

District News

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SPORTS FOR ALL, FOREVER!

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After Thirty Years, Discipline is Still the Focus



Coach Gerald Stokes (top right)

Dedicated Coach Stresses Fundamentals

For more than thirty years the pounding sound of a ball being dribbled, the screeching sound of tennis shoes against a hard wood gymnasium floor, and teaching kids the game of basketball has been the passion and profession of Coach Gerald Stokes. Gerald began his coaching career at the Upton Recreation Center in 1983. He moved to the John Edgar Howard and Claremont Recreation Centers before discontinuing coaching. But the love of basketball and the desire to teach the game drew him back to coaching.

“I am a teaching coach. I believe discipline is a key to the game and discipline leads to improved skill development. I also believe it transcends the game into all aspects of a kid’s life. In every practice there are four things that I consistently teach and they are free throws, lay-ups, rebounding and defense. A kid must not only be taught what to do, but how to do it and why.”

Some basketball programs require kids to have a specific level of academic success before they can play. “I accept kids where they are academically,” says Gerald. But I require them to improve to continue to play. Eighty percent of my players attend college. Both of my Assistant coaches, Donte Bright and Terrell Vincent, are my former players. Both of them played at the University of Massachusetts. I didn’t select them as my Assistant Coaches because they were my former players. I selected them for their knowledge of the game, their communication and people skills and their love for teaching the game.”

For four weeks in March 2016 Gerald conducted a House League for forty-eight 12 and under kids at the Chick Webb Recreation Center where he is employed as a Senior Recreation Leader under the leadership of Center Director Lisa Hammack. “These Kids,” said Gerald, “were not highly skilled players, but they competed vigorously against players of equal ability. They enjoyed competing while learning the game.” Each team received a team trophy and each player received a medal.

One of Gerald’s most notable former players is Denver Nuggets shooting guard Will Barton.

Maryland District Milestones:



Darnell Dantzler Jr.

Madison Buccaneers

Darnell Dantzler Jr. also known as "DJ" has always been a scholar in school. He has made the Honor Roll consistently every semester and he especially thrives in math. He was selected as a Junior Coach at the Hamilton Elementary/ Middle school where he tutors his peers in subjects such as math and assists the Head Coach in physical activities. Darnell was one of 3 students to score the highest PARCC levels in 3rd grade and one of the top 2 students to score the highest in 4th grade. He loves basketball and was one of 2 third graders selected to play with fifth graders on his school basketball team. He is currently the team captain and point guard for Madison Buccaneers and has been at this program since the age of 4.



Jordan Symone Davis

Randallstown Track Club

Jordan Symone Davis is currently a Junior at Randallstown High School. She intends to pursue a degree in Biomedical Engineering, Management, or Psychology. As an avid student; her weighted GPA is 4.91. and she is currently ranked #2 in her class. Jordan has taken all gifted and talented courses as well as 4 AP courses throughout high school. She's also the Class President for 2017. She is also a member of the National Honors Society. During the 2015-2016 indoor track season, she received a "Scholar Athletic Award" for doing her best on the track while managing to maintain my grades simultaneously. Jordan values her academics dearly and is bound to do great things in the future.



Austin Hinerman

Maryland Hoopmasters

Austin Hinerman of the Maryland Hoopmasters will represent Team USA Basketball and compete in the United World Games in Austria this summer along with 7,000 athletes from over 35 countries. Austin was selected for this honor through a process that identified his outstanding athletic ability as well as his leadership, character and proactivity in the community. Austin is very grateful for this opportunity and is especially thankful for Coach TC Caviness, Founder and Director of Maryland Hoopmasters and all of the coaches and volunteer staff as we are a family!



8-Under Boys Basketball National Tournament Comes to Maryland!



The Maryland District Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) has partnered with Wicomico County Recreation, Parks and Tourism to host the AAU Boys Basketball National Tournament for eight year olds and under. The tournament, which will be held July 5-10, 2016, will be the first national championship to be held in the Maryland District.

A \$100 discount and free practice time will be given to early registrants. Local teams that play in the Maryland District Tournament will receive an additional discount to participate in the National Tournament. All games will be played in one location-under one roof and teams will receive discounted lodging. **Need more info? Call 410-340-0635 TODAY!**