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MARYLAND
DISTRICT AAU

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

Maryland Referees Participate in MEACC Team Camp

Referees From across the country convened at the Boo Williams Sportsplex in Hampton, Virginia to attend the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) Annual Team Camp. Unlike the traditional camp, the three day MEAC camp, which ran from June 3-5, was a combination teaching and try-out camp.

Experienced referees who currently officiate for mid-level conferences, which include the likes of JUCO, Capital Conference, Central Atlantic, Centennial, Landmark, CIAA, PSAC, and many others attended to improve their skill level and to audition for employment with the MEAC. Employment with the MEAC can lead to employment with the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC), Big East and other major level conferences.

Early morning instructional meetings covered floor coverage, paying attention to details, team work, before and after games and keys to the next level were followed by the assignment of teams of three referees to officiate games under the watchful eyes of a team of evaluators. Evaluators scored the application of lessons learned in those early morning meetings.

As the MEAC Camp and the Maryland, Virginia and Prince Georges County (MVP) Tournament were being conducted during the same weekend and in the same building, many of the MVP Tournament games were officiated by camp participants. Seven of the fifty-six camp participants were from Maryland including Chris Coccogna, Bennie Watkins, Harold Douglas, Rob Daniels, Henri Abrams, and Laney Prioleau.

Evaluators were former major level officials many of whom with



Willie Brown, MEAC Team Camp Evaluator

30 years or more of refereeing experience. "Evaluators compile a list of the top five campers for submission to supervisor of officials, Larry Rose, for a final decision of who will be hired," said Willie Brown, one of the evaluators and a former Atlantic Coast Conference official.

Officials who have talent and potential but are not hired for the 2012 season are placed on the MEAC Developmental Staff. Developmental Staff are hired to referee one or two games during the 2012 season so that they can continue to improve their skill

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Notes from the Director

By Benjamin DuBose

“Victory has a thousand mothers and fathers.” Claimants far and wide take a portion of credit for a team winning. Pats on the back, congratulatory hand shakes, and nods of approval are abundant. The circle of friends and supporters increase exponentially. On the other hand, you would be hard pressed to find claimants who want to take credit for losses. The band of friends and supporters tend to shrink significantly around losses. Finger pointing and criticisms abound. The persons in the middle of this hurricane are the coaches who must endure this contradictory and fragile relationship.

Coaches enter the coaching arena for the love of the game, to support growing and impressionable young men, and because their wife or husband encourages them to get off the couch and contribute to the community of kids who could benefit from their talent.

Many ex jocks have personally experienced winning and losing and would like to win the big game just to satisfy their inner champion and to win praise from that fickle crowd called fans. So they begin taking risks and taking short cuts by bending the rules, not realizing that getting caught may set their team, their fans, their community, their children and even their loved ones against them.

Where Are They Now?

Twenty-five year old **Brett Foelber** is the Marketing Coordinator for Shoe City, an urban apparel and footwear company with thirty retail locations in Maryland, D.C., and Virginia. He grew up in Carroll County, graduated Cardinal Gibbons High School, which is located in Baltimore City, attended Randolph Macon College, which is located in Ashland, Virginia and earned his undergraduate degree from McDaniel College, which is located in Westminster, Maryland.

You may need a road map to follow Brett’s academic journey, but his path to success is marked by good decision making, hard work and tremendous support.

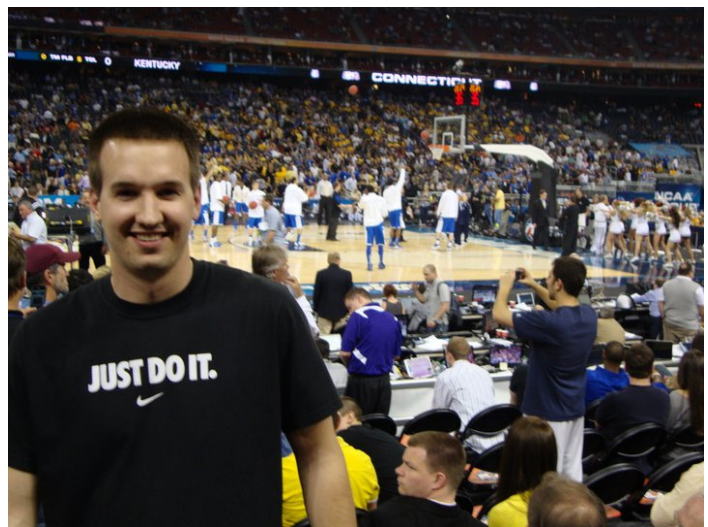
Brett’s older brother Eric was a basketball player and his 6’ 4” dad a former High Point University player and former Owings Mills High School basketball coach. So what is a kid to do in a family of athletes but to start playing basketball at age three? Cutting his basketball teeth in recreation league ball, at age ten Brett joined the Harundale Hornets, an Anne Arundel County based AAU team, where he played under coaches Donnie Williams and Bruce Spruell until age seventeen. Because Brett was the tallest guy on the team he played center.



A moment of indiscretion may cost suspension or expulsion from coaching, where the clip board, the practice schedule, the team shirt and jacket and the trust of parents are sacrificed for an underserved moment of glory; tragic consequences for good men and women who enter coaching for the noblest of reasons.

Coaches know the facts. When coaching they don’t just represent themselves. They represent all of the afore mentioned segments of their life and when indiscretions are exposed, they deeply hurt those same segments. Most importantly, the innocence of the kids is compromised and they are forever left to speculate what could have been and wonder why.

As the state qualifiers have ended, teams are readying themselves to participate in the nationals. I encourage you to go clean and return winners; whether or not you win the contest. Each team can carry up to four coaches. If the moral compass of one coach goes on the fritz, the collective wisdom of the other three must prevail.



Brett Foelber

Brett became one of Carroll County’s top players. He played on St. Joseph’s undefeated travel team and became the county’s leading scorer. His stellar play attracted an offer, that he accepted, to attend Cardinal Gibbons High School, a private

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Academic Success Before Fun Activities

“Academics success must come before engaging in fun activities like basketball. There is not a university in the country that will recruit an AAU or high school player without a good academic average. A coach cannot bring a player into his program and use him just to have success in sports and ignore his academic success.” This is the philosophy of Donnie Williams, coach of the Crusader Nation 9th grade team.



Donnie and Bruce Spruell developed the Maryland Academy of Youth Sports, MAYS in 1995, which focused on academic tutoring and basketball.

After ten years with the organization, Donnie left to join the Crusader Nation staff where the focus remains on good core GPA, ACT and SAT scores.

Donnie began his coaching career at the Gambrills Odenton Recreation Center in 1990 where he coached community teams. In 1995 Donnie moved to Harundale where he began coaching 11 year olds. He kept the group together through age 17. Eleven of the thirteen kids went on to college. Two successfully entered the world of work.

Donnie was Head Freshman and Junior Varsity Coach and Assistant Varsity Coach at Cardinal Gibbons High School from 2000 through 2010 when the school was closed by the archdiocese of Maryland.

Donnie is currently Assistant Varsity Coach for the Archbishop Spalding Freshman team.

AAU Participates In MSU Golf Tournament

On Saturday, May 6, the Morgan State University Foundation, Inc. conducted its 22nd Annual Golf Tournament.

More than one hundred and thirty golfers participated in the tournament, which was held at Ellicott City's Turf Valley Resort and Conference Center. Proceeds from the tournament provide much-needed scholarship funds for MSU student-athletes. MSU Alumnus and NFL Hall of Fame Line Backer Willie Lanier, Class of 1967, delivered the key note address.

Mr. Lanier encouraged alums to continue to support the

University. Before closing, Mr. Lanier announced that he was donating ten thousand dollars to the University.

AAU Boys Basketball took out a full page ad in the tournament booklet and funded the entry fee of one golfer to participate in the tournament. I was fortunate enough to be selected to play in this prestigious tournament.

I was paired with three of Virginia's finest citizens and avid golfers; retired Colonel and Department of Education staffer Clifton Knight, Attorney Stephen O. Russell and Lamar Harper.

First MVP Tournament A Success!

The Director of Maryland Boys Basketball, Benjamin DuBose, Director of Virginia Boys Basketball, Marcellus “Boo” Williams, and Director of Potomac Valley Boys Basketball, P.K. Martin, developed the MVP Invitational Tournament as a precursor to the National Tournament.

Four teams from each district in grades four through eight were invited to make the short trip to Hampton, Virginia's Boo Williams Sportsplex to participate in the tournament.

Walter P. Carter's team captured the fourth grade championship by defeating Virginia's Future Players 49-35 and the

Banneker Kings walked away with the fifth grade title with a 50-44 toppling of Virginia's Tidewater Wildcats.

The Randallstown Running Rebels placed second in the fifth grade Classic, Walter P. Carter took the silver in the sixth grade bracket, and Cecil Kirk took second in the eighth grade Classic.

Several Maryland referees, Commissioners, time keepers and score keepers helped to make this first time tournament an overwhelming success.

Where Are They Now?

all male and Roman Catholic affiliated school serving approximately 400 students.

In his sophomore year, at the suggestion of his coach, Brett transitioned from center to small forward/ shooting guard. "Making the transition made me work on my shot and technique, I had to become quicker and I had to become better defensively", recalled Brett.

During his junior year, college recruiters began making offers and for good reason, a 6'6" proven winner, who could play shooting guard and small forward. Among the offers were several Division I schools. Randolph Macon, a Division III school that was ranked number one in Division III basketball also pursued him. After several visits, Brett chose to attend Randolph Macon, a co-educational liberal arts and science college, ninety miles from Carroll County, serving approximately 1,175 students.

A competitive and talented athlete who has experienced success measures success by the number of minutes he is on the floor. After two years of receiving fewer minutes that he was comfortable with, Brett transferred to McDaniel College where his team won the Pride of Maryland State Tournament in which all DIII teams participate, and McDaniel had its best season in fifteen years.

His first year out of college, Brett accepted an assistant coach's position at Sykesville's Century High School where he

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coached a fifteen and under team from 2008-2009.

In 2010 Brett accepted an Assistant Coach's position at Stevenson University. Brett says, "I always had a passion for developing a team and developing personal skills. Following my father into coaching also influenced my desire to coach." Foelber is hopeful to pursue his passion of coaching by becoming head coach of a high school varsity team in the near future.

When asked about the values he took away from his participation in AAU, Brett replied, "AAU opened my eyes to how competitive the game of basketball is. My AAU experience foreshadowed the business world. A lot of focus was on attention to detail and team-work. Additionally, coaches were disciplinarians who not only focused on basketball, but academics as well".

Maryland Refs at Team Camp

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level.

Competition was brutally stiff for the 3 to 5 slots that MEAC may fill from the camp. We wish all participants, particularly, the Maryland contingent, the best of luck.

MARYLAND AAU Boys Basketball — Sports For All Forever!

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