with youth programs with the YMCA. He joins the seventh grade team and will work along side his brother Commissioner McCarroll Nole on the seventh grade team.

Welcome aboard everyone!



## Where Are They Now?

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This heady, talented, and confident young man knows the odds are against him, He knows that many players who make the D-league labor there for years before leaving for the Euroleague, returning to the D-league and maybe to the NBA. Terry has narrowed his sights on the Euroleague and along with Terry Sr., Ernesco and Briana, Maryland AAU is also pulling for Terry. The worst thing that could happened is years from now, Terry looks back and wishes he had pursued his dream. The best thing that could happen is he looks back years from now satisfied and living without regret with the choices he made.

MARYLAND AAU Boys Basketball — Sports For All Forever!

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