

MARYLAND DISTRICT



BOYS BASKETBALL


HOOP HAPPENINGS FOR OUR FRIENDS AND VOLUNTEERS
JUMPSHOT Newsletter is produced by Maryland District AAU Boys Basketball /// Editor: McCarroll Nole /// Director: Benjamin DuBose

Many Elite Athletes Attend Prep Schools to Improve Chances Of Attending D1 Universities

There has been a long standing practice of elite basketball players opting not to immediately enter college upon graduation from high school. They opt instead to attend prep school, often referred to as 13th grade. They attend prep school to improve their academic foundation so that they will be less of an academic risk to major university recruiters and improve their eligibility to enter Division I schools like Kentucky, UNC Charlotte, Memphis, Nebraska, Georgetown or Connecticut, rather than attend Division III schools like Frostburg, Rutgers-Newark, Randolph-Macon or Buena Vista? Prep school permits athletes to play another year of basketball against other elite players without using a year of college eligibility as well as improve their physical stature to match up better with elite college players?

Most prep schools are boarding schools which allow young men time to become acclimated to being away from home and to gain experiences similar to the freshman year on a college campus. Founded by and operated under the auspices of a major university to prepare students for entry is the reason for the existence of schools like The Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School, which was developed by Columbia University.

For young men who are trying to improve their chances at the all American dream of earning a college education in addition to playing in huge arenas against some the best athletes in the nation, 13th grade is the rack you hang your hat on. But prep schools are not cheap. Prep schools range in cost from \$16,000 to \$38,000 per year, which is more than some college/university tuitions and far beyond the economic reach of parents of most young urban athletes. But can prep schools improve the academic standing of students whose high school academic preparation was inadequate

in one year? I have heard the argument that prep schools can improve academic standing because they are extremely well funded with most professors holding a Ph.D., they have a zero tolerance for alcohol or drugs, the student professor ratio is 7:1 and the average class size is 13 to 20. They are disciplined and they offer the best preparation possible to enter college. Additionally, the argument continues, prep schools have the curriculum flexibility to concentrate on particular deficits or needs. Students who need mathematics remediation, for example, may take two math classes with one class substituting for a history class.

I have also heard the argument that prep school is a waste of time; that students should attend a community college where they will gain a year of college credit, rather than participate in the 13th grade at a prep school. While this argument has come from some community college coaches, including Jim Hellman and George Pinchback, Assistant Men's Basketball Coaches at Dundalk Community College; coaches who see prep schools winning the battle for elite athletes who need remediation, it has also come from DIII coaches who also see prep schools stomping on their opportunity to recruit these athletes. Does the argument have any validity? "I think in the last five years the proliferation of prep school basketball has basically replaced junior college basketball", says David Telep, the national recruiting director for Scout.com, an online recruiting publication.

Mike Francis, Head Men's Basketball Coach at Essex Community College firmly insists that, "for kids working on basketball skills, prep school is good for them. If their grades aren't up to par, prep school can't help them. Prep school won't significantly improve their SAT score in one year."

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Notes from the Director

By Benjamin DuBose

The three divisions for the Maryland State Boys Basketball Championships have come to a close. With boys from 2nd grade through 11th grade, we fielded 100 teams with more than 2,622 participants.

We always try to provide an outstanding state championship tournament and for each of the past 18 years, my staff and I have endeavored to bring a quality tournament in inviting, safe, and accommodating environments.

The St. Paul School, Old Court Middle School, Randallstown Community Center, Milford Mill High School, Heritage High School, Edgewood Recreation Center, Edgewood High School, Essex Community College and Loch Raven Academy were outstanding hosts. There is, however, is nothing like validation of a job well done by participating organizations, coaches, players, and/or parents. I was quite pleased to have received so many unsolicited comments regarding the 2012 tournament that I would like to share a few with you:

“After competing in Division III Maryland Championship Tournament for two years, my coaching staff, players, and I decided to move up and compete in Division II in 2012. This year’s State Championship Tournament has been an amazing

Meet the Players!

Support youth basketball as it produces some talented young players. The 2nd grade team for Edgewood, Maryland’s South River Shooters has two guards who are versatile and tough.

Eight year old Peyton Mason broke his right foot playing soccer. Doctors removed his cast on Thursday but, he took to the court on Saturday to play in the AAU State Qualifying Tournament. “We lost our game, but we played our best and that is what matters and the whole team had fun out there”, says Peyton. I asked Peyton where he learned the game of basketball. He confidently replied, “I remember having my dad pick me up so that I could dunk the ball. I have loved the game ever since”. Peyton continued, “although my dad played high school basketball, he didn’t play in college. He focused on academics.”

Peyton’s favorite NBA player is Steve Nash of the Phoenix Suns. “He makes good decisions and I like watching him to learn how to be a better point guard.”

Seven year old Cash Herndon plays shooting guard for the Shooters. “I like scoring points”, says Cash. His favorite



experience for the 7th grade Randallstown Running Rebels. Mr. DuBose, you and the AAU staff did a magnificent job with making the process of participating in the tournament enjoyable. The attention and consideration the personnel demonstrated allowed my coaching staff and I time to focus on preparing for our games instead of worrying about the tedious tasks of confirming game times, court locations, or unexpected changes that tend to happen with events of this Magnitude. My hat is off to you and the Maryland AAU Boys’ Basketball Staff, for a job well done.” - Coach Norman Harris

“As usual, we found the tournament to be very well organized and extremely competitive. I believe that our kids gained valuable experience and playing time. We look forward to participating again next year”. – Matt Fraling, Loch Raven informed about the basketball program, the people who participate in it and their supporters.

Sports for all, Forever!



Cash Herndon and Peyton Mason

NBA player is John Wall of the Washington Wizards. “I like all the ways he can dunk the ball, particularly on Paul Gasol. My dad taught me how to play. He played for Kentucky,” proudly boasted Cash.

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Coach Spotlight:

Henry “Sarge” Powell Honored

BALTIMORE — On Friday, May 4 the Madison Square Buccaneers Program held a reunion bull roast to honor Henry “Sarge” Powell along with Andrew “B” Boston and Melvin Townes (in memorial).

The ceremony, which was organized by the Buccaneer’s Board of Directors, brought together coaches, former players, former and current co-workers and a host of friends and family whose regard for Sarge was one of profound respect; not just for the man he is but also for his long and enduring legacy of serving his community as a youth basketball coach for 41 years.

Speaker after speaker spoke with ardor and humor. Sarge was referred to by one attendee as extraordinary; the community pied piper who took skilled and unskilled, eager and unpolished boys and molded them into teams of individuals who were confident, unselfish, smartly aggressive, and talented. Calvin Scruggs, one of eight presenters and a former player recounted that “the Buccaneer coaches set the foundation for us to become men, good men.”

Henry got the name “Sarge” from his baseball playmates who said he reminded them of a Baltimore Orioles pitcher Hoyt Wilhelm who was called Ol’ Sarge. Additionally, Henry was accused of always instructing players on field placement.

Sarge began coaching as a favor to his 25th Street and Harford Road neighborhood’s kids in 1971. It all began when 12, 13, and 14 year old boys asked Sarge to coach them, because their coach had not shown up for practice. Sarge stood in, so he thought, for one practice. The following day, after work, Sarge visited the Alpine Villa Pub, a local watering hole on Harford Road, to have a beer. In the middle of a thirst quenching gulp, one of the patrons informed him that there were some kids asking for him at the front door.

Making his way to the door, Sarge wondered who these kids were who had tracked him down, and for what reason. He opened the door to find the kids from yesterday’s practice standing there exclaiming, “We were waiting for you at the gym, but you didn’t show up.” Sarge explained that he didn’t know he was expected to show up. What Sarge didn’t know was the boys had moved on from their coach who had not shown up and had unanimously selected him as their new coach.

Sarge did not return to his beer. He and the boys made their way to Clifton Park Junior High School for practice. “I noticed, said Sarge, something in the eyes of these kids. They were hanging on my every word. I knew then that they needed more from me than basketball.”

Sarge and the boys named the team the Clifton Park Chiefs. They entered leagues that played games on Saturdays at

Herring Run Recreation Center and Sundays at Hampstead Hill Recreation Center. “I didn’t have a car at the time”, said Sarge. “We caught the bus together to practice and games. After games we would take the 19 bus to Belair Market to have hot dogs after which, we would get back on the bus to head home.”



Henry “Sarge” Powell

The following year, 1972, Sarge joined with his cousin Andrew “B” Boston to establish the Buccaneer organization. “We were invited, by Madison Square Recreation Center Director William Wells to practice at the Center and to make Madison Square the home of the Buccaneers”. During the summer months Sarge would coach 15-18 year old boys, while “B” would coach 12 and under boys. Ben DuBose joined the Buccaneers in 1980 to coach boys 10 and younger.

By 1983 the Madison Square Buccaneers had grown to a maximum of 40 boys in the winter program and 60 in the summer. As the number of boys grew so did the expenses. Uniforms, travel expenses, and referee fees were not paid for by sponsors. They were paid for out of the pockets of coaches. Even tennis shoes were bought for kids who had none to play in.

Through the years Sarge’s colleagues and friends chided him for only coaching the “little boys”. He was challenged to coach the senior boys. The challenge was ignored until 1990 when Sarge entered a team of senior boys (18 and under) in the Baltimore Neighborhood Basketball League (BNBL), Project Survival and Creg Cromwell leagues. He won them all. Having shut up his critics, Sarge returned to coaching the kids that needed him most. Sarge has coached some of the area’s most outstanding players including, Quentin Dailey, Rodney “Pop” Wright, Ronald Moore, Sam Cassel, Kirk Lee, Keith Booth, Pop Tubman, and Dwayne DeBman. NBA great Carmelo Anthony was taken to his first AAU National Tournament at the age of eleven by Coach Sarge.

Recognized for his coaching talent and success by his peers and organizations throughout Baltimore, Sarge was offered coaching positions at Loyola College, Towson State University and Morgan State University. Although each job offer was taken seriously and accepted as a compliment to his coaching resume, Sarge remained a Mechanical Supervisor for the Bethlehem Steel Corporation where he worked for twenty-six years. He retired from the Bethlehem Steel Corporation to go to work for the Internal Revenue Service where he has worked for the past 20 years. Many of the areas coaches are former players for Sarge. Dante Evans, McDonough, Josh Davallilla, Loyola Blakefield, Donnel Dantzley, Edmondson, Cyrus Jones, Dunbar, and Beano Ransom, University of Maryland.

There is no sign of Sarge slowing down. On April 22, he coached the Buccaneer fourth grade team in the 2012 AAU Championships.

Prep Schools...

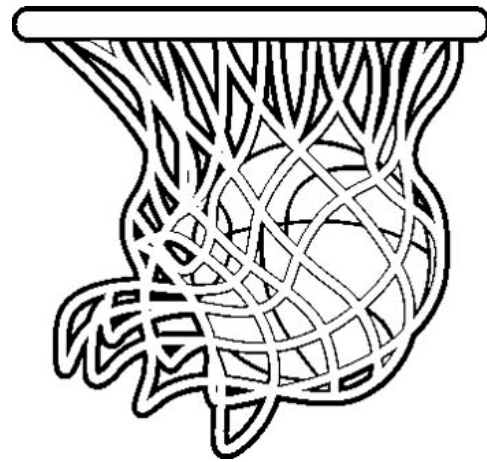
But, why are prep schools popping-up everywhere and how do they survive? Most schools are not new. They have just added a post graduate curriculum and basketball. Like the recent opening of charter schools in practically every city in the nation, new private schools are opening their doors for the first time, many will succeed, and some will fail. Many new and old prep schools have been slammed as basketball factories and sham schools that just make previously ineligible students eligible to attend DI schools. Whereas the NCAA has been charged with turning a blind eye to the product the some prep schools are producing, they promise a crackdown on schools that provide no real academic coursework.

Prep school funding comes from tuition, donations and fees generated through enrollment. Notoriety/marketing through elite basketball programs brings additional enrollments and donations from a variety of sources, including alumni, wealthy ex. jocks who want to be a part of a successful program and super rich athletic shoe companies who dress athletes in their brand. Due to low enrollment some prep schools had to suspend operation for a year. Others, like The Patterson School in North Carolina, had enrollment fall as low as 15 students. But adding a post high school college prep curriculum and an elite basketball program has brought many schools from the brink of total failure to prosperity.

The reality is that all of the athletes who enter prep schools and are fortunate enough to get to the DI level find that all of the athletes there are elite. While they were terrific at the high school level, among national and international players at the DI level they are just average. Many find their way back to DII and DIII schools. Very few make their way to the community

college. Whereas 43% of high school graduates entering community college have to enroll in remedial or basic skills courses, they receive no academic credit toward graduation for remedial courses. The ratio of students to professor is 24:1 and the average class size is 25-35. The resemblance of campus life to that of a DI University is slight at best.

The arguments for either of these positions will continue to be hotly debated. Every student or athlete should use every available opportunity to improve his/her chances to reach their goals. The bottom line is elite athlete or not, sport is a tool or skill that gains one entrance to the halls of learning. Leave those halls with a diploma and a career path. Don't leave with just the skills you came with!



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