



Lady Brave Youth Program

Welcome to the first edition of what I hope to be a very helpful and informative newsletter for everyone involved in the Indian Creek Girl's Basketball Youth Program.

Each month I hope to have this newsletter available in hard copy format and online for downloading. The website will have other valuable information and any person involved with or following Indian Creek Basketball should visit the site often to stay up to date with the latest events and news of the Lady Braves.

In each edition I plan to include a new drill that is more age specific and appropriate for our young basketball players. I will also include any questions

and answers that are appropriate to share and that I have accumulated since the last edition.

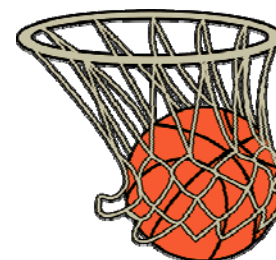
I hope to have a variety of items in the newsletter to not only serve good information but that will also keep people interested in reading.

It is my hope to involve the high school players in the newsletter in some manner. I don't know if this will be by having them write articles that our youth might enjoy or simply featuring a player or two each month.

Regardless, I know the newsletter will serve as a great communication tool for me and for everyone involved in the basketball

program. I know we all have basically the same objective, and that is to see our young basketball players develop sound fundamental basketball skills, and also learning the other life long lessons that basketball can help teach along the way.

Coach Burkman



Remember you can stay up to date with news/schedules and newsletters online:
<http://www.ladybraves.org/>

Brainstorming Session—Parents Needed

There will be a meeting on September 2, 2009, at the High School in the gym to discuss the youth program.

The meeting will start at 6:00PM and be scheduled to end at 7:00PM.

The purpose of the meeting

is to get parent and youth coach input on the feeder program.

I plan to offer some of my thoughts and vision for the future of the Lady Brave Youth Program. It is vital we get your participation during this process as this

will help shape the upcoming youth season.

If you have any comments or questions send them to Coach Burkman at:

dburkman@ladybraves.org

Tentative Youth Program Schedule

September 2, 2009	6:00 PM	Meeting
September ?, 2009		Rec. League Begins
October ?, 2009		Rec. League Ends
October ?, 2009	1:00 PM	Travel League Tryout
November 10, 2009		Travel League Starts
February 28, 2009		Travel League Ends
March ?, 2009		AAU Tryouts

Next Edition

- September 25, 2009

Check the website or the High School or Junior High School main office to receive a copy.

Overview of Youth Program

I have spent a considerable amount of time researching and talking with people that have been involved with the Indian Creek youth basketball program in the past. I believe what has been established is a pretty good starting point to build a strong and successful youth basketball program.

The current recreational league that is in place provides a great place to develop a good basketball foundation and introduce our kids to basketball.

However, it has been my experience that some kids require more than this.

That is why I will be implementing as part of the youth program a travel league portion that will begin when the recreational league ends.

The youth travel ball circuit is not for everyone and your child certainly doesn't have to participate in it to be a part of the Indian Creek Basketball program. What the travel league is though, is a league that provides an opportunity for young basketball players to continue to play through the winter months and travel from school to school competing against teams from other schools. Whereas the recreational leagues places athletes in a competition between future teammates, the travel league allows possible future teammates to play together against schools like Franklin, Center Grove, and

Whiteland.

It is an environment that is much different than the recreational league. It is much more competitive and with double play, the athlete must be the one focused on playing basketball. I am in no way stating that this league is not for fun but I

am stating that I believe that this where we should begin teaching our athletes to be more competitive.

In all our leagues we should be focused on teaching our kids about fair play and being gra-

cious winners and losing with pride, knowing you competed and did your best, and the travel league provides more opportunity to learn all of these.

So far, we have a recreational, and travel basketball program for our young athletes to participate in during late fall and the winter. At the conclusion of the winter league, basketball is typically over in most school programs. At Indian Creek we will be focused on placing our more ambitious basketball players on AAU Basketball teams.

AAU basketball provides a venue for further player development. That is what we will focus on for the feeder program

for Indian Creek. As the athlete gets older and begins to ponder college and perhaps even playing basketball in college, then AAU is the avenue to explore alongside their high school experience.

For years I have operated an AAU Basketball club called the Indiana Outlaws. I plan to continue running this club out of Indian Creek in hopes of getting more young Lady Brave athletes involved in AAU.

Over the years I have made some great contacts in the collegiate coaching world. I believe it is part of the high school coaches job to help his/her players continue on to play in college if it is realistic. The Indiana Outlaws AAU Basketball Club provides the perfect opportunity for our youth at Indian Creek. I have also managed to establish a vast network and great relationship with other great AAU

Clubs across the State. Therefore, players at Indian Creek will not be limited to just the Indiana Outlaws, we will be able to find a place that is a good fit for them.



With our youth program there will be something for every player in our community.

The travel league plays games on Sundays. The league we will be participating in play every other Sunday and each Sunday that you play, you play two games.

Recreational League and General Information

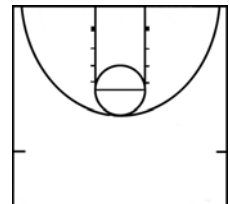
It is my intention to start the recreational league sometime in early September. There may be some changes from the past but I want to meet with everyone to discuss everything then decide on any definite changes. I will highlight some changes I expect to make for this upcoming season.

First, the uniforms will be Blue or Red and White reversible tops. These will

also be used for the travel league in order to save parents money. Parents will pay a one time uniform fee. This one time fee will cover the athlete for the entire length of their involvement in the feeder program. There will be no need to purchase a new uniform each year.

Another reason to have uniformity to the jerseys worn by our youth is to have an easily identifiable top for the kids to wear

to varsity home games. Each home game will have a designated color that the youth kids will wear that night and sit together in a section during the game. It is my hope to allow free



The recreation league will begin sometime in early September.

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Recreational League and General Information Continued...

admission to the kids wearing their youth jerseys to all home games.

Each home game will feature ball girls for the night. These ball girls will be able to interact with the varsity players. They will also get an inside look at varsity pre-game planning and other things that go on behind the scenes. We need to create an atmosphere in the community where every young female athlete in the school

corporation looks forward to that day when they can wear that Indian Creek High School Uniform.

When your child out grows their uniform top, it will be replaced at no cost to you. If your child is selected to play in the Sunday travel league, then there will not be any additional cost for uniforms to participate. I don't want money or financial matters keeping any child from being

introduced and falling in love with the game of basketball.

There is substantially more that I have envisioned and I am excited to share my thoughts. I also want to incorporate the thoughts and opinions of those involved. Therefore, it is vital to attend the youth feeder program meeting. The meeting is currently scheduled in the gym at the high school at 6PM on Sept. 27, 2009.

Goals

Initial Goals of the Lady Brave Basketball Program

- *Generate enough enthusiasm over the next 5 years to have the participation levels to the point that Indian Creek can establish a freshman or "C" basketball team.*
- *Compete in the Sectional Championship each year we play.*
- *Win the sectional championship.*
- *Win our conference every year, and in the years we don't, finish a very close 2nd.*
- *Never lose to Triton Central. Sort of personal goal of Coach Burkman but nonetheless a good goal.*
- *Overall varsity and junior varsity GPA of 3.0 or higher.*



Meet Coach Burkman

Coach Burkman is the one in the picture above on the left. The other person pictured is Isiah Thomas, one of Coach Burkman's all time favorite players.

Coach Burkman has coached at the high school level for 8 years. He also has coached AAU basketball and has organized and ran an AAU Basketball Club for the last 4 years.

For the last four years Coach Burkman has been the Freshman Coach at Southport High School. His last two seasons ended with team records of 14-2 and 15-4, respectively. As a part of his freshman coaching responsibility, Coach Burkman was also responsible for Southport's Youth Feeder program. Prior to Southport, Coach Burkman was the Varsity Assistant Boy's Coach at Beech Grove High School in Indianapolis.

Coach Burkman has coached at virtually every level within the feeder program. Last season he

coached a 3rd grade Indy Girls Hoops League during his freshman season.

Having four daughters that all play basketball gives Coach Burkman a perspective some coaches can't get. He understands the parental aspects and therefore appreciates the importance of communication, not only with his players but with the parents.

Although it seems like ages ago, Coach Burkman once did participate in basketball as an athlete. He is a graduate of Southport High School where he was a two sport letter winner in basketball and baseball. After high school Coach Burkman continued playing at Milligan College in Northeast Tennessee. At Milligan he participated in varsity basketball and baseball. Coach Burkman has a Bachelor's Degree in Business from Milligan, and later earned a Master's Degree in Business Administration. Coach Burkman is employed fulltime in the computer technology industry. He is married to his wife of 20 years Lisa, and has four daughters, Ashley (18), Morgan (17), Erin (15), and Katie (8).

