

AAU Boys' Basketball Nat'l Tourney Slated For Twin City

The Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) has announced that Winston-Salem will be the host city for the 1992 and 1993 Boys' Basketball National Championship. Considered the premier schoolboys' basketball event of the year, the AAU Boys' National Basketball Championship will feature more than 50 teams from around the country, playing in Lawrence Joel Veterans Coliseum and the Coliseum Annex July 18-25, 1992.

"This event gives fans the opportunity to see firsthand some of the most exciting prospects in the country," said Ron Crawford, AAU Boys' Basketball Chairman "because many athletes participating in the AAU Basketball Programs are recruited to play college basketball, the AAU has pledged its support of high school athletics, while working to build a relationship that will benefit athletes by creating desirable results through competitive opportunities."

Recent AAU alumni include: Eric Montross, Clifford Rozzier, Rodney Rogers, Derrick McQueen, Trelonne Owens, Chris King, Anthony Tucker, John Crotty, and Bobby Hurley. Alumni now playing in the NBA include: Rex Chapman (Charlotte Hornets), Derrick Coleman (New Jersey Nets), Joe Dumars (Detroit Pistons), Ledell Eackles (Washington Bullets), Patrick Ewing (New York Knicks), Chris Mullin (Golden State), Mark Price (Cleveland), Glen Rice (Miami Heat), Kenny Smith (Houston Rockets) and Isiah Thomas (Detroit Pistons).

The AAU, based in Indianapolis, is the largest not-for-profit volunteer organization in the United States dedicated solely to the development of amateur sports and physical fitness programs. Founded in 1888, the AAU is composed of 58 AAU Associations that administer and operate AAU programs at the grassroots level. Programs offered by the AAU include the AAU Youth Sports Program, AAU James E. Sullivan Memorial Award, AAU/MARS MILKY WAY High School All American Award™, AAU/USA Junior Olympic Games, Chrysler Fund/AAU Physical Fitness Program, President's Challenge Youth Physical Fitness Program, and the Presidential Sports Award.

AAU programs are available to all Americans and are conducted with the philosophy of providing an opportunity for competition without

overemphasizing athletic excellence. This ideal of "sports for sports' sake" is shared by the more than 4,500 member clubs and hundreds of thousands of volunteers at the grassroots level.

The AAU Boys' Basketball Program is one of twenty sports offered as part of the AAU Youth Sports Program. Since 1948, the AAU Youth Sports Program has helped youth across the country develop into solid citizens by providing organized athletic competition at the local, regional, and national levels. Athletes ages 8 to 18, regardless of formal training, experience or skill, are eligible to participate in the Program - one of the largest and most successful amateur sports programs available.

Coaching, facilities, and officiating of the highest caliber are provided through the program and by local volunteers. Promotion of parental, school, and community involvement enhances the Boys' Basketball Program, as well.

In 1990, the AAU Boys' Basketball Committee introduced the Drug and Academic Awareness Program. A major emphasis of the program is the development of complete athletes. An AAU Boys' Basketball participant is expected to not just be a gifted athlete, but also an academically-oriented athlete. Each of the more than 3,500 tournament participants last year attended mandatory sessions on drugs and academic awareness. The sessions included speakers, a video presentation, and other materials geared to suit the different age divisions.

AAU CONTACT NUMBERS:

David Solomon
National Tournament Director
Post Office Box 10963
Winston-Salem, N.C. 27108
(919) 773-0339

Joel Weston III
National Tournament
Communications Director
Post Office Box 15784
Winston-Salem, N.C. 27113

Claudette Weston
National Tournament Marketing
Director
Post Office Box 15784
Winston-Salem, N.C. 27113
(919) 725-1147.



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