

MARYLAND DISTRICT



BOYS BASKETBALL

Jumpshot!

HOOP HAPPENINGS FOR OUR FRIENDS & VOLUNTEERS

JUMPSHOT Newsletter is produced by Maryland District AAU Boys Basketball • Editor: McCarroll Nole • Director: Benjamin DuBose

- **Notable Quote:**
"Winning means you're willing to go longer, work harder, and give more than anyone else."
 - Vince Lombardi
- **We need your help!** If you have articles or photos for possible placement in future **JumpShot** issues, please submit them to:
mccarroll5@verizon.net
- **Your feedback is important to us too!** Let us know what you think of this issue, and how you think we can be better!
- **Don't forget!** For more info or back issues, visit us today at:
www.marylandaau.org

Point Guard Becomes National Boxing Champ!



New Champ! (L-R) Coach Mack Allison, Lorenzo Simpson and Coach Calvin Ward

Four year old Lorenzo Simpson's father died in 2004. His mother Donica Carroll not only had to grieve the loss of her husband but soon had to deal with a kid who found it difficult to handle the loss of his father.

Starting school did not temper Lorenzo's anger. He was acting out in and out of school, but ironically he was an honor roll student. He began playing basketball for Coach Mitch Wise at Chick Webb Recreating Center where Lorenzo's point guard play helped the team to an AAU State Championship.

After Mr. Wise's retirement, Lorenzo continued to play under the direction of Coach Gerald Stokes, where the winning ways continued, but anger continued as well in the life of a young man searching for answers. While not engaged in basketball, Lorenzo analyzed fights, particularly those of his uncle, heavyweight champion Hasim Rachman. When Rachman lost Lorenzo analyzed why.

Lorenzo's grades began to drop and he began talking back to his mother. Courtlon Ward, Donica's boyfriend, intervened. He took Lorenzo to the Upland Boxing Gym, where, at age seven and a half, he was introduced to Coach Mack Allison.

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Notes from the Director...

by Benjamin DuBose

The Maryland District presents kids the opportunity to participate in several sports. Most sports have their own website or posts flyers of upcoming events on the District website. At best, sports activities are scattered and do not represent District solidarity. Additionally, events or their participants do not receive the greatest exposure. Beginning in September we will launch a Maryland District electronic newsletter that will be published monthly; to include statewide events, highlights, special interest stories, individual and team accomplishments, collaborations and partnerships, and much more.

We're excited about our newsletter, but **we need your help** to make it happen!

With just a phone call from you, we will dispatch a reporter to your location to gather information and photos for articles or you may send us announcements, pictures or articles written by your staff. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to tell the world about your fantastic sports programs and outstanding participants!

I'm sure you are wondering why I have not yet mentioned the name of the newsletter. That is because we want your input in naming the newsletter. We will accept your recommendations for a name through Monday, September 30.

We would love to hear from you. Please contact Editor McCarroll Nole or Assistant Editor James Dupree.

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Memphis, A National Tournament Worth Revisiting

Districts across the country host qualifying tournaments to provide the opportunity for local teams to attend a national tournament where they compete for a place in community lore and their personal hall of fame, and a chance to become national champions. While all national tournaments are a unique experience, the Memphis, Tennessee Nationals, which hosted one hundred and sixty eight seventh grade D1 and D2 teams and twenty seven second grade teams is a cut above many.

The opening ceremony was a sea of players and coaches dressed in a tapestry of colored jerseys. Drawings for cash for parents and T-shirt giveaways were punctuated with words of wisdom from ninety-five year old high school coaching legend Jerry Johnson and encouragement from AAU President Henry Forest, who encouraged players to compete with vigor, but compete safely. He also thanked the parents and coaches for their commitment and participation in AAU sports.

Before AAU National Commissioners, Benjamin Dubose, Steve Sluskey and I declared the championship open with a prepared statement, NBA Development league player and University of Memphis swingman, Adonis Thomas, encouraged kids to select carefully who they hang out with. He also suggested that kids surround themselves with people who will motivate and push them. He ended by telling the crowd to always show good character.

Team coaches and parents select tournaments for more than basketball.

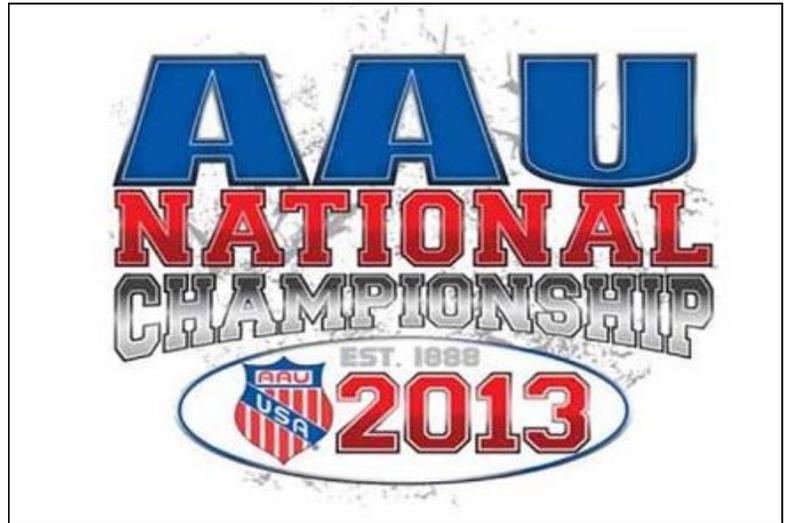
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Revisiting Memphis...

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They want something to do before the tournament, in between games, after games and after the tournament ends. The tournament doubles as a family vacation.

There is plenty to do in Memphis beyond the basketball arena. After the opening ceremony we had dinner at BB King's restaurant, after which we exited to a symphony of musical sound and a sea of people on the infamous Beale Street. The National Civil Rights Museum, which highlights the Lorraine Hotel, the assassination site of Dr. Martin Luther King, Graceland, the home of Elvis Presley, the Center for Southern Folklore, which features live performances about the culture and history of the south, The Stax Museum of American Soul Music are sites to visit. And then there is world famous barbeque.



The dining highlight for me was a Folk's Folley steak, Gus's World Famous Hot and Spicy Fried Chicken and soul food that had us smacking our lips long after the meal was over; from the suburban located Southern Hands Restaurant, with smothered pork chops, turnip greens, mac and cheese and corn bread to the in the hood location of Déjàvu. The small seven tables Creole Soul Food Déjàvu, run by Chef Gary Williams and his wife Toni, who came to Memphis after hurricane Katrina, is a Memphis must stop. The seafood gumbo, alligator stew, fried catfish, and the Bayou Classic, which is grilled catfish or tilapia topped with a creamy reduction of fresh lump crabmeat, and shrimp, served with a side of rice, collard greens, smothered okra or a choice of thirteen other sides, was a culinary delight.

Of particular interest to me was our visit to the one hundred and fifty year old LeMoyne-Owen College. The 1,100 student private Historically Black College (HBCU) maintains an average class size of 10 students and a 14-1 student-faculty ratio. The annual tuition and fees to attend the college is \$10,680, a tremendous bargain in today's higher education market. The leadership of the college is under the direction of Johnnie B. Watson, a conservatively dapper gentleman who is a soft spoken intellectual that moves as easily and sincerely among his students as among his peers. He is a man who has not forgotten his roots of growing up in the projects. As Maryland AAU stresses using sport to achieve a college education, LeMoyne-Owen, which features men's and women's basketball, tennis, cross-country, softball, volleyball, and golf, should be on your list.

Tournament host William Anderson and his cadre of current and retired coaches, current and retired school teachers, alumni and current LeMoyne-Owen College students, and community volunteers operated thirteen sites without a hitch and served as gracious hosts to over 4,000 players and parents. Stanley "Skip" Dentley was especially accommodating to the Maryland Commissioners who assisted with team registrations and made sure that AAU tournament rules were adhered to.

The Memphis Nationals is a unique experience the first time around and is certainly an experience worth repeating, but unfortunately you only have the 2014 tournament to experience Memphis hospitality. The tournament will move from Memphis to North Carolina in 2015. I haven't had the North Carolina experience, but they must put on their best face to top the tournament, hospitality and getaway experience of Memphis.

Maryland was represented in 7th grade DI and DII by the South River Shooters and the Randallstown Running Rebels. Chick Webb/BMore's Finest represented the District in the 2nd grade division. While the 7th grade teams did not place, Chick Webb placed third in the nation.

Hometown referees Joe Mayo and Joe Thompson were members of the referee corps.



Point Guard and National Boxing Champion...

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A veteran boxing coach as well as judo, taekwondo and kashowdu martial artist he would sit with Lorenzo to watch other fighters until Lorenzo announced that he wanted to learn to fight. “No one pushed him into it, this kid with a huge ego wanted to fight”, says Coach Mack. Strength and conditioning, which is Coach Mack’s specialty, began in earnest. Lorenzo was soon introduced to Coach Calvin Ford who specialized in the fundamentals of boxing. Right away Coach Ford realized that Lorenzo understood boxing. “He understood the meaning of training and the technical aspects of boxing”. Surrounded by good coaches and a good facility to train in Lorenzo needed a fighter’s name. Coach Mack named him Truck. Within a year Lorenzo returned to the honor roll at City Springs Elementary Middle School and now at age 13 Lorenzo “Truck” Simpson is a five time national champion.

A southpaw, Lorenzo patterns his style of speed and power after professional fighter Tavonte Davis. For angles and counter punching he immolates Floyd Mayweather. My ultimate goal says Lorenzo “is to become world champion in the 165 pound class and to be selected to the Boxing Hall of Fame.

To meet the demands of training Lorenzo says, “I imagine what my future could be. I think about the stamina I might need for that extra round to win the national championship”

A day in the life of Lorenzo Simpson on a non-school day is breakfast at 9 a.m., hit the gym from 9:30 to 11:00, and return to the gym at 5 p.m. and train until 7:30 p.m., home for dinner, homework and bed.

I asked Lorenzo how he balanced school and boxing. “I stay after school for thirty minutes to an hour to complete uncompleted classwork and I go back to teachers to ask for extra credit”. Lorenzo’s ultimate educational goal is to complete high school and he says, “When I leave I want them to say I was a good kid, I was respectful, and I had good grades”.

I asked Lorenzo’s coaches how far did they think he could go in boxing. “He will be world champion”, they agreed.



MARYLAND AAU Boys Basketball — Sports For All Forever!

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