



The Hanes Hosiery 10- to 12-year-old baseball team, "Fun in the Sun."

Center to Sponsor Programs

Art Blevins, the director of Hanes Hosiery Recreation Center, and Vincent Brown, his assistant, are staying busy this summer with structured athletic programs in baseball and basketball.

According to Blevins, there are 173 kids involved in both summer programs.

Hanes Hosiery Recreation Center will hold its seventh annual "Hang The Net" and "Slam Dunk Contest" and the "Celebrity Shootout" and the "Former College Stars" men's and women's shoot-out July 22 at 2:30 p.m.

For more information, call Art Blevins at 727-2428.



Art Blevins (left) and Vincent Brown



The Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Center baseball league team (l. to r.): (front row) Rod McKey, Coach Tim McCollum, Donald Brooks, Tim Dillard and Leardo Davis; (back row) Coach James Irby, Brandon Cain, Anthony Johnson, Andre Chinn, Jmeil Hairston, Seneca Allen and Coach Doug Williams.

Scholarship Dream Meets Inner-City Reality

Chicago businessmen Harrison Steans and Burt Kaplan say they've learned you can't always beat gangs and drugs with the possibility of a college degree.

Six years ago, the men told 83 students at the Byrd Academy and Schneider Elementary School on the city's North Side that they would receive college scholarships upon graduation from high school.

Twenty-nine took up the offer. Steans said some students are taking more than four years to graduate, and others are pursuing equivalency degrees.

"I was somewhat disappointed, but this is something of a glass half-full or half-empty story," Steans said last week. "There's a lot happening where we're very encouraged. I think more constructive things are occurring."

Steans and Kaplan say they've

learned a lot from the experience and can incorporate the lessons into future programs.

"The sooner you can get involved with kids the better," said Steans, who works at an investment company and lives in north suburban Bannockburn. "There also ought to be some way there is both a commitment by the dreamer and the dreamer's family."

"Just as we make a commitment to them, there should be commitment on their part. It's a two-way street."

During their involvement with the students, Steans and Kaplan realized money isn't the only impediment standing between inner-city youth and higher education.

"The kids who didn't have any fire in their belly at the start didn't have any at the finish, and that's kind of discouraging," said Kaplan, a Highland Park resident who made

his fortune in the mattress business.

Gangs, sex and drugs didn't catch up with all the students: Of the 29 who graduated, 27 plan to attend college in the fall. School records show that only three or four students out of a class of 40 normally go on to college.

"Every day, it had an impact even if I didn't know it," said Tanikka Mitchell, 18, a Byrd Academy student who graduated from Lincoln Park High School and plans to attend college in Oklahoma. "They focused on keeping our heads clear on homework and school material."

Steans and Kaplan modeled their program after the original "I Have A Dream" project in New York's East Harlem.

The New York program has been copied across the country — involving 12,000 students in 53 cities. Steans and Kaplan have helped other donors set up eight more programs in the Chicago area.

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