

MARYLAND DISTRICT



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

*AAU Mom speaks candidly about the AAU Basketball and its' impact on her family and our Community*

## Basketball and “My Boys”

Earlier this month, I had the pleasure to sit down with **Patricia Edwards**, to have her talk about her participation in basketball, raising her boys, and the part that AAU basketball and education have played in her life.

I first met Patricia when she was a student at Baltimore City Community College. As a member of the Student Government Association, Patricia was a vocal advocate for student issues and instrumental in developing activity programs. Our paths crossed again about three years ago when she was the Team Manager for the **Team Melo** organization. Her organizational skills, her prompt responses to deadlines and her thorough compilation of required documents were impressive. When met again this year I asked her to give me an interview.

“I grew-up in an era when freedom of expression was not encouraged. Therefore, I raised my sons to express themselves freely. What I mean by that is we made decisions as a family.” These were the expressions of Patricia Edwards, Team Manager for the Baltimore Stars Coalition’s eighth grade team and a 45 year old single mother of 4 four boys, twenty-nine year old **Christopher**, twenty-three year old **Steven**, twenty-one year old **Demetrius** and fourteen year old **Timothy**.

Pressed to further explain how freedom of expression manifested itself in the Edwards family, Patricia explained that her oldest son Christopher attended St. Ignatius Loyola Academy where he excelled academically, but frequently found himself in trouble with administrators. He purposely caused trouble because he wanted to leave the Academy to attend Hamilton Middle School. Rather



*Patricia Edwards*

than insist that he stay, the family agreed to permit Christopher to transfer to Hamilton where the trouble ceased, he was a happier student and he continued to excel academically.

Christopher went on to play basketball at Patterson High School. After graduating in 2001, Christopher joined the Navy. He continues to work for the federal government in the field of communications.

All of Patricia’s sons played basketball. She boastfully suggests that their love for the game was sparked by her love for and par-

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# Notes from the Director

By Benjamin DuBose

We have been publishing JumpShot Newsletter for three years with the goal of keeping AAU participants and visitors to our web site informed about the basketball program, the people who participate in it and their supporters.

My editor expressed his concern that the newsletter had not received the kinds of responses he had expected. Responses that suggested persons to interview, topics for articles, volunteers to write articles, or responses to articles written, etc. So during this year's mandatory team representative's meeting, I had my editor conduct a survey to determine the readership among this group.

I wasn't impressed with the results. Responses ranged from this is great, how long have you been publishing this newsletter to where can I obtain a copy. These responses indicate that visits to the website have been infrequent at best.

We are not publishing the newsletter to fill space on the website. The talents and efforts that go into publishing the newsletter are valuable commodities that we can ill afford to waste. But we continue to believe that the newsletter is a valuable source of information.

## Meet the Players!

AAU participants come in different shapes and sizes. Their influences differ greatly and their talents on and off the court are impressive. When the pessimists argue that young men who excel at sports are too often one dimensional, they need only meet Anthony Watkins and Willie Hope.

**Anthony Watkins** is a sixteen year old Mead High School student who is a point and shooting guard for their varsity team. He entered the AAU State Championships with the Mead Youth Basketball Association, MYBA. Anthony maintains a 3.4 grade point average and would like to attend Towson State University, University of Maryland Baltimore County or Howard University. He will major in kinesiology with a career goal of becoming a physical therapist or personal trainer.

Anthony says, he plays AAU because "I love the game of basketball, I love being around friends and I love playing at a high level".

I asked Anthony what were the values or takeaways from playing basketball. Anthony quickly responded, "The same values



We will continue to post the newsletter on our website in addition to mailing it directly to your email address, if you make the request.

Jim Dupree, our webmaster, reminded me that responses to the newsletter or any issue can always be made using the **Contacting Us** option. Perhaps our readers are unaware of this capability. In any event, we have decided not to compromise the newsletter by posting reader responses on the site. We may consider posting a "Letter To The Editor" or two here on the JumpShot in the future...

We anticipate that this new technological avenue will generate reader responses and we hope that requesting your feedback will generate interested writers, new subjects, and topics for articles. We really need your help to accomplish this.

Thanks for your support!



*Anthony Watkins*

as I would apply in working on a job with my supervisor or co-workers, leadership and working together".

Anthony identified his role models in and outside of basketball.

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**Team Highlight:**

# Meet the Baltimore Staggs!

**New organizations enter teams in the State Championships each year** and we try to highlight the tremendous sacrifices, effort and the often unusual coalitions that are often formed to develop organizations.

The Baltimore Staggs is in its second year of existence and its first year entering the AAU Championships. The organization is a combination of players from Lutherville, Cockeysville and Timonium that practices in Loch Raven.

**Greg Corbin, Tracey Corbin and Raymond McCamie** all live within five miles of each other. Their kids go to the same schools and play together. Their kids and their kid’s friends attend Ridgeley Middle School, Cockeysville Middle, St. Paul’s and Gilman. Tracey suggested that they form a team and begin competing in Recreation Center leagues.

Not an easy feat for a Designer of Computer Software who is always on the road, an Insurance Adjuster and a Software Engineer. So they divided-up the tasks and set out to form the Baltimore Staggs.

Greg took the responsibility of communicating with parents, Tracey was in charge of recruiting, and McCamie was responsible for securing facilities and tournaments to compete in and finding a head coach. All three participated in fundraising.

The group recruited eleven kids. Seven kids turned out to be honor students with one Presidential Scholar who carried a 3.75 GPA with an MSA score in the 80-90 percentiles. To play for the Staggs kids must keep their grades up.

**Ike Forman** joined the Staggs as its Head Coach. The philosophy used by the group in forming the organization was sports build character and keeps the kids busy. Sports provided the opportunity to mentor kids and to bond parents with kids.

In an exercise to teach kids how be to friends, the team was required players to read Michael Jordan’s book, I Can’t Accept Not Trying. The team was taken to breakfast to discuss the book. The discussion revealed how Staggs players viewed each other as leaders.

Leaders were not identified as the most vocal or the most talented. Leaders were identified as the most persistent, the kids who worked the hardest and those whose attitudes were consistent.



*Baltimore Staggs Staff (left to right): Raymond McCamie, Greg Corbin and Ike Forman. Center front: Tracey Corbin*

The staff also focused on the effort it takes to be a winner. “Some kids want to do just enough. We encourage them to exceed expectations, not just meet them”, says Greg.

The Baltimore Staggs only has a 9<sup>th</sup> grade team this year, but looks to expand to 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade teams next year. The organization can be contacted at [baltimorestaggsbasketball@gmail.com](mailto:baltimorestaggsbasketball@gmail.com) or on Facebook at baltimorestaggs.

## Noteable Quote:



**“Ability may get you to the top, but it takes character to keep you there.”** -- John Wooden, former UCLA Men’s Basketball Head Coach

## Meet the Players!



Willie Hope

“LeBron James is my role model because he is strong and excels through adversity. My mom is my greatest role model. She is very supportive, she has taught me to be strong and never settle, always move forward”. Anthony is being raised by single mom Kimberly Murray, and I might add very well indeed.

**Willie Hope** is a fifteen year old point guard who plays AAU for the Chesapeake Bay Breakers. He is a tenth grader at Saint Mary’s High School in Annapolis, Maryland. At 5’2” tall Will plays so much bigger. He was Prince George County’s Middle

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School Player of the Year. In ninth grade he played three games at the junior varsity level before being moved up to varsity as the starting point guard. Although Willie says he doesn’t have a nick name, he has been referred to as Mighty Mouse, Little Will and Shorty Rock.

Influenced by his dad, Willie started playing basketball at age three. He began playing AAU ball at the age of eight under the coaching instruction of his dad. “The values that I take to the court are to play hard, never quit no matter the score and basketball is just a game, have fun”, says Willie..

Willie’s basketball role model is Phoenix Suns guard Steve Nash. “I like the way he runs the pick and roll game”, says Willie. “My role models outside of basketball are my parents. They teach me the right values, which are to have good character and always do the right thing.”

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## Basketball and “My Boys”

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participation in the game. “Basketball gave me something that my parents couldn’t,” said Patricia. “As the youngest of 10 children, I was spoiled rotten. I got away with things I shouldn’t have. Basketball gave me discipline and a sense of purpose. I wanted that for my boys”.

MARYLAND AAU Boys Basketball — Sports For All Forever!

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