



MARYLAND  
DISTRICT AAU

BOYS BASKETBALL

May 2011

jumpshot!

HOOP HAPPENINGS FOR OUR FRIENDS AND VOLUNTEERS

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

## Four Honored at Maryland AAU Division Championships

During a break in the action at the Division I and II championships, which were held at Morgan State University, several members of the community were honored for their many years of coaching Maryland's youth and for service to their community.

Morgan State University was recognized for partnering with AAU to host the AAU Championships for 16 consecutive years. On behalf of Morgan's president **David Wilson**, Vice President for Student Affairs, Mr. **Rick Perry** accepted the award. He was supported by his wife Evelyn and Assistant Vice President **Tanya Rush**.

**William Andrews**, former Northwood Youth football coach and long time AAU Commissioner, was honored for his tireless service. Although his movements are restricted by a walker, Andrews consistently makes his way from the Stadium Place Senior's Community to the registration table where he can be found signing players in prior to games.

City Council President, **Bernard "Jack" Young**, was recognized for keeping swimming pools open last summer in the midst of budget constraints. He also initiated the President's Cup, a city-wide baseball tournament designed to bring together the city's public and private school students.

Also honored was 89 year old **Edward Wilson** who was presented Maryland AAU's Hall of Fame Award. Mr. Wilson, as he is affectionately and respectfully addressed by fellow coaches and administrators, continues to coach the kids of Severna Park. He has sent more than 40 kids to Division I schools, including 6 girls.



89 year-old AAU Honoree Edward Wilson receives Hall of Fame Award from Ben DuBose, Maryland State Director, Boy's Basketball

Yes girls! "If they were good enough, I played them on my boy's teams." says Mr. Wilson. Mr. Wilson has coached such notable players as **Steve Wojohowski** who played for Duke and is now an Assistant Coach at Duke, **Quinton Jackson** who attended North Carolina State and plays with the Harlem Globetrotters, **Norman Nolan** who played locally for Dunbar High School and attended

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# Notes from the Director

*By Benjamin DuBose*

Sports, in particular AAU sports, have impacted the lives of so many people. From residents of small rural communities to affluent suburban counties, to large urban centers, volunteers have stepped in to teach, encourage, and redeem their youth.

It not only takes special people to commit to the time it takes to build and sustain organizations and teams, it take special families to relinquish family time to absolute strangers. Entire families are often involved in being coaches, team moms, score keepers, record keepers, and transporters.

Perhaps in a rare situation, a coach proves not to be of good character, but the greater majority of coaches and assistants help build the discipline and character it takes not only to play sports, but to live a principled and productive life. While the world often turns on philosophical, political, and racial differences, sports' coaching seems to turn on producing the best product, without regard for philosophical, political or racial differences.

When I watch a game, I watch the sidelines and the stands as much as on the court play. Coaches are well dressed in slacks



and collared shirts, some with shirt and tie; the caring relationship coaches maintain with the players, even when the player create a play that doesn't deliver the desired results; and teams that are down by a wide margin and are coached, without screaming and hollering, to a win.

As these lessons are taught under the microscopic eyes of parents sitting in the stands is perhaps why the coaches show the greatest respect for their players. I'd much rather think that regardless of whether parents are in the stands or not, coaches deliver valuable lessons of graceful winning and losing, respect, courage, discipline, and confidence.

I have a tremendous appreciation for the men and women involved in sports and I want to thank them for their tireless service to their community and AAU.

## Where Are They Now?

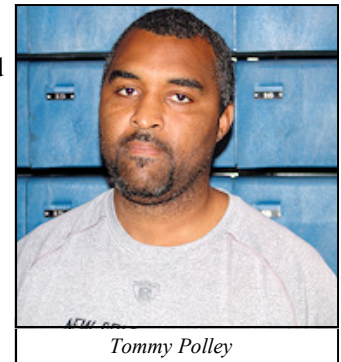
It was not so long ago that outside linebacker **Tommy Polley** took down running backs with the verosity of a tank. Drafted out of Florida State in 2001 by the Los Angeles Rams, Tommy played four years with the Rams before moving to the Baltimore Ravens where he played along side future hall of famer Ray Lewis, and Adaelius Thomas and Bart Scott.

Today, Tommy runs Next Level Nation; a non-profit program that trains college bound football players in what to look for in college and the pros. But before making it to the big stage of professional sports, Tommy played AAU basketball for the Oliver Recreation Center under legendary coach Bucky Lee and Director of AAU Basketball Ben DuBose.

Tommy began playing at age ten and continued through age 16. "I was attracted to AAU for the opportunity to travel to places like Memphis, Tennessee and Washington State to play against players that I had heard of but not seen."

While playing basketball at the Oliver Recreation Center Tommy also played football for the Northwood Football organization under former Morgan State University head football coach Stan Mitchell, and AAU National Championship Football Coach Herb Estep. "By the time I got to Dunbar High School, I was dominating guys in my age group and I attribute

that to my early experiences at Northwood," says Polley. "I had offers from schools from across the country, but I narrowed by choices to the University of Southern California, Southern Cal, Florida State, Florida, and Maryland. I chose to attend Florida State."



*Tommy Polley*

When asked about the intimidation of leaving Dunbar for the powerhouse Florida State program, Tommy stated, "Coming from Baltimore, which is a very competitive town and the experiences I gained at Dunbar prepared me for the rigors of big-time college sports. I was not intimidated." In providing guidance for today's youth, Tommy says, "You will experience a lot of competition. You must set yourself apart from the rest, not only in sports but academically as well if you want a scholarship to college."

"Listen to your coaches and parents and soak-up every experience. Study hard! If you don't, you won't get to college and you won't live the life you want to live. And finally, dream big and good things can happen, if you put the work in."

# I was Down, But I Got Up!

Kids played recreation center ball and high school basketball, but AAU programs didn't exist in the Robinwood community of Annapolis, Maryland where Larry Beavers, Sr. grew up during the 1970's.

Robinwood, a public housing community, was home to Larry, his single mother and five siblings. Though there was no male role model or mentor at home, the community of Annapolis provided Larry with Joseph Sims and former Baltimore Colt Sherman Plunkett. Sims, who was the first Recreation Manager of the Stanton (Recreation) Center, said to the kids, "If you can't believe in yourself, you can't believe in anyone."

Larry learned from Sherman Plunkett that "You will fall down in life. If you choose to stay there, you will stay down. If you get back up, you will get a second chance in life and everyone deserves a second chance".

Larry won the State Basketball Championship in 1974, his senior year of high school. In July of the 1974 he joined

the U.S. Army reserves where he served for 15 years. Larry began working for Crownsville State Hospital in 1977. Five years later, Larry's life took a left turn, and a series of events changed his life forever. Larry had to have open heart surgery in 1982.

After only six months of recuperation, Larry began taking illegal drugs. His crack cocaine use spiraled out of control until he was arrested and sent to prison for 26 months during which time he purged himself of drugs. "I came out clean and I never looked back" says Larry. It appears that the advice given Larry by Sherman Plunkett had come to fruition. He was down, but didn't stay down.

"My mother wanted to see me drug free. I was proud to have taken care of my mother and to have her see me clean during her last years of life.

"I have put my son, Larry, Jr. through Wesley College, where he graduated in 2008. My daughter has a family and now attends Sojourner Douglas College. I'm refereeing in the community and

supporting my step son's AAU program (South River Shooters, eleventh grade team)". Larry now works with We Care and Friends, a non-profit organization that helps get drug addicts off the streets and into treatment programs.

"God has blessed me with a new beginning in life", says Larry, "a wonderful wife, Karen, a home, and two jobs".



# Four Honored at Division Championships

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college at Virginia, and most notably Nolan Smith, Duke University's point guard that led them to the 2010 National Championship. Never short on a story to substantiate his facts, Mr. Wilson related that Nolan was tournament MVP at age 8 while playing with ten year olds. Noland's dad, who played for the Boston Celtics, won a National Championship at Louisville and passed away of a heart attach while on vacation with his family at age 34.

Mr. Wilson began his coaching career in 1966 in Arlington, Virginia, two years after ending a 20 year career with the U. S. Navy. He retired as a Lt. Commander. During his military career Mr.

Wilson taught R.O.T.C. at Duke University and taught at the Korean Naval Academy in Chin Hae, Korea. Mr. Wilson graduated from the Naval Academy in 1944 and after retirement returned there as its Publications Officer.

After 20 years of civil service with the Academy, Mr. Wilson moved to Severna Park, Maryland in 1969 where he began coaching with the Severna Park Green Hornets. He continued to coach with the Green Hornets for 30 years winning 6 straight championships. He now coaches for Maryland 3D. Throughout his coaching career, Mr. Wilson has always coached 8, 9, and 10 year old kids.

Mr. Wilson still lives in the same house he and his wife Mary Lou moved into in 1969. While teaching at Duke University, a friend of Mr. Wilson met a girl at the airport who was wearing a Duke University shirt. He asked her for her telephone number for a friend and gave it to Mr. Wilson. Mary Lou, a Florida State graduate, earned a scholarship to study at Duke, where she and Mr. Wilson began a relationship that has resulted in a marriage of 57 years.

After the awards presentation, several coaches volunteered comments about Mr. Wilson. Howard Williams, AAU Commissioner for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade

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# Four Honored at Championships

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Accepting award for Morgan State University is Rick Perry (center), accompanied by Tanya Rush (left)

boys remembers, "I had just moved to Anne Arundel County and I had done as much as I could to teach my 9 year old son the skills of basketball. I just happened to watch a basketball game where all the kids could handle the basketball.

This was so unusual that I asked the coach how he achieved that. He said he didn't but he knew who did. He referred me to Mr. Wilson. "

"I don't think players can find a bet-

ter coach, mentor or person than Mr. Wilson. I remember him and his wife traveling to Baltimore late at night to make sure AAU tournament paperwork was submitted so that kids could participate," reflected former all-star **Rodney Floyd**.

"He's a gentlemen's gentleman," said Benjamin DuBose, AAU's Director of Boy's Basketball. "In 1987 Bucky Lee and I beat Mr. Wilson's team. We wanted to attend the nationals, but needed additional players to be more competitive. Mr. Wilson gave us two players to go to the Nationals. Additionally, he was a staunch supporter of me becoming Director of AAU. "

I asked Mr. Wilson his secret to longevity in sports and life to which he replied, "In coaching you have got to find jocks," he said.

"If you don't have them, you can have fun, but you won't win. In life you just have to be lucky."



*Thanks!*

... For A Fantastic 2011  
Championship Tournament  
Season!



2011 Maryland AAU Boys' Basketball Tournament Commissioner and Staff

## Dr. Grace & the Sure Shots: A Family Affair!

“We have been lucky and we want to give back. We want to make a difference with kids”, says plastic surgeon and Head Coach of the Maryland Sure Shots 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Youth Basketball Team **Dr. Tom Grace**.

Tom, his three sisters and four brothers grew-up in the 4.3 mile middle class enclave of Lansdowne, a Baltimore county just 5 miles south of Baltimore City. Sports were big in the Grace family. So much so that their dad made the boys play CYO ball for their St. Clements Parrish team, where one of Tom’s mentor’s **Jack McKenna** and his wife successfully ran the program for 26 years. Basketball remained an active part of Tom’s life through 2 years of play at the University of Maryland Baltimore County.

In 1976, Tom was hired by Cardinal Gibbons, a private college preparatory Roman Catholic middle and high school for grades 6-12, as an assistant coach of the boy’s basketball team. His coaching career, however, was short lived when after 4 years; he entered the University of Maryland’s medical school. Another 4 years of residency at the Medical College of Virginia, now Virginia Commonwealth University, further delayed any opportunity to return to coaching. It wasn’t until 1991 that Tom returned to coaching when he became head coach for St. Marks School CYO team. St. Marks is a private, Roman Catholic School, located in Catonsville, Maryland.

“During the early 1990’s Amateur Union (AAU) programs were becoming popular, but there wasn’t much AAU in the county”, says, Tom. So, Tom and his brothers **Mike** and **Pat**

developed the Maryland Sure Shots, a boys basketball team organized to compete with other AAU clubs. The first girl’s team was added a year later. Today, there are 23 teams competing in their grade groups. The Sure Shots won the boys 10 year old state title in its first year.

Over the years Lansdowne changed from the solid middle class community to one of unemployment, crime, and loitering. Michael, a real estate attorney, had been carrying plans for his dream, a sports facility, in the trunk of his car for years. In December, 2004, Patrick now a United Parcel Service Executive, Michael and Tom, opened the doors to a 16,250 square foot sports facility named **Leadership through Athletics**. The 2.5 million dollar facility, located at 2900 Hammonds Ferry Road, was located only blocks from where the Grace’s grew-up. “We don’t make any money from the facility, we just keep the bills paid”, says Tom. Space rental and time in the batting cages generate some revenue.

The Center offers a referee training class in the fall of each year, boys and girls basketball programs, a job’s center, which teaches kids how to use computers and find jobs, a walking program for seniors, health screenings and adult basketball leagues. The Center also offers tutoring for middle school kids.

Discipline learned in high school from **Coach Ray Mulles** helped me tremendously in medical school”, says Tom.

“Athletics gives you confidence to succeed”.

MARYLAND AAU Boys Basketball — Sports For All Forever!

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