



# JUMP SHOT

## Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 1

April 2008

### Notes from the Director

The Jump Shot Newsletter has been warmly and enthusiastically accepted by our readers. We will always be guided by your interest in its content and look forward to receiving your contributions to future issues.

The newly instituted on line registration of team rosters, birth certificates, photographs and grade verifications received nearly unanimous support by organizational administrators and coaches. Scanning documents, however, presented a small challenge to some organizations, but overall the process ran smoothly.

The Championship round of the

District Qualifying Tournament for all age groups will be held at Morgan State University, 1700 East Cold Spring Lane, on May 3 and 4. All games will be played in the Hill Field House. Please confirm your playing schedule with your commissioners.

Benjamin DuBose  
Director, Boys Basketball

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### Crusader Nation Partners with Velocity Sports Performance

Velocity Sports Performance, specializing in advanced sports performance training for athletes of all ages and skill levels, announced in January 2008 a training partnership with the Crusader Nation Basketball Program. The training partnership combines the team's strength and conditioning coaching staff with the experienced professional coaches at Velocity Sports Performance to introduce new training regiments designed to help increase the team's overall athleticism, speed and performance. Velocity Sports

Performance is providing the Crusader Nation team with five months of performance training for its basketball players. NFL Pro Bowler Ray Lewis has used training programs designed by Velocity Sports.

The Crusader Nation Basketball Program, a high school preparation and college exposure program for middle and high school athletes, ages 13-19, was founded in 1987 by a group of Christian men dedicated to making a difference in the lives of young men in the Central Maryland Region. For seventh,

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eighth and ninth grade student – athletes, middle and high school athletes, ages 13-19, was founded in 1987 by a group of Christian men dedicated to making a difference in the lives of young men in the Central Maryland Region. For seventh, eighth and ninth grade student – athletes, the program focuses on improving basketball knowledge and skills while stressing the importance of academic performance. While continuing to stress academics and developing knowledge and skills, for high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors the Crusader Nation also places the student-athlete in situations that exposes them to college coaches and recruiters. The Crusader Nation Program participates in some of the best college exposure tournaments in the country including the Charlie Weber in Washington, DC, Pitt

Jam Fest, King James of Ohio, West Virginia Jam Fest, Indianapolis Hoosier Shootout, Las Vegas Reebok Summer Championships, as well as state regional and national AAU Tournaments. The Crusader Nation Basketball Program, INC. is an all volunteer 501 C3 Maryland non-profit corporation totally dependent on donations, grants, and fund raisers to defray the cost of all program activities. For additional information visit the Crusader Nation website at [www.crusadernation.org](http://www.crusadernation.org).



*The Crusader Nation Basketball Program, "A preparation and exposure program."*

## Referees Gain Respect

By McCarroll Nole



*Using qualified professional referees is essential in controlling and maintaining the game.*

They use to get less respect than Don Rickles and more attention than the latest tabloid star's misstep. In a poll taken of fans, parents and referees, there were no surprises. Parents agreed that their biases erupted when calls were made that didn't favor their son or his team. Fans asserted that referees muck-up the flow of the game with silly foul calls and coaches insisted that their team lost momentum after a referee's inaccurate call. The accuracy of these charges is not likely to be validated with any degree of certainty. However, it is certain that the Maryland AAU went to extreme lengths to diversify its referee corps for the 2008 District Championships. George Pinchback, Coordinator of Referees, indicated that his referees are sea-

soned officials who started out as volunteers for intramural, community, and recreational competitions and after years of experience now officiate in the top contests and associations across the country. He went on to say that his officials have passed exams, become certified by a training school for officials and have worked for the Maryland Basketball Officials Association, Incorporated (MBOA), the National Collegiate Basketball Association (NCAA), the Middle Eastern Athletic Association (MEAC) and the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA). Ten year veteran high school and college referee Maurice Ward says "we don't do the AAU games for the money. We do AAU for the love of the game. Referees have the best seats in the house to see some

of the best players in the country”.

Eighteen year veteran Jeff Cyryca, who has been refereeing AAU for ten years, says he has called 14 games during the state championships without one team blowing another out and without one fan incident. Jeff attributes this statistic to the even level of competition, the quality of officiating and the leadership of the Director of Boy's basketball.

Next time you are in the throws of an exciting game and find yourself standing and screaming to the referees “bad call”, ask yourself what was the call. There are twenty six signals used by referees during the game. Learning these signals

might help you understand the reasons for the various calls made during the game, prevent your blood pressure from exciting game and find yourself standing and screaming to the referees “bad call”, ask yourself what was the call. There are twenty six signals used by referees during the game. Learning these signals might help you understand the reasons for the various calls made during the game, prevent your blood pressure from skyrocketing and give you an appreciation for the command of the rules referees have through years of training and commitment to the game of basketball.

After your next game, shake the hand of a referee and congratulate him/her on calling a good game. I'm sure it will be appreciated.

## Super Regional Championships

By McCarroll Nole

Super Regional Championship events are an extension of the national championship qualifying process. The rationale for creating Super Regional Championship events is to offer teams additional tournaments in which to compete. Additionally, teams have another chance to qualify for Division I and Division II National Championship competition.

On March 28-30 Joyce Venable-Fountain, President of 4 Real Sports, coordinated a Super Regional Tournament for 11U and 12U age groups at Lake Clifton High School. Four teams, all from the Maryland area, participated in the 11U Championships. Six teams, all from the Maryland area, participated in the 12U Championships.

Avery Muse, a volunteer at the Mt. Royal Recreation Center, coordinated a Super Regional Tournament for 13U and 14U age groups on March 29-30 at the Carmelo Anthony Center. The tournament had eight teams from Maryland, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Potomac

Valley, District of Columbia and Virginia compete in Division I contests. Four teams participated in the 13U bracket and 4 teams in the 14U bracket.

Maryland 3-D and the Maryland Tigers received invitations to the National Tournament in the 11U group. The Harundale Hornets and Bentalou Bombers received invitations in the 12U group.

Blue Devils (Washington, DC) and Mt. Royal Team Melo (Baltimore) received invitations in the 13U DI contest. Team Melo Gold (Baltimore) and Coatesville Young Raiders (Pennsylvania) received invitations in the 14U DI contest.

The formula for the competition is the same as for the District Qualifying Tournaments regarding the number of teams that receive an invitation (Bid) to the National Tournament. When there are 4-6 teams participating, two (2) teams receive an invitation.

If a team qualifies in a Super Regional and their District, the team may choose either bid. For national championship seeding, the District is the only bid that provides seeding.

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## AAU Alumnus Is Special

By McCarroll Nole



**Kevin Hammach**

On Friday, April 11 I drove onto the sprawling campus of North County High School to begin the thirteen and under Boy's Basketball District Championships. Near the entrance is a well manicured women's softball diamond on which contests leading to several state and regional championships were held. Two hundred yards away are four hard court tennis courts that were full with members of the community playing singles and doubles. Facing the tennis courts is the new five million dollar gymnasium that is neatly connected to the old facility, forming a huge two gymnasium complex. The history of former teams and their collective and individual accomplishments depicted in the many showcases that line the corridor, let me know that this place was something special.

Taking tickets and stamping hands at the entrance to the gymnasium was a young man whose attention, in between customers, focused on reading a book. It is the kind of small nuance that got my attention, but my focus was on setting up to register teams for the upcoming contests.

Seeing the young man reading again of Saturday prompted me to ask the facility's host, Michael Francis, about him. I found that this

North County High School graduate was indeed as special as the school he formerly attended and reading a book in unlikely places was nothing new.

Kevin Hammach began playing AAU basketball for his father at the age of nine. His dad coached AAU basketball for seven years. By the time Kevin was a junior he was scoring 18 points, getting 8 rebounds and 8 assists per game as a point guard for North County High School in Glen Bernie, Maryland. His team played for the county championship, losing to Annapolis. Kevin nearly missed his opportunity to compile a stellar high school career. In ninth grade, he received one C grade, which prompted his father to remove him from the team. His grandmother interceded to get him back on the team. He didn't earn another C.

Kevin's parents Kevin and Kim Hammach didn't abide mediocre academic performance for the sake of sports. While working as an administrator for the Department of Corrections, Kim is a leader in her church and runs community groups. Kevin, Sr. is a firefighter and is his church Council's President.

"Kevin is the kind of kid I would want my son to be like" recounted North County's head basketball coach Michael Francis. "He is mannerly, competitive and determined. He brought a book to a Christmas tournament." "I had a calculus project to complete and I didn't want to get behind", recalls Kevin.

I asked Kevin how he handled the peer pressure of being a jock and excelling academically. "My friends understood that I came from a no nonsense family and family is everything".

Kevin graduated North County High School in 2002 with a 3.3 cumulative grade point average, ranking him in the top 10% of his graduating class. His outstanding play on the court in addition to his academic average brought scholarship offers from Towson State, Bucknell, Loyola, Drexel, Auburn, East Carolina, Stanford and The Citadel. He chose

the college that was the furthest from a basketball powerhouse. He chose The Citadel, a coeducational military college located in Charleston, South Carolina. Why The Citadel? “During the visit, The Citadel was the only school I didn’t want to return home from right away. I met a great group of guys”, expounded Kevin.

What about the basketball program? Kevin would only say, “We didn’t have the seasons I expected”. The Citadel is an NCAA Division I school that competes in the Southern Conference.

Kevin achieved a military rank of cadet captain, while achieving academic honors that placed him on the Dean’s List. He graduated The Citadel in 2006 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Administration.

Now Kevin is trying to follow his passion for basketball by attempting to land a spot on an overseas professional basketball team. In the meanwhile, he is teaching, an assistant varsity basketball coach and head girl’s junior varsity coach at his Alma Mata North County High School.

How do you pass on lessons learned? “I give my players examples of where I am and where those are who don’t maintain the values that I do. I spend time with kids outside of school and I emphasize the importance of success,” concluded Kevin.