



NEW NAME, NEW COLORS AND A NEW SWAG TO GO ALONG WITH IT!

IN THIS ISSUE

The Truth has been revealed!

by Tori Exum-Johnson

We had a great 2012-13 season. Our 3rd graders placed 4th in the State for the Central District. Our 4th graders placed 3rd in the State for the Central District and 10th in the Nation for Division II basketball. We are continuously working at improving our program and making sure that the student athletes are improving their game and having a great time.

Changes in our Program

We have made some major changes to the program as you have known it. We were formerly called C-U Allstars. That name was changed to Illinois Allstars for a short period of time to show that not 100% of the team was from Champaign-Urbana. We have since split off from the Allstars name and program completely and we are now Illinois Truth Basketball Program. Parents & Players voted on new colors and new uniforms are in design. The families are all excited and can't wait for this upcoming season to be in full effect.

What's in the name?

The name Illinois Truth came from Parent, Joe Cross. The coaches and Directors looked at a lot of different names and this one really just seemed to stick and be fitting for us. Parents and players voted on our new colors for the year: Orange and Grey. The main color, orange, was very fitting as our main color. Parent, Misty Gouard found that the color orange is a mix of red and yellow, and represents the energy that comes with red, and the happiness that comes with yellow. It also represents enthusiasm, creativity, and determination. Orange is fitting for the new direction. Coaches Marcus Johnson and Assistant Program Director, Carolyn Hughes added in slogans: "You can't handle the truth" and "The truth shall set you free". We are all very excited about this new season of basketball!

GO TEAM TRUTH!



#10 IN THE NATION, AAU DII

The Class of 2021 competed at AAU Nationals in North Carolina this summer. Read more about their journey, their success and their challenges from this great tournament!

Page 3

MORE IN THIS ISSUE:

About Us	2
#10 in the Nation!!	3
Basketball Scholarship Tips	4
Quarterly Celebrations	4
Congrats MS Players!	5
Tourney News	5

Illinois Truth...

The Illinois Truth Basketball Program is a registered Amateur Athletic Union (AAU), basketball program for boys in fourth through sixth grade and girls in fifth and seventh grades. We offer a higher level of competition than local recreational basketball programs and we have longer seasons, which help to prepare youth in our community for competitive middle and high school basketball.

We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, which relies solely on the individual player's financial contributions & contributions from local businesses and organizations, when available. The Illinois Truth Basketball Program is made up of 100% Volunteer coaches & staff who love the game of basketball. None of our coaches are paid or benefit financially from this basketball program. We are not a division of any governmental body or park district. Therefore, the entire operational budget is generated from registration fees, fundraising and private donations. All funds are spent on our programs and various operating expenses, such as equipment, uniforms, insurance, gym rental fees and tournament fees.

All coaches receive training on positive coaching and have passed criminal background checks. We commit our time and expenses to help make better athletes & young people in our community. Our volunteer coaches and mentors are committed to fostering an environment that emphasizes character, respect, discipline, athletic excellence, physical & mental discipline, self-esteem, leadership and good sportsmanship.



This commitment is essential to reach our mission of empowering our youth to become productive contributors to society, socially, mentally and physically through basketball while competing at the Local, State, Regional and National Level.

Illinois Truth Basketball Program has several goals that we work to accomplish each year, with each player. Our goals are:

- Providing quality instruction that builds skills, self-discipline, dedication and confidence in each athlete.
- Educating both on and off the court, including stressing and expecting success at school and respect at home;
- Encouraging the pursuit of achieving both individual and team goals;
- Promoting good sportsmanship and providing a fun environment for players;
- Showing respect for individuals, including teammates, coaches, officials and competitors alike;
- Developing core offensive and defensive fundamentals;
- Preparing players that have the desire, athletic ability and

academic standing to play at middle school, high school and at the collegiate level.

We believe that a competitive athletic experience can enhance social development, contribute to mental and physical health and teach the values of teamwork and responsibility. We are proud of the opportunity that we offer, and we feel the players involved will receive a positive experience.

Our program is dedicated to providing all athletes with the opportunity to be successful. Playing basketball with Illinois Truth requires a strong commitment to the game, the team, and your teammates. It is important that everyone involved understands that each coach is willing to make this commitment in order for our athletes to become the best basketball players they can be.

COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS

We always welcome comments and suggestions to help improve the Illinois Truth Basketball Program. Please see one of the Directors or send us an email at:

comments@iltruth.com



We have a Champion!

Congratulations to Nick Howie on winning the 3-point contest at AAU Nationals in Indian Trails, North Carolina. Nick was a daily winner during the week and received the trophy shown above. He went on to compete with the best of the best at the end of the week and was crowned with the first place win and a 7 foot trophy to go along with the one pictured above!



Pool Fun & Game Time

The players and siblings had a great time in the evening playing games in the pool. This photo was taken at our Pool side barbeque potluck. Below, the boys have their hands in and are ready for GAME TIME!



In between games, we explored Charlotte. In this photo, Amareon, Jaden, Tevin and Ta'Kavion enjoy a ride through the downtown area on a bike trolley ride. We explored the city on a beautiful evening with about seven bike trolleys and had a great time!

Class of 2021 Represents at AAU Division II Nationals!

10th Place

Between all of the fun & bonding, the boys did well enough to receive an automatic bid to return next year! They brought home the 10th place trophy and had a good time earning it!

SO CLOSE...WE'LL GET IT NEXT TIME!!

The Illinois Truth players had a great time at AAU Division II Nationals in Indian Trails, North Carolina. We did everything from swimming to backyard barbeques/potlucks to pillow fights and video games. The families had a great time bonding & building friendships that we hope will last a lifetime. There was grind, learning, disappointments and glory. In the end, we traveled across the states, by car, and spent 8 days together that we will never forget! We plan to work even harder for 5th grade Nationals in July 2014.

Below: Our families at the end of opening ceremonies.



We saw tons of great competition. AAU Nationals features the BEST OF THE BEST from all over the country. You have to come into every game and PLAY HARD at this level of competition. Our motto was "GO HARD, OR GO HOME!" Here is a re-cap of our games at Nationals:

MP Lightening – WON 48-34

LA Sports Academy – WON 51-38

*North Carolina Hornets – LOST 44-41
(**This team went on to place 3rd**)

Team Marilyn Elite – WON 61-45

Wellington Wolves – LOST 40-35
(***This team went on to place 2nd**)

Made Elite Maryland – WON 41-36

NC QCAA Force Red – WON 46-37

South Carolina Elite – LOST 52-33

As you can see, we had some hard losses. We lost by just 5 points to the team that went on to place 2nd and by just 3 points to the team that placed 3rd. We were leading in scoring to both of these teams during much of the games we played against them.

We had wonderful crowd support and the boys played hard!

GOOD JOB, BOYS & COACHES!!

Tips to getting a basketball scholarship

Originally posted by Gawon Hyman on www.stack.com

We're sometimes asked about kids who are in a grade higher than they should. Every year, thousands of high school, junior college and prep school basketball players compete to earn the relatively few college basketball scholarships awarded in Division I and II. You might be the top player at your school, but the competition is stiff. According to the National Federation of State High School Associations, nearly 550,000 boys played high school basketball during the 2010-2011 seasons, 150,000 of whom were seniors. There are approximately 5,000 NCAA freshman roster positions available in a given year. Do the math. Only 3.33 percent of high school basketball players will earn one of

those coveted spots.

Even if you're the best player on your high school team, the odds are against your getting a chance to play in college. Here are some tips to help you gain an edge in landing a college basketball scholarship.

Play AAU basketball. College coaches simply cannot visit all the high schools in America. AAU allows them to see hundreds of players over a weekend, all in one place.

Grades matter. College coaches want athletes with good grades. They bring up the team GPA and boost graduation rates. Recruits must register with the [NCAA Eligibility Center](http://www.ncaa.org/eligibility-center). The center evaluates your coursework, grades, test scores and amateur status and determines whether you are eligible to

play at the college level.

Be self-motivated. Does your mom have to ask you, "Are you going to work out today?" Coaches notice players who have that inner drive and don't need to be pushed at every turn. Instead of having your parents do all your thinking, start doing it yourself. Plan your own realistic workout schedule and stick to it. Get yourself registered for NCAA eligibility—don't wait for someone to do it for you.

Be a good teammate. Coaches look for athletes who play well with others. You can be a standout player but still lose out if you're self-centered and disrespectful of others on the court. On the other hand, if you're a nice guy, you might have an edge over someone who plays a little better but acts like a jerk.

Quarterly Celebrations!

COACHES AND ATHLETE BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES!!

We apologize if we missed any birthdays. Please contact Tori at info@iltruth.com if we missed your birthday!

The following athletes and coaches are celebrating a birthday and/or anniversary during the months of October, November and December. Please make sure to wish them well when you see them!

October:

2nd - Jermale Young, Jr.
9th - Ezri Jamison
18th - Sheldon Turner, Jr.
19th - Sydney Kelso

November:

6th - Coach Marcus & Tori
13th - Devin Miles
17th - Coach Marcus Truss
18th - Christopher Cross

30th - Amelia Johnson

December:

3rd - Sydney Gouard
10th - Coach Carolyn Hughes
11th - Coach David Gouard
15th - Regan Bollant
20th - Coach Tori Exum-Johnson
25th - CaMarion Halthon

CONGRATS & HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THOSE CELEBRATING THIS QUARTER!





Congratulations to all of the players who have made their school teams! All of the players who were on our C-U Allstars team last year, that tried out for school ball, made their school basketball teams...many made teams a grade level higher than they're currently in! Congratulations to the following:

Illinois Truth Players:

Christopher Cross – 7th grade team (Urbana)
 Christian Nesbitt – 7th grade team (Franklin)
 Bryson Tatum – 7th grade team (Urbana)

Amya Bahler – 7th & 8th grade teams (Urbana)
 Regan Bollant – 7th & 8th grade team (Judah)
 Lauryn Cross – 8th grade (Urbana)
 Sydney Gouard – 7th & 8th (Southview)
 Jessica Haslett – 8th grade (Franklin)
 NaKaya Hughes – 7th grade team (Jefferson)
 Ezri Jamison – 7th & 8th grade (Paxton)
 Amelia Johnson – 7th grade team (St. Matts)
 Janiah Newell – 7th & 8th (Southview)
 Kayla Wilson – 8th grade team (Edison)
 Jalae Parker – 8th grade (Southview)
 K.D. Young – 9th grade (Decatur)

Our Former Allstars Teammates:

Sydney Kelso – 8th (St. Joe)
 Sergio McClain, Jr – 6th grade (Darien, IL)
 Kai Steinman – 7th grade team (Franklin)
 Treytion Walker – 7th grade team (Urbana)
 Tyler Peacock – 7th grade team (Jefferson)
 George Polychronopoulos – 7th & 8th grade (Next Generation)
 Amia Wright – 8th grade (Edison)
 Rylee Hinton – 7th grade (Franklin)
 Jada Grady – 8th grade (Jefferson)
 Shoentera Russell – 8th grade (Jefferson)
 Abbey Wade – 8th grade (Franklin)
 Fess Hawkins – 8th grade (Franklin)
 Elaishe' Stone – 8th grade (Urbana)
 Aaron Jayne is playing ball with some of his schoolmates this year. His school doesn't have a 6th grade team and doesn't let 6th graders play up on the 7th grade team.

Tournament time has started! Congratulations to the 10U team on their 2nd place finish at Game Time Gym in Bloomington, IL and to the 11U team who took first place! Good job, boys!

