

BYA PRIDE

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Skills Challenge Event

by David Otero

The basketball program, led by Coach Karen Milliner, has been selected to host the Jr. NBA / Jr. WNBA Skills Challenge. This is an open competition where players from 9 - 14 years of age compete for free. The competition includes the following challenges: opening lay up, foul shot, speed dribble, pass and receive, and a final lay up. Boys and girls compete separately in three different age groups (9-10, 11-12, and, 13-14). All scores are determined by speed and violations. A winner will be chosen in each age group and the local champion has the opportunity to advance to the Regional Championships. The Regional Champion then has an opportunity to advance to the National Finals in Florida.

The BYA has teamed up with New York Institute of Technology (NYIT) to host the event on Saturday, February 28, 2009. The Jr. NBA / Jr. WNBA Skills Challenge will take place at the Student Activity Center, located in the Central Islip Campus of NYIT. This is a great event and opportunity for the surrounding communities to see the BYA and its volunteers in action. We are looking forward to an exciting day and hope to see the next Jr. NBA / Jr. WNBA National Champion at our event. Please come and join us as we continuously strive to provide recreational activities for the youth of our community.

The registration desk will open at 9 AM with all athletes and family members watching the competition from within the gymnasium. For more information visit the official Jr. NBA / Jr. WNBA Skills Challenge web-site (www.nba.com/jrnba).



BYA Basketball

by John Bewia

Opening Tip-Off of the 2008-09 BYA Department of Basketball was January 5. The group is broken down into the following seven divisions: 5-6 Dribbler, 7-8 Junior Varsity, 9-10 Varsity, 11-12 NCAA, 13-15 NBA, 9-10 WNCAA, and 11-14 WNBA. Led by Boys Acting Commissioner, Claude Ellis and Girls Commissioner, Karen Milliner, we have begun the season successfully and look to continue growing this program for years to come.

The Basketball Department is comprised of individuals who care deeply about BYA Basketball and act in every way to improve the program for all participating youths. The committee members are Claude Ellis, Syd Barrington, and Andre Smith. The Division Coordinators are as follows: Tim Parker, 5-6; Joan Maybanks, 7-8; Claude Ellis, 9-10 and 11-12; Karen Milliner, 9-10 and 11-14 girls; and Andre Smith, 13-15.

In addition to participating in the overall operation of the sport, each committee member and division coordinator is responsible for supervising every game within their respective groups. Games and practices are scheduled and all age groups have reserved gym times. You can see each group in action on the following days: Monday at South Middle for the 13-15 year olds, Monday and Tuesday at North Middle for the 9-10 year olds, Wednesday at South Middle for both girl divisions, Wednesday at Hemlock Park for the 7-8 year olds, Thursday at Laurel Park for the 7-8 year olds, and Friday at North Middle for the 11-12 year olds.

It is the committees' objective to raise the overall numbers once again to what they were in 2005-06 and prior. As you can see from the chart below, Basketball enrollment has decreased in the last three seasons. Our goal is to attain 400 players for the 2009-10 playing season, 500 the following year, and back to 600 players for 2011-12. This will bring us back to where we were in 2001-02 with 58 teams and 612 players. With enough participants, we can revive the 7-9 WVarsity division for the younger girls and the 15-17 Olympian division for the older boys. It would also be a huge accomplishment for the BYA to be able to initiate a 15-17 Wolympian division for the young ladies in the 2009-10 season. Ms. Milliner stated that the girls program, which has grown since last year, had "a good registration this year" and graciously thanks all of the coaches for volunteering their time and all of their efforts to keep this program running.

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BYA Basketball Enrollment Figures, 2001 - 2009

<u>Division</u>	<u>2001-2</u>	<u>2002-3</u>	<u>2003-4</u>	<u>2004-5</u>	<u>2005-6</u>	<u>2006-7</u>	<u>2007-8</u>	<u>2008-9</u>
5-6 Dribbler	6 (67)	6 (60)	7 (77)	8 (93)	5 (55)	4 (28)	4 (26)	4 (44)
7-8 Jr. Varsity	9 (104)	10 (99)	9 (90)	8 (99)	9 (101)	4 (46)	4 (37)	6 (66)
9-10 Varsity	10 (121)	12 (118)	12 (119)	10 (102)	9 (85)	6 (68)	7 (69)	7 (70)
11-12 NCAA	10 (120)	11 (109)	9 (101)	11 (107)	10 (92)	4 (40)	4 (32)	4 (40)
13-15 NBA	6 (64)	7 (71)	6 (60)	5 (46)	5 (50)	4 (38)	4 (26)	4 (40)
16-18 Olympian	4 (32)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
7-9 W-Varsity	4 (39)	4 (41)	4 (42)	3 (40)	3 (33)	3 (27)	3 (14)	n/a
10-12 W-NCAA	4 (32)	4 (39)	4 (48)	5 (58)	4 (38)	3 (24)	3 (18)	3 (28)
13-15 W-NBA	4 (33)	4 (40)	3 (30)	2 (20)	n/a	n/a	n/a	3 (21)
16-18 W-Olympian	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
BYA League	58 (612)	58 (577)	54 (567)	52 (565)	45 (454)	28 (271)	29 (222)	31 (309)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2/28	<i>Jr. NBA / Jr. WNBA Skills Challenge</i>
2/28, 3/7, 3/14	<i>Girls Softball Draft, Brentwood Recreation Center</i>
3/3	<i>Board of Director Nominations, BYA Clubhouse, 6pm – 8pm</i>
3/7, 3/14	<i>Basketball Picture Day, Brentwood Recreation Center, 2pm – 4pm</i> <i>(See your coach for details)</i>
3/17	<i>General Membership Meeting and Special Election, 6:30pm, Brentwood Library</i>
3/21	<i>Girls Softball Clinic, Brentwood Recreation Center, 1pm – 4pm</i>
3/21	<i>See the BYA youth participate in the Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade</i>
3/28	<i>13-18 Boys Baseball Draft, BHS Field</i>
3/28, 3/29, 4/4, 4/5	<i>Field Clean Up Days.</i> <i>Come help prepare the fields for opening day.</i>
4/18	<i>Baseball / Softball Opening Day</i>