

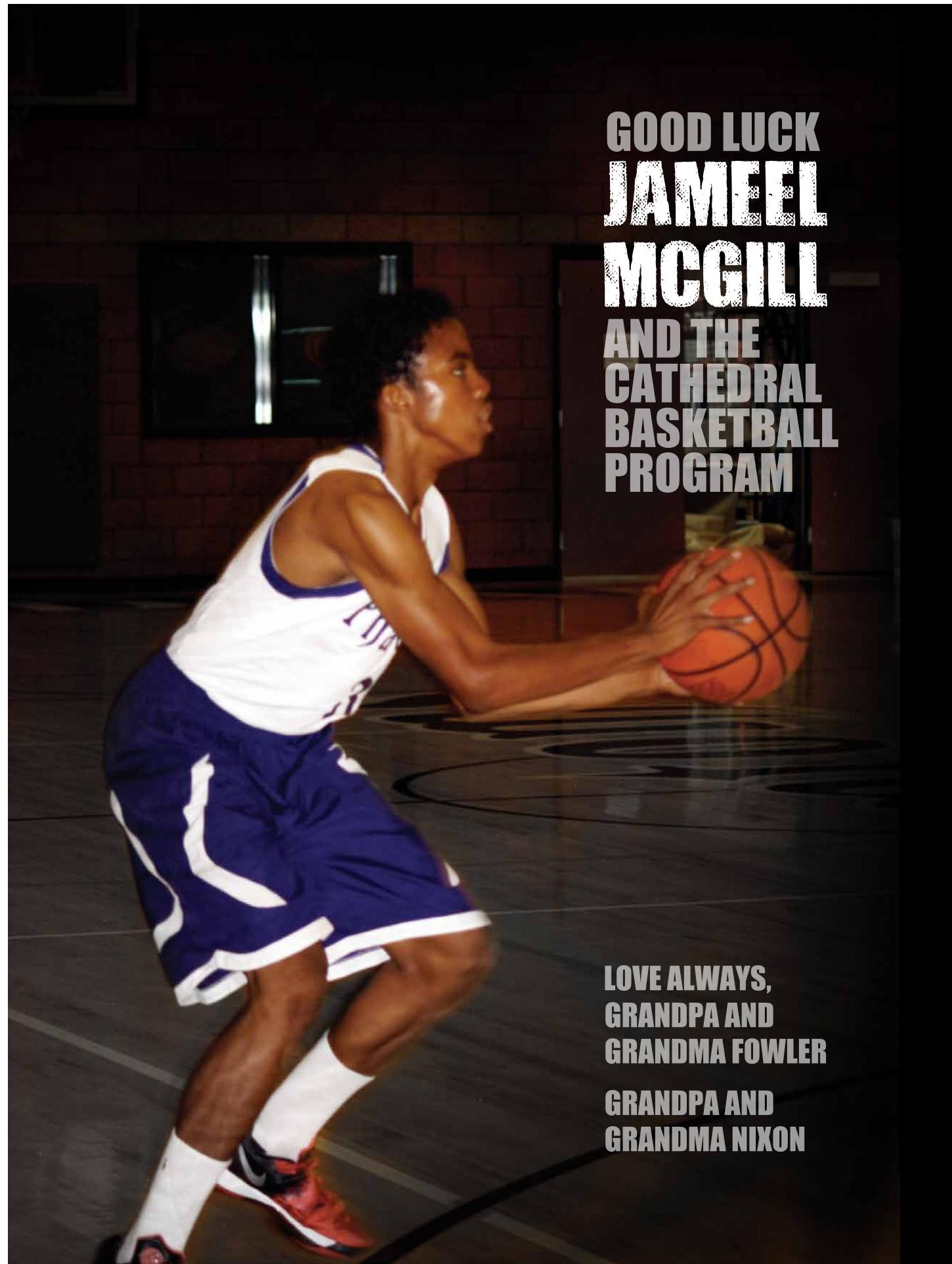
PHANTOM

BASKETBALL

2012-2013 MEDIA GUIDE



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LOVE
Mommy, Daddy
London
Mana, Essie
Jody &
Mya

Jean-Christophe Bores 10

JC lives and dies for the game of basketball. His family introduced him to the game at 13 years of age. He fell in love with it instantaneously and gave him an identity. It was at this point that JC entered into his first club experience. At 14 years old, his former coach took him, molded him and pushed JC to learn as much as possible about the game.

JC knows that basketball is his life. He recognizes that he has a future in it and wants to use that future to help restore his country. He has had to learn the rules to the game here in America but is making great strides to be an asset on the court.

But his defining moment was when his grandmother died. She was the center of JC's world and the one who gave him advice about the right way to do things. From this he learned that death can happen to anyone and life is unpredictable. JC realizes that he has to give his best on the court always because tomorrow is not promised to him. He is also realizing the same is true in the world of academia. His biggest challenge is to stay strong and not easily give up when the going gets tough. Mindset and focus are the keys to his success.

JC speaks three languages including French and Creole. He also loves graphic design and fine arts. His one wish is that the general public knows how smart ball players are. Learning plays, staying up to date with academics and ensuring that everyday life is handled is what our Cathedral student-athletes are all about. JC admires LeBron James because he came from humble beginnings and now has become one of the most inspirational athletes around.

Name: **Jean-Christophe Bores**
Cathedral High School Varsity Team
Age: 17
Home: **Guadeloupe, West Indies**
Birthdate: **October 27, 1995**
Position: **Center**
Player Number: **10**
Height: **6'9**
Weight: **210**
Nickname: **JC**



Jerome Mills Bryant 25

Jerome Bryant's earliest memory of basketball is playing at Rancho Seneca Park at 5 years of age. It was here that Jerome quickly learned his love for winning and competition. He also learned early that losing was not going to be a part of his vocabulary.

One of Jerome's biggest influences off the court was his father. He understood the culture of basketball and spearheaded Jerome's interest in it. Jerome's father made him work out and instilled a mindset of discipline, hard work and knowing how to learn from your mistakes. These are the memories that continue to motivate Jerome when he feels like giving up. No longer is hard work and discipline a chore but the path to success.

Jerome works hard throughout his early years and pushes through adversity. Then one day his uncle Alonzo Brown Jr. passed away. This was a turning point in his life. Jerome started to realize what was important to him like taking care of himself and that time was not always on his side. The people he loved and his passions became more important to him with basketball being at the forefront of it all. He started to understand that basketball was the tool he could use to get the life he wanted and still have the opportunity to live that life to its fullest. But it was his mother and "gammy" who gave him the biggest lessons there were to learn. He credits his mother for teaching him how to always do better and his gammy who influenced him to do big things like handling his own money, getting a good education and making a plan for what happens when the sports world is no longer an option.

On the court, Jerome's position is an advantage for him because of his size and his quickness. He has the skills to play the three and post positions. His life lessons and ability to forecast situations give him a vantage point. But it is his relationship with his Head Coach that also set the stage for Jerome's success this year.

Off the court, Jerome has a huge passion for anatomy and how the human body works. He wants to use that passion to help people especially athletes take care of themselves and to learn how their own bodies work. Jerome is changing the age old thought that athletes are only as good as their physical strength. He is showing the world that he is a quiet warrior forging a path for others.



Name: **Jerome Mills Bryant Jr.**
Cathedral High School Varsity Team
Age: 16 years old
Home: **Los Angeles, CA**
Birthdate: **June 28, 1996**
Position: **Small and Power Forward**
Player Number: **25**
Height: **6'2**
Weight: **185**

Cole Maldonado 13

Cole Maldonado's first experience with the game of basketball was attending USC games. He loved the excitement and pace of the game and knew he wanted to be a part of it. So starting in 5th grade, Cole played for the Silverlake Recreation Center. He loved the game and loved the experience of playing with friends on a team.

His defining moment in life was when his dad got him his first basketball hoop. He shot everyday and loved every minute of it. More than anything, it allowed Cole to get away from everyday life and develop a deeper love for basketball which made him a better player.

He realized he had talent when Coach Middlebrooks came to Cathedral. Cole learned different techniques and ways to succeed on the court. It changed his entire perspective on basketball. He went from not having a full understanding of the game to having an entire one that allowed him to learn when to take shots and the overall flow and pace of high level basketball.

One of Cole's biggest challenges on the court is the amount of people that did not show up to the games last year. He felt that no school spirit really existed. Cole is proud of the difference he sees this year.

He sees the difference in how many people are now coming to the games along with the newly developed student section and half time show. He now feels a sense of urgency to play when he goes out on the court.

His relationship with Coach Middlebrooks is important; he respects his will to win. He knows he is a powerful man and he does not want to disappoint him. Cole wants to learn his work ethic. He knows he is one of the hardest working people around.

Cole's goal is to go to college and play basketball. He wants to major in business and loves Sales and Marketing. Cole plans to spend time donating and giving back to the basketball program.

Name: **Cole Maldonado**
Cathedral High School Varsity Team
Age: **16 years old**
Home: **Los Angeles, CA**
Birthdate: **May 22, 1996**
Position: **Point Guard/Shooting Guard**
Player Number: **13**
Height: **6'1**
Weight: **145**
Nickname: **Coley**



Joshua Brown 4

Josh Brown understood early that basketball was the tool that would get him places. In the 4th grade he attended a new school and the first day he got there he started playing basketball. In the 7th grade he tried out for his middle school basketball team and made it. But it was during his sophomore year when his talent was solidified in his mind. It was the first time that a college coach ever spoke to him and it would be the thing that changed his future.

On the court, Josh is quick and can make moves that take his team to victory. He knows that he must lead his team to victory at any cost and knows that extreme focus is needed no matter what. But the hardest things for Josh are the challenges he faces off the court and how they affect his game.

In 2006, Josh's grandma passed away which affected him deeply. He learned never to take things for granted and that he wanted to be sure he gave 100% on the court so he never had regrets. Proper judgment and execution would be his stepping stones to success.

Then Josh came to Cathedral and started to play for Coach Middlebrooks and his life changed. The hardest aspect of playing for coach is the expectation for Josh to fulfill greatness. While Josh worries that he will not always be able to live up to these expectations, he relies on Coach Middlebrooks' advice and his game time speeches which keep him motivated.

One day the University of Texas at El Paso, the school featured in movies such as Glory Road, showed interest in him. Several months went by and then Josh was offered a basketball scholarship from the school. But it was not until Josh received the paperwork and signed it that the full impact of his decision was realized. He felt the pressure from parents and the community at large to take full advantage of the opportunity he is being given. But he uses God and prayer to get him through and keep him level headed.

Alongside basketball, Josh wants to become a psychiatrist and help people who need it. He wants to be a success and teach other people how to meet their full success.

Name: **Joshua Brown**
Cathedral High School Varsity Team
Age: **17 years old**
Home: **Pasadena, CA**
Birthdate: **December 20, 1994**
Position: **Point Guard**
Player Number: **4**
Height: **5'10**
Weight: **170**
Nickname: **JB**



Robert Charles White 15

Robert White loved playing basketball at Rogers Park in Inglewood. For Robert, playing organized team ball was fun and exciting. At an early age, he knew that a career in basketball had to be a part of his destiny.

It was in middle school that his talent was recognized. His daily game of pick up ball and lunch time basketball started to become more serious. He noticed that his skill level was more highly developed than other student athletes his own age which developed his confidence.

In the 7th and 8th grade, he became even more dedicated to the game when he played travel ball with Hoop Masters.

Travel ball was a different type of experience for Robert, because he started to recognize the more elite levels that he could get to if he stayed committed.

His relationship with basketball is very friendly and it helps him to relax and escape the daily pressures of life. Robert loves the game because it is an unconditional entity that he can turn to whenever he needs to. But he is also challenged by the game because he knows that dribbling and learning to connect with new people on the team are often tough for him.

Robert's true defining moment was when his cousin died of brain cancer at 23 years old. It made Robert realize the value of his own life and the need to make better and more healthy decisions. It also helped him play more of a role in his family throughout the grieving process. The tragedy also made him learn how to motivate his teammates more whenever it's needed.

His relationship with Coach Middlebrooks is two-fold. He sees him as a mentor that helps him learn important life characteristics such as having a strong mind and strong work ethic. He also wants his coach's hunger for the game.

Robert most likens himself to George Washington Carver. Historically, it was not accepted for Carver to be black and to have an education but he did it and changed the world. Robert looks up to him and shares his passion of science. Robert has a passion to invent things that will give back to society in a positive way. His ultimate goal is to be a biologist or computer science engineer.

Name: **Robert Charles White Jr.**
Cathedral High School Varsity Team
Age: **18 years old**
Home: **Los Angeles, CA**
Birthdate: **January 7, 1995**
Position: **Forward**
Player Number: **15**
Height: **6'5**
Weight: **180**
Nickname: **Rob**



Cody Johnson 1

From the time Cody Johnson was in middle school, he loved the game of basketball. His gifts were clear, speed and drive. He was introduced to travel ball and scouted at an early age by teams such as Hoop Masters. This gave him hope about a future in basketball.

One of Cody's biggest challenges thus far in his student athletic career happened in the 9th grade where he was called on to lead his AAU travel team to victory after the starting point guard got hurt. But always rising to the occasion, Cody led the team to a 2 point victory with guys that were 6'3 and taller. This gave Cody the confidence he needed to know that high school basketball was not an unattainable goal.

But the biggest challenge in life that Cody faced was trying to get into a good high school. Cody knew he slacked off a great deal in middle school and needed to become more academically responsible. He buckled down and with the help of his parents, who gave him the motivation to succeed, Cody began to excel in the classroom. Although tough, his parents were able to offer him a private school education which changed his perspective immensely on life.

He takes any and every opportunity to attack the basket. But his main job is to facilitate the offense and make his teammates better. Teamwork is highly important to him and he understands that it is the cornerstone of winning. His mantra is, "always stay together", which proves to remind Cody that creating a family atmosphere on the court makes the team play even better.

Cody loves playing for Coach Middlebrooks. He views him as a strict coach who knows the game of basketball and teaches the game realistically and understandably.

Life after high school for Cody is clear; he wants to be a doctor. This summer he is going to Delaware to intern with his aunt who specializes in surgery and start the process to become a radiologist. He wants to give back through specialized sports camps and clinics as well as teach disadvantaged kids basketball skills.

Name: **Cody Johnson**
Cathedral High School Varsity Team
Age: **16 years old**
Home: **Inglewood, CA**
Birthdate: **January 25, 1996**
Position: **Point Guard**
Player Number: **1**
Height: **5'2**
Weight: **130**
Nickname: **CJ**



Justin Ronnie Hernandez 12

Andres Tomas Ramirez 11

In 6th grade, JJ Hernandez spent most of his time at his grandmother's house. The backyard of his grandmother's house was connected to a park and he spent most of his time playing basketball there. The game was fun to him, it was his escape and he never wanted to stop playing.

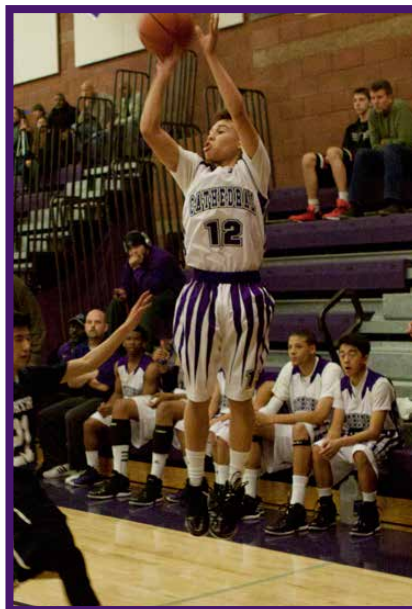
But always unsure about his talent, he got serious with the game. This year alone, he scored 18 points in a game against New Jewish Community when the season started. He saw this year's coaching staff take it to another level and he knew he had to do the same. The work he put in was his motivation and made him want to do better on the Varsity team.

His defining moment happened a few months ago when his Grandpa got sick. He always did lots with his grandfather and it was tough on JJ to see his inability to do the same things anymore. This moment made JJ more grateful for what he has and keeps him from taking things for granted including an impending career in basketball.

His biggest challenges on the court are his height and staying confident in a game when the competition is fierce. He feels that Coach Middlebrooks and Coach Kimble know and understands where he comes from and how to get him better. Coach Middlebrooks always makes JJ think about life and about establishing a work ethic. JJ sees that his coach listens and talks to the kids, not just at them.

JJ is college bound and wants to be something great. Although it will be a long road, he is confident that he will do something great in the world and make a name for himself.

Name: **Justin Ronnie Hernandez**
Cathedral High School Varsity Team
Age: **17 years old**
Home: **El Sereno, CA**
Birthdate: **October 17, 1995**
Position: **Shooting Guard**
Player Number: **12**
Height: **5'11**
Weight: **135**
Nickname: **JJ**



Andres' earliest memory of basketball goes all the way back to 6 years old when he worked out in his driveway dribbling the ball until he could do it without stopping. From there, he played on a team when he was in the 5th grade and once in the 6th, connected with the Parks and Rec Basketball program. Once in the 7th and 8th grade, he played travel ball. But it was when Andres was in the 5th grade he figured out he had talent; he had the ability to dribble, pass and shoot and was not scared to play. He always enjoyed the game and knew he always wanted to be a part of it. He loves the connection that he has always had with his teammates.

Andres' defining moment happened in the 8th grade when his great grandma passed away. It was through this experience that he became more aware of what was really going on around him. It made him appreciate his family and teammates more.

His biggest influence is his father. His dad grew up poor in the projects but never let that affect him. He gets up every day and goes to work so that Andres can have a great education, which makes him want to work harder and makes his father proud. Travel ball was an eye opening experience for Andres. He realized that he was not the best player on the team and he had to work even harder for time on the court. But high school ball is his favorite sport in part because of the team and the coaching staff and changes they have made to the overall program such as watching film. This enables him to see exactly what is going on so he can learn from mistakes. Andres also feels that the practices are more intense with a stronger emphasis on defensive drills.

Although Andres is the smallest on the team, he is one of the most motivated and does not take the time he gets on the court for granted in any way. He does not like it when things are too easy for him and prefers to work hard. This is where he obtained his nickname "Bulldog" because of his ability to fearlessly dive and fight for the ball.

But it is his relationship with his coach that gives him the confidence to grow in basketball. Andres knows that Coach Middlebrooks is a 'tell it like it is' person and is there to help. He sees his potential and holds Andres accountable to be a success.

Andres' future goal is to play prep ball, go to college and study sports medicine. He would like to be an athletic trainer or doctor.



Name: **Andres Tomas Ramirez Jr.**
Cathedral High School Varsity Team
Age: **16 years old**
Home: **Los Angeles, CA**
Birthdate: **October 29, 1996**
Position: **Shooting Guard**
Player Number: **11**
Height: **5'6**
Weight: **115**
Nickname: **Bulldog**

Nicolas Troplent 20

Vicente Mojares 21

Nico Troplent has had his best year yet in basketball. But it was his formidable days that made him into the player he is now. As a youth, he watched his older cousin play basketball, saw the fun in it and wanted to play himself. Nico loves the culture of basketball, the entertainment aspect as well as the skill set that he has had to learn.

When Nico was 13 years old, he saw NBA player, Mike Pietrus. Nico was mesmerized by the swagger that Pietrus exhibited and knew that he wanted to move deeper in his craft. He decided that basketball was going to become his entire life.

But the hardest thing that Nico had to endure was the loss of his godfather who died from cancer. This relationship was highly important to Nico because his godfather was his mentor and the person that really looked out for him. He now had to learn how to love the game without him and to inspire himself in a big way.

Nico loves his teammates and the humor that each of them show. He still gets nervous at the beginning of each game but has learned to settle in and focus on winning and enjoying the challenge. He knows that Coach Middlebrooks always has very meaningful advice and instructions on how to become better. Nico loves and appreciates this and it has given him the confidence he needs to be a successful player.

As a senior, Nico is looking at the rest of his life. He wants to play professional ball and possibly study business or even medicine. His passion is in helping athletes maintain good health and living well. Mostly, Nico wants to give the people in his country meaningful educational opportunities.

Miggs earliest memory of basketball was seeing the NBA on TV. He loved Kobe Bryant and watching him make his winning jump shots. He thought it was amazing and wanted to do the same.

He fell in love with basketball in the 6th grade. He started playing at the park and at school. He got serious about it this year with the new coaching staff at Cathedral. Watching the players get college offers is most exciting to him.

Miggs knew he had some talent when he made the varsity team. It was a complete surprise to him but made his year. Attending Cathedral High School was a defining moment for Miggs. He realized that you have to work for everything and that time management is the key to success. But Miggs loves his friends and loves his team, which makes everything else worthwhile.

But his biggest challenge on the court is confidence. When Miggs starts to doubt himself, he turns on the positivity and fights through it. On the court he handles the ball well and is a great role player.

Miggs is not a shy person even though most people see the quiet side of him. He thinks he most resembles Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. because he will choose peace versus violence at all times.

Above all, Miggs changed his perspective once he met Coach Middlebrooks. He has learned that you have to fight for everything you want. But the biggest lesson that he has learned this far is to be positive instead of looking at the negative things that happen.

Miggs wants a career in the medical field; specifically becoming a sports doctor and work with players. He wants to give back to Cathedral in a big way down the line.

Name: **Nicolas Troplent**
Cathedral High School Varsity Team
Age: **18 years old**
Home: **Guadalupe, French West Indies**
Birthdate: **August 25, 1994**
Position: **Shooting Guard**
Player Number: **20**
Height: **6'3**
Weight: **177**
Nickname: **Nico**



Name: **Vicente Mojares**
Cathedral High School Varsity Team
Age: **15 years old**
Home: **Lipa City, Philippines**
Birthdate: **September 14, 1997**
Position: **Guard**
Player Number: **21**
Height: **5'7**
Weight: **130**
Nickname: **Miggs**



Manuel Pineiro 35

Lucas Saul Siewert 23

Earliest memory of basketball was playing with his dad. He taught him how to play and coached his parks and rec team.

Manny got serious about the game of basketball in 8th grade. He watched the NBA a lot. He wanted to play in the NBA although it was going to be a tough thing. Also watched college basketball in high school.

He figured out he had talent when he was allowed to join the Varsity. He was in the team huddle and heard Middlebrooks call his name and he was excited. He knew he had to start working harder to play.

The biggest challenge on the court is trying to box out the bigs because they are stronger and bigger than him. But his ability to run the strategy that Coach Middlebrooks puts in place is what helps the most.

Defining moment was when his brother was born. He knew he had to step up to the plate and be an example for his brothers. It helped him mature more on the court. He started helping team further understand what Coach Middlebrooks wants.

Leader that he feels most like is his grandfather. He worked until he was 74. He ran the plant for Sears company in Cuba. He has a strong work ethic and he sees it in himself. Watching film this year, he is able to see exactly what is going on so he can learn from the mistakes. Practices are intense, with defensive emphasis.

Wants to go to college, study business administration and own a Cuban restaurant.

He is a secret chef of Cuban food...Cooks fried bananas with cinnamon and sugar. Can make al freco leche. He loves steaks and can make them well.

He wants people to know he is a hard worker and loves the game and loves his family.

Lucas Siewert captivates audiences with his height and flair for three point shots. As one of the newest players for the Phantoms, the freshman has big shoes to fill and is working hard to get it done.

Before Lucas ingratiated himself into the game of basketball, he played soccer when he was young. But that did not last for long because the taller Lucas grew, the more interested in basketball he became. His older brother was the one that spearheaded his interest and when he turned 9 years old, he started playing at his school.

As Lucas played for his school team, the city team also started taking interest in him. The head coach of the team saw him play and invited Lucas to play with their team. Lucas although excited, was very nervous about this move but it was one of the best experiences of his life.

The hard part of playing basketball for Lucas is nervousness, so he tries to control his emotion. He has never played in front of large crowds of people and was shocked when he saw the Cathedral vs. Cantwell game and all the fanfare that was attached to the game.

Playing for Coach Middlebrooks is hard for Lucas because he does not like mistakes. But he feels that Coach has taught him the value of being a quality player and does everything possible to make that happen.

His most proud moment was when his little brother was born. He always wanted a little brother and it made him feel more grounded about who he was as a person. He wants his little brother to also play the game and try's to be a mirror, showing him how to be the best.

Lucas wants one thing, to be a professional player for the rest of his life.

Name: **Manuel Pineiro**
Cathedral High School Varsity Team
Age: **17 years old**
Home: **Los Angeles, CA**
Birthdate: **April 26, 1995**
Position: **Shooting Guard**
Player Number: **35**
Height: **5'6**
Weight: **135**
Nickname: **Manny**



Name: **Lucas Saul Siewert**
Cathedral High School Varsity Team-
Age: **15 years old**
Home: **Joinville, Brazil**
Birthdate: **May 5, 1997**
Position: **Combination Guard**
Player Number: **23**
Height: **6'9**
Weight: **180**
Nickname: **Popcorn**



Ricky Bryant III 0

Louis Lepine 3

Ricky's Bryant is the newly found Phantom that is taking the court by storm. His smooth moves and ability to create space when none exists, makes him one of the most endeared members of the team. Ricky became a fan of the game at 7 years old when he played with one of his friends. This grew into his passion to play parks and rec ball for Rowley Park. Both his mom and grandma saw a spark of talent in him and supported his choice to try it in a more organized fashion. Ricky remembers how excited each game made him. It was around this time that other people started to recognize that he had talent. But Ricky never paid much attention to what people thought because his love for the game superseded everything else.

But even Ricky started to see his own talent when he hit middle school. It was brought to his attention when a coach from a competitive school saw him play told him how talented he was. When Ricky did his own research, he figured out how elite the players where at that school and started getting even more serious about his career.

What most do not know is that Ricky is a two sport athlete, playing both basketball and football. He loves both sports equally. But the hardest part for Ricky is putting his career above family, friends and a social life. But to be the best, in Ricky's mind, there is no other way.

Ricky had a near-fatal accident that almost ended his career in sports. His leg got caught in a go cart wheel and his leg broke in three places. The back of his leg was sliced completely and he almost bled to death. It took him a month to walk again and one year before he could play basketball again. He was granted a 2nd chance to walk and would always make the best of it, playing his heart out on the court.

Coach Middlebrooks has taught him to use his mind and not fantasize about how talented he is but be logical about his talent and role on the team. Ricky admires that his Coach's expectations are high but is challenged to fulfill his expectations. His main source of inspiration is his mother because she was able to stay independent while raising him.

Ricky wants to be a surgeon or doctor specializing in leg trauma in the near future.

Name: **Ricky Bryant III**
Cathedral High School Varsity Team-
 Age: **17 years old**
 Home: **Gardena, CA**
 Birthdate: **December 6, 1995**
 Position: **Guard**
 Player Number: **0**
 Height: **6'0**
 Weight: **165**
 Nickname: **Pretty Ricky**



When you think of basketball at Cathedral, everyone knows that Louie Lepine is a big part of the program. His humor, mindset and swag make him memorable. Louie fell in love with basketball when he was 11 years old. He watched Tracy McGrady and was inspired to play with that passion. He got his chance in club ball and now on the basketball courts at Cathedral.

Louie's defining moment took place when he started to understand that to have a better life and future, sacrifice would be eminent. Although he has a wonderful set of parents that act as his support system he knew that he would have to give up his comfort zone and friends to ensure that he stayed on the path to success. Louie has a definitive plan for himself, college and basketball.

On the court Louie is a fighter and will go to bat for any teammate when needed. As a combo guard he practices on both the junior varsity and varsity teams, getting the best of both worlds. He uses visualization techniques to keep himself pumped up and ready for battle. He knows the importance of winning and what his role is in the process.

He values his relationship with Coach Middlebrooks. Louie knows his coach is a man of few words, but when said, it all has meaning. He likes his teaching techniques and although it does not always make sense at the time, it always comes to fruition later. Louie appreciates that Coach Middlebrooks brings passion to the game and has the will to win. The expectation of greatness is present for all players at all times and this is one of the staples that Louie counts on to keep him on the right path. Louie hopes to play college basketball and major in business with two long term goals in mind; to continue his father's franchise McDonald's business or enter into the music industry. Louie's passion under basketball is music and is trained in several instruments.

One of Louie's biggest influences is the business man and entertainment mogul 50 Cent. Louie understands that to be long lasting you have to have a plan and the right people around it to execute it and intends to have that same plan



Name: **Louis Raphael Pascale Lepine**
Cathedral High School Varsity Team
 Age: **16 years old**
 Home: **St. Martin, West Indies**
 Birthdate: **January 4, 1996**
 Position: **Combo Guard**
 Player Number: **3**
 Height: **5'4**
 Weight: **135**
 Nickname: **White Boy**





Good Luck Jerome
#25

Love You,
Mom and Grandma

25
Jerome Bryant
Have a great season!!!



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Mohamed Idrissa Niang Diallo #4

Name: **Mohamed Idrissa Niang Diallo**
Middlebrooks Academy National Team
Age: **17 years old**
Home: **Senegal, West Africa**
Birthdate: **January 15, 1995**
Position: **Power Forward**
Player **4**
Height: **6'11**
Weight: **225**
Nickname: **Idy**



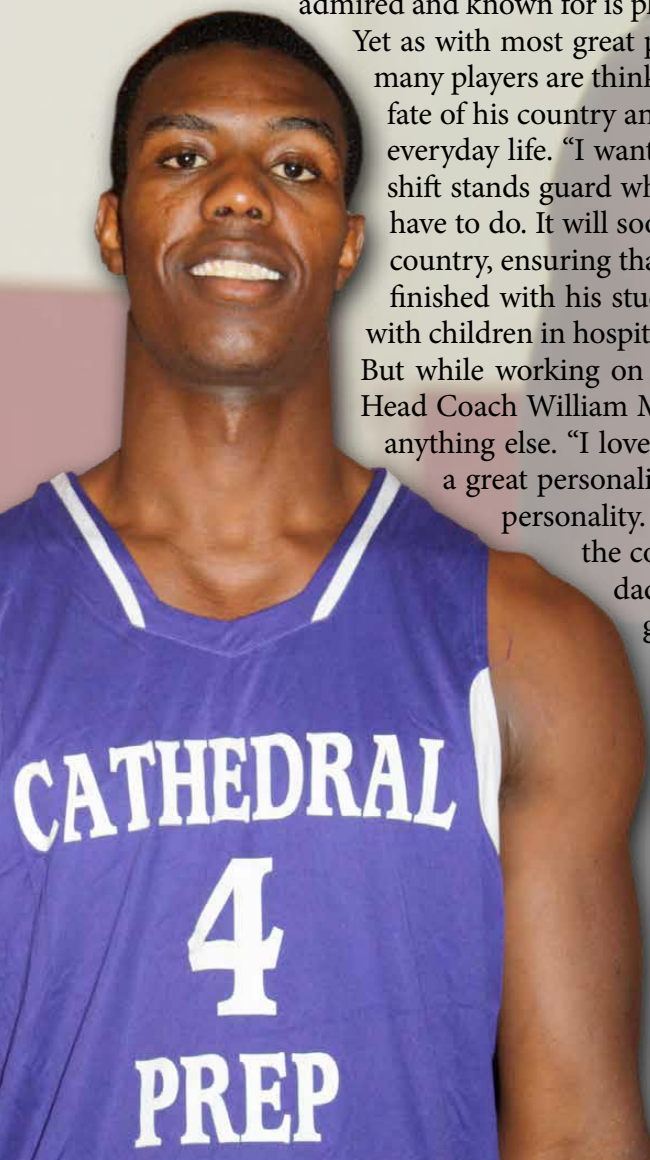
Idy Diallo has made quite a name for himself in high school, AAU and prep basketball. His stature and quickness as a 6'11 power forward is one to be reckoned with. His success with blocking shots, rebounding and doing everything that a "big man" is supposed to, is creating quite a stir within the college basketball community. But what Idy is most admired and known for is playing hard and effectively executing plays.

Yet as with most great players, there is more to Idy than what the fans and public see. While many players are thinking about their careers, prom and grades, Idy is plagued daily with the fate of his country and his long term plan to return to Senegal and deal with the realities of everyday life. "I want to now take a shift in my country," Idy states. "Someone who takes a shift stands guard while everyone else is sleeping, working or trying to focus on what they have to do. It will soon be time for me to take a shift watching out for my family, town and country, ensuring that they have what they need to be successful." Idy's long term goal once finished with his studies is to start his own foundation and to give back through working with children in hospitals.

But while working on his future plan, Idy enjoys the game and his close relationship with Head Coach William Middlebrooks, the one person that motivates Idy to keep going despite anything else. "I love him as the person he is, not just as the coach," Idy remarks. "He has a great personality and I have been learning from him things that strengthen my own personality. I try to relate what he says to my own life, beyond what just happens on the court. He is my dad here in America and everything I would do for my dad in Senegal, I would do for him. If Coach asked me to run 53 miles to get medicine, I will."

As a high profile player, part of Idy's education is to focus in on the things that make him stronger and more powerful. Sometimes the education can be painful like learning to cope and even play through injuries such as high ankle sprains and broken fingers. "I have had to learn how to "man up" and deal with the fact that I have a job to do and that job has to be done no matter what," Idy replies. Daily he also gets a crash course on how to interact with other cultures and ethnicities, which directly impacts his relationships with fans, teammates and the world at large. But one of the biggest lessons Idy has learned is to deal with taking responsibility for his own actions and finding solutions to the issues that life presents.

On the court Idy's confidence, swagger and physical aire with which he plays each game, makes him a top pic for this year.



Ioannis Dimakopoulos #12

Name: **Ioannis Dimakopoulos**
Middlebrooks Academy National Team
Age: **18 years old**
Home: **Patra, Greece**
Birthdate: **November 7, 1994**
Position: **Center**
Player Number: **12**
Height: **7'1**
Weight: **230**
Nickname: **Your Highness**



Ioannis Dimakopoulos has been a success story from a very young age. His earliest memory of basketball was of his father trying to teach him basketball in the backyard at 9 years old. Ioannis remembers being tall enough to dunk yet being afraid to let go of the rim. When he finally did, he figured out that this is what ball players had to do to succeed, take risks and have no fear.

At 11 years old, he started to win games and pushed the ball inside more often. He also started shooting and got an offer at Panathiaikos (one of the biggest teams in Greece and clubs in Europe). At 14 he was 6'9 and knew that he had talent. He could shoot the ball and do things that most "biggs" cannot, which made him an immediate commodity.

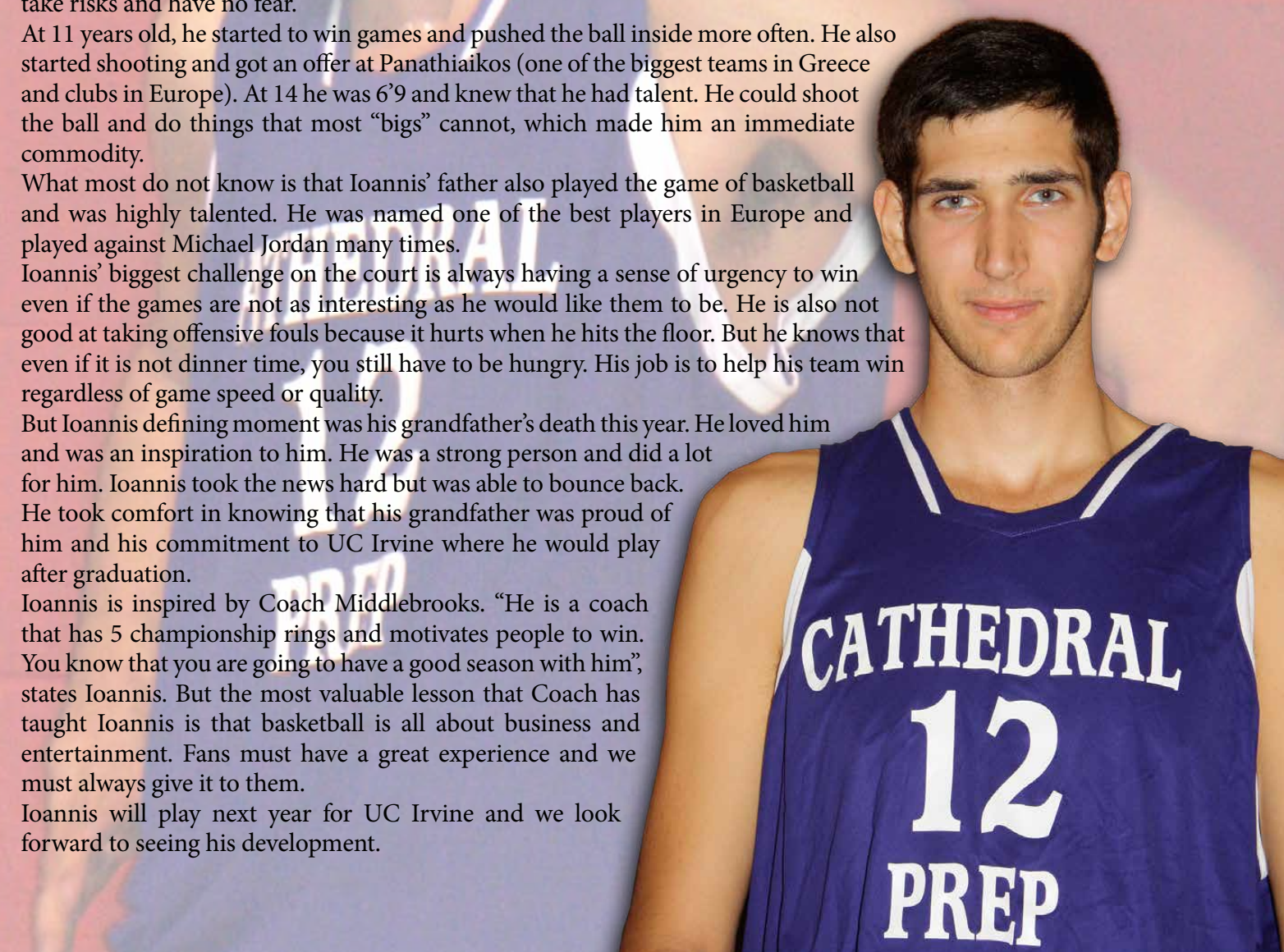
What most do not know is that Ioannis' father also played the game of basketball and was highly talented. He was named one of the best players in Europe and played against Michael Jordan many times.

Ioannis' biggest challenge on the court is always having a sense of urgency to win even if the games are not as interesting as he would like them to be. He is also not good at taking offensive fouls because it hurts when he hits the floor. But he knows that even if it is not dinner time, you still have to be hungry. His job is to help his team win regardless of game speed or quality.

But Ioannis defining moment was his grandfather's death this year. He loved him and was an inspiration to him. He was a strong person and did a lot for him. Ioannis took the news hard but was able to bounce back. He took comfort in knowing that his grandfather was proud of him and his commitment to UC Irvine where he would play after graduation.

Ioannis is inspired by Coach Middlebrooks. "He is a coach that has 5 championship rings and motivates people to win. You know that you are going to have a good season with him", states Ioannis. But the most valuable lesson that Coach has taught Ioannis is that basketball is all about business and entertainment. Fans must have a great experience and we must always give it to them.

Ioannis will play next year for UC Irvine and we look forward to seeing his development.



Cedric Ranaivo #5

Name **Cedric Ranaivo**
Middlebrooks Academy National Team
Age: 19
Home: **Paris, France**
Birthdate: **September, 11, 1993**
Position: **Shooting Guard**
Player Number: **5**
Height: **5'10**
Weight: **155**
Nickname: **Ceddy**



No one would know that National Team shooting guard Cedric Ranaivo did not play basketball until the age of 14 years old. It was at this age when he went to the Mickael Pietrus camp in Guadeloupe. Cedric was so good that he was afforded the opportunity to play with older people who saw his talent. This kept him rising in the ranks of the camp. Cedric has always had a semi love and hate relationship with the game. He knows that incredible sacrifices have to be made for him to make it and demonstrates his commitment to this through his early morning work outs and the decision to give up a personal life in an effort to keep his mind focused on being the best shooting guard possible. Cedric knows that if he does this well then the sky is the limit.

Playing hard defense and getting the needed shots are what Cedric works on daily to improve his game. He practices everyday in his spare time and listens to what his body needs. In the same spirit as Chris Paul, Cedric has also learned the value of focus and confidence enabling him to execute even the toughest plays.

Off the court, Cedric has a passion for graphic arts and engineering and plans to pursue this after high school. He enjoys every moment of life and is deeply regarded by friends and the general community at large. Cedric remembers where he came from and understands that life is a gift and every opportunity obtained matters.

But it is Cedric's relationship with Coach Middlebrooks that has deeply inspired him. He knows that he can count on his Coach and would run through walls for him. "Coach has taught me most of all confidence, physical toughness, that this is all mental", says Cedric. "But most of all, he has taught me that loving your teammate is important and comes before anything else."

Derrien King #0

Name: **Derrien King**
Middlebrooks Academy National Team
Age: **18 years old**
Home: **Malibu, CA**
Birthdate: **November 9, 1994**
Position: **Guard**
Player Number: **0**
Height: **6'6**
Weight: **165**
Nickname: **DK**



At age 7 years old, a very young Derrien King lived on the court, playing basketball until the street lights came on in Kansas. He lived and loved the game from a very young age. But it was in the 4th grade when he saw his own talent. Derrien was taller than everyone and had natural ability. This landed him on an all-star team. In the 7th grade, basketball was his everyday norm. It was not just fun but becoming a serious way of life.

But Derrien knew that there was a destiny for him to meet in the basketball world. When his family moved from Kansas to Los Angeles, he came to the realization that there are a ton of good basketball players and that being good is not enough. He must have something that sets him apart from everyone else.

On the court Derrien can pass the ball and help people understand what possibilities are present. But the thing that challenges him the most are keeping his emotions under control on the court, not becoming too emotion but learning to stay middle of the road. This can often be hard for Derrien given all the passion he has for the game and for winning. But the one person who he looks up to is his grandfather. He helped mold Derrien and is always there to give him advice and to listen. Most of all Derrien sees himself in his grandfather and knows that he can understand what he is going through.

Derrien has learned a lot from Coach Middlebrooks. But the biggest thing that moved Derrien is how his Coach showed up to the hospital to be there with him and his family throughout his surgery after a major accident. He can also always count on Coach Middlebrooks to tell him the truth when others may not.

His main goal is to play basketball overseas. Derrien also wants to attend college majoring in business and film.

Jack Karapetyan #25

Name: **Jack Karapetyan**
Middlebrooks Academy National Team
Age: **18 years old**
Home: **Hollywood, CA**
Birthdate: **February 26, 1994**
Position: **Guard**
Player Number: **25**
Height: **6'6**
Weight: **220**
Nickname: **Jeezy**



One of the best prep basketball players to date, Jack Karapetyan's earliest memory of basketball was in the third grade when he recognized how competitive he was. He knew he was in love with the sport in the 7th grade when he just could not stop playing. But his talent was recognized in the 9th grade and into his sophomore year. His game and grades elevated and Jack knew his season was approaching. His defining moment was when he started seeing his friends fade away from what they loved and move towards things that would not benefit them or make them lose focus. He knew that was not the way he wanted to go and wanted to stick with people who wanted the same kind of success he wanted.

Jack's biggest challenge on the court is to stay consistent through the entire game, not making mistakes. His tries to channel his emotion into hungry energy that helps him score and be the best teammate possible. Jack's ability to get physical in the game is what keeps the fans coming back to see more. He is a dedicated, self-motivated player that understands the value of hard work and knows that it is the key to his success. He pursues perfection, but settles for excellence.

He likens himself after President Barak Obama who he respects a great deal. He understands Obama's love for sports and education yet always functioning within his core competency as the President. Jack loves cars and many other things on the side yet his core competency is always basketball.

He also respects Coach Middlebrooks strategies on the court. He recognizes that Coach is all about business and will not tell him things he wants to hear, but what he needs to hear. Coach's approach gave Jack what he needed to prove that he was worthy of a spot on the national team.

Jack was recently selected to go to Armenia to play basketball on the Armenian National Team. He feels good and honored to be selected.

He knows that this is just one stop in a lifelong destiny to be a great basketball player.

Yendra Magloire #21

Name: **Yendra Magloire**
Middlebrooks Academy National Team
Age: **19 years old**
Home: **Martinique, French Indies**
Birthdate: **July 21, 1993**
Position: **Shooting Guard**
Player Number: **21**
Height: **6'5**
Weight: **177**
Nickname: **Mafia**



Yendra has always loved the game of basketball. His earliest memory of playing was with his older brother Djera during club basketball. Yendra loved the experience of playing with his friends at least 3 days a week.

It was Yendra's father who was an avid supporter of his son's talent. He was the person that both encouraged and pushed his son to do great things. But when Yendra turned 12 years old, he experienced a defining moment in his life when his father tragically passed away. No longer would his father be able to experience or see Yendra play the game they discovered together. Yet, Yendra made the tough decision to carry on, using basketball as a tribute to the legacy his father left him.

At 15 years old Yendra recognized he had talent. He attended a school that specialized in academics and basketball for several years. He could shoot three point shots and had the ability to jump higher than most.

Yendra's biggest challenges are his focus and figuring out how to be a leader on the court. His quiet yet serious demeanor sends a message to many that he means business on the court at all times.

Throughout his time on Middlebrooks Academy, Yendra has learned a lot from Coach Middlebrooks especially the need to think of others. But the hardest part of playing for Coach Middlebrooks is the pressure he feels to be the best. Yendra likes and needs the pressure because it helps him to play better.

His future goals are to be a training coach and teach college kids how to care for themselves athletically. He wants to give up and coming athletes the same assistance and training he gets everyday to be better.

Jameel McGill #3

Name: **Jameel McGill**
Middlebrooks Academy National Team
Age: **15 years old**
Home: **Los Angeles, CA**
Birthdate: **12-23-96**
Position: **Point Guard**
Player Number: **3**
Height: **6'0**
Weight: **155**
Nickname: **Baby Jameel**



The youngest National team member, Jameel is earning his place on the court. He has challenged older players with his big power plays and shown that he can deliver. Jameel started playing for fun at 10 years old but his athletic career really became serious when he played with a travel team, Invitational Only out of LA. But his promise of talent became apparent in the 6th grade. He was recruited for Rising Stars of America. Here he created a name for himself at tournaments, helping teams win. Jameel's biggest challenge on the court has been playing against older people because they are more experienced and have played longer. He deals with it by being in his own zone and keeping them from stopping him.

But what makes Jameel a great pick is his ability to quickly mature on the court and to take mistakes and turn them into successes. He is quick and can control the tempo of the game very much like his idol Chris Paul. Jameel is always explaining to people what to do and keep the team on point. When things get out of place, Jameel feels a sincere responsibility to bring it all together again. The toughest thing that has happened to him was choosing what high school to attend. It was tough because he knew that it would directly influence your future.

Jameel's relationship with Coach Middlebrooks is twofold, exciting and hard word. But what sticks out in his mind the most is his coach's ability to "let him loose." He never keeps him boxed up but encourages his creativeness on the court. Jameel also likes that Coach will reel him in if he gets out of place or overly emotional on the court.

There is no doubt that Jameel is moving forward in his student athletic career and is shaping up to be one of the best prep players around

Loic Vaugirard #34

Name: **Loic Vaugirard**
Middlebrooks Academy National Team
Age: **17**
Home: **Guadeloupe, West Indies**
Date of Birth: **March 31, 1995**
Position: **Power Forward**
Player Number: **34**
Height: **6'2**
Weight: **210**
Nickname: **Teddy**



Loic loves basketball. He played club basketball when he was quite young and remembers how it felt to win. Loic's talent caught the attention of a national coach in Guadeloupe, who began to train him and his skills continued to develop.

From the time Loic was 7 years old he attended military school, a very different experience for most young people. It taught him the value of hard work, responsibility and following order, all things needed for his future.

However, at the same time Loic experienced a change in his family that forced him to grow up faster and also changed his perspective on life. The lesson gave him motivation to be a better young man both on and off the court.

Loic's biggest challenge on the court is proving how great his team is, especially when playing against other teams with extreme talent. He has had a tough year with some injuries but always managed to pull through it to help his team reach victory.

Loic is a leader both on and off the court. He shows a genuine love for his teammates and is always there when needed. He likens himself to the South African leader Nelson Mandela who is always helping others if they need it and sticking up for them when no one else will.

His career in the area of prep ball is most exciting to Loic. He sees how the sport is evolving and takes pride in assisting to create a future and legacy for other up and coming prep ball players. Later in life, he will be able to say with extreme pride that he had a firm hand to play in it.

Loic has learned a lot from Coach Middlebrooks such as respect, hard work and integrity. He reminds Loic of his power to become something great.

Besides basketball, Loic would like to study International Business. He wants to bring a blend of his two homes America and Guadeloupe together through import/export businesses in both countries.

Marc Lawrence Rodgers III #1

Name: **Marc Lawrence Rodgers III**
Middlebrooks Academy National Team
Age: **17 years old**
Home: **Long Beach, CA**
Birthdate: **April 11, 1995**
Position: **Point Guard**
Player Number: **1**
Height: **5'10**
Weight: **185**



If anyone on the Middlebrooks National Team has a special calling, it would be Marc Rodgers. One of the best high school point guards to date, Marc knows that he has one mission, to bring people together to win games and to keep the emotional balance on the court balanced.

Marc's earliest memory of basketball was at 5 years old when he played community ball at the West Chester YMCA. Internally Marc knew he had talent. His family allowed him to play with older ball players which transformed his skill level. But it was Marc's maturity and skill level that baffled most. His ability to think fast and respond under pressure is a credit to him and makes him a commodity. Now, his competitiveness and capacity to control the tone of a game are added bonuses, making him an elite player.

But Marc had to learn how to overcome pain and the realities of young men in this society. One of his closest friends was killed suddenly changing Marc's perspective about his own life. He started to realize that time is not promised to anyone and vowed to make changes that would position him for greatness.

Marc is excited to be playing for Coach Middlebrooks. He knew that Coach Middlebrooks had a small but winning team and knew that would be his home. But what stood out the most was that Coach Middlebrooks was respected by all the college coaches. "We have a good relationship because when things go wrong he lets me know and tells me how to fix it yet gives me the space to do it," Marc states. "He keeps me 100% centered in the program."

Marc has lots of dreams for the future including playing Division One basketball. His goal is to give back to others about what it takes to get success. Marc believes that if he can do it, then anyone can.

Nikko Quiñones #23

Name: **Nikko Quinones**
Middlebrooks Academy National Team
Age: **19 years old**
Home: **La Mirada, CA**
Birthdate: **March 20, 1993**
Position: **Shooting Guard**
Player Number: **23**
Height: **6'3**
Weight: **195**
Nickname: **Nek**



Nikko's earliest memory of basketball was playing in the rec league in the YMCA at 6 years old. He got the opportunity to play with his cousins which in part shaped his love for the game. Nikko grew up in La Mirada and his father coached his rec league team and continued to coach him throughout his career until now.

Nikko knew he was talented at the onset of high school. There he started to realize that he could make shots that many could not and was willing to work hard to make it happen. His intensity on the court is one to be reckoned with. But his biggest challenge on the court is athleticism. Nikko is a lot more skilled in ball handling but his jumping and speed continues to be developed.

But his defining moment was when he worked out with Charley Torres a personal trainer who started taking Nikko to college work outs. It was at this point, he realized his purpose for the rest of his life, basketball. Nikko embraced learning work ethics and putting making the most of your own time to be a success.

Now, Nikko is in love with prep ball. He loves Coach Middlebrooks mentality and the fact that he tells you how it is and constantly gives players reality checks. But the hardest part about playing for Coach Middlebrooks is also hearing what the reality is because it makes him question his own decisions and choices.

The biggest influence in Nikko's life is his mom who is the rock of the family. She taught him that whatever problems that exist on the court can be worked out. She taught him not to dwell on things but move on. He also admires Malcolm X who taught him how to have a voice.

Nikko's goal while playing ball is to study photography.

Coach William Middlebrooks

“Giving Has Been the Key to His Life”

By Bill Marin

On March 27, 2012, Coach William Middlebrooks was named the new Head Basketball Coach at Cathedral High School in Los Angeles, CA. Coach Middlebrooks comes to Cathedral after a stellar career leading the “Fighting Frogs” of Ribét Academy (Los Angeles) to 3 CIF Finals appearances in only seven seasons, winning the 2010 CIF Championship. Middlebrooks leaves Ribét as the longest tenured coach in school history, as well as, becoming the all-time winningest coach in school history at Ribét Academy back in 2009. In addition to his time at Ribét, Coach Middlebrooks won league titles as an assistant coach at Pasadena High School, along with going to a CIF Championship game there.

While at Ribét Academy, Middlebrooks produced several high profile players, including 1 Ball Is Life All-American (Gregory Sequele), 1 MaxPreps Freshman All-American (Tyler Dorsey), 3 McDonald’s All-American nominees (Krys Faber, Gregory Sequele and Danovan Price), 1 CIF Player of the Year (Jon Conley), 1 John R. Wooden Award Winner (Jon Conley) and multiple All-State, All-CIF and League MVP selections. When asked, why did you go into coaching? He replied, “I went into coaching because I love the game and the opportunities it provides for young people.” When he was injured in college in his sophomore year and needed to stay around the game, he went to Granville High School and asked Head Coach, Keith Wampler, if he could use some help and he brought him on right away. Coach Wampler taught him how to deal with parents and how to teach high school kids that were not elite level players.

Coach Middlebrooks learned his foundation for coaching through experiences as an assistant coach at Granville High School in Granville. OH, Murray Wright High School in Detroit, MI, Pasadena High School, Blair High School and Glendale Community College in Southern California. His only Head Coaching job at a school was Ribet Academy in Los Angeles. He was there for 7 years before coming to Cathedral. Coach Middlebrooks head coaching experience was primarily on the grassroots basketball level with the Compton Magic, Team Odom and I-Can Allstars since 2000, where he won numerous national elite level tournaments. His philosophy of the game of basketball is to always be open-minded. He believes in thinking out of the box and out work the competition. The rest will fall into place.

Coach Middlebrooks believes that defense wins championships. His philosophy is to look for the best five players who can play together at each position. What does he look for in a basketball player? He looks for commitment and a willingness to be coached. Middlebrooks shares, “I can help any kid become a better basketball player if they are committed and coachable.”

Coach Middlebrooks has great contacts with many major college coaches. He developed these great contacts with major college coaches because many of them recruited him while he was in high school and later from the success he had as a coach on the grassroots basketball circuit. However, he worked very hard at those relationships. “I am on the phones constantly with college coaches.” He visits many colleges as often as possible. He emails college coaches at least twice a month with information on his players. He is truthful with college coaches about a player’s talent level and he has been correct in his assessment most of the time, so college coaches trust him and his opinion”, commented Middlebrooks.

His relationship with colleges has gone a long way for him. All of the players he has sent to college have started for their teams at one point or another. His training and development has proven to be effective in terms of translating into the college game as well. So essentially college coaches want his players and that has been a blessing for him.

Coach Middlebrooks believes that a great coach is creative, open minded and does what it takes to put their players in the best position possible to be successful. He picks his assistant coaches based on not only their knowledge of the game but their loyalty to him. “I have to go to war everyday and I need coaches with me that I can trust more than anything else.”

Coach Middlebrooks has this to say about putting a team on the floor, “When deciding who starts, I am looking not necessary for the 5 best players. Chemistry and an ability to execute our game plans and strategies dictate who starts. I have actually brought the best all-around player off the bench before as a spark and energy guy. That team went to the CIF Championship game. So it worked out well. Ultimately I need a point guard that can run a team, a shooting guard that can really shoot the ball well, a small forward that can defend intensely on the other team’s best player and make energy plays in transition. A power forward needs to rebound really well and block shots. My center needs to score the ball well, pass well and be able to run the court relatively quickly, along with being our best rebounder. All 5 guys must be able to defend extremely well and understand lots of different defensive schemes because we change up a lot to find a defense that stifles the opponent. They also must be able to understand game plans because sometimes we totally deviate from what we have been doing all year based on the scouting report for an opponent. Guys cannot be robots and must be able to really play the game and understand the game.”



Coach William Middlebrooks wanted to coach basketball when he entered college. He had his own ideas about how to play the game and be successful. He did not agree often when the philosophies of his coaches. He saw some things that he thought were different and unique. That has been a big part of his success to this day. He creates his own plays and game strategies. He runs many things differently than most coaches. He never goes to Coaches Clinics or takes plays from other people. “I try to be as creative as possible, based on the strengths and weakness of the players I have.”

Middlebrooks has always had a very personal relationship with his players and parents. He believes his program is about them. They sacrifice a lot to play for him. He also feels it is important to develop a family over the years with the alumni, players and parents which means the most to him. Middlebrooks believes, “Championships are meaningless if we don’t love each other and care about each other.”

William Middlebrooks was born and raised in Detroit, MI. His grandmother was the number one influence in his life. She was always there for him. She didn't have much but what she had she shared with him. He learned to be a giver from her. Giving has been the key to his life. He is a living example of the Biblical scripture, "Give and it shall be given unto you, pressed down, shaken together, running over, shall men give unto you..." At the age of 23 years old, he came to Los Angeles to become the General Manager of Grace Records, the largest independent gospel label in the country at that time. His first coaching job in Southern California was at Pasadena High School. His son was playing for the team and Coach Tim Tucker asked him to come in and meet with him. He went to meet with Coach Tucker thinking it was an issue with his son and Tucker asked him to join his staff as an assistant coach. He stayed there for four years.

Middlebrooks started playing organized basketball in the 6th grade. He played on a travel team for the Police Athletic League (PAL). He became interested in basketball through his best friend, Liyongo Tolin, who got him on the PAL traveling team. Liyongo is the cousin of George Gervin, who played at Eastern Michigan University and then for the San Antonio Spurs.

Middlebrooks stopped playing organized basketball during his freshman year of high school in order to play travel ice hockey. Bill Robinson got him back into organized basketball in the 11th grade. Bill was the first Division 1 African American Head Coach in the history of the NCAA. He coached at the University of Illinois-Chicago. Middlebrooks was the first member of his family to play organized basketball. He attended two different high schools.

During the 9th and 10th grade, Middlebrooks attended Cass Tech in Detroit, MI and for 11th and 12th grade, he attended University Liggett School (ULS) in Grosse Pointe, MI. He played basketball at ULS, where during his senior year in 1987 he led his team to the first league championship in the history of his high school, which at the time was more than 80 years old; unfortunately they fell short of the State Championship. That was when he knew he loved winning championships. "It was amazing to watch how excited and proud our entire community was just from winning basketball games; how much fun it was for the fans," stated Middlebrooks.

He attended college at Denison University in Granville, OH and majored in Psychology and Physical Education. He chose those majors because he wanted to be a college basketball coach and he believed that it was important not only to understand the basic principles of physical education but also the mental aspects of human nature that would allow him to motivate players more effectively and scientifically than his peers. While at Denison University, he played basketball. Unfortunately, he blew out his knee as a freshman and it ended his career early during his sophomore year. What he learned from his injury was the importance of strength training and a need for a program to have the best of everything, including doctors, trainers, equipment, facilities, nutrition program and financial resources. According to Middlebrooks, "in many cases injuries can be prevented as a result of excellent training. When injuries do happen, a well-trained athlete bounces back much faster. A major emphasis of mine is injury prevention through strength training, proper diet and hydration."

Coach Middlebrooks picked Cathedral High School because of the commitment he saw in the President, Martin Farfan and the Principal, Brother John. Administrative support is an important key for any basketball program to be successful. "I had to be with people who were on the same page." Middlebrooks also believes that having parent involvement in a student's basketball career is important. He emphasizes, "Kids may act like they do not want their parents around, but the truth is they do. They just do not want their parents going crazy and bringing negative energy. They just want their parents to support and love them as well as their teammates."

Coach Middlebrooks has no interest in coaching in college. He believes, "High school is the best opportunity to develop and mentor student athletes for the future." He hopes Cathedral will be his last job. He would like to accomplish at Cathedral a quality a program that the entire community will be proud to call their own.

According to Middlebrooks, "My goal is to build an internationally recognized program at Cathedral that produces genuine student-athletes. I have been, and will always be, an academics first coach. I will always be a 'do things the right way' coach. There are no shortcuts to success. From my perspective, basketball is merely a tool that creates opportunities for those that are committed enough to take advantage of it. The likes of Dave Bing, Magic Johnson and Kevin Johnson are living proof of this. Basketball gave them a platform and financial base that they took to the next level. I want my players to do the same thing, all around the world. And I want my players to work together forever, beyond the court."

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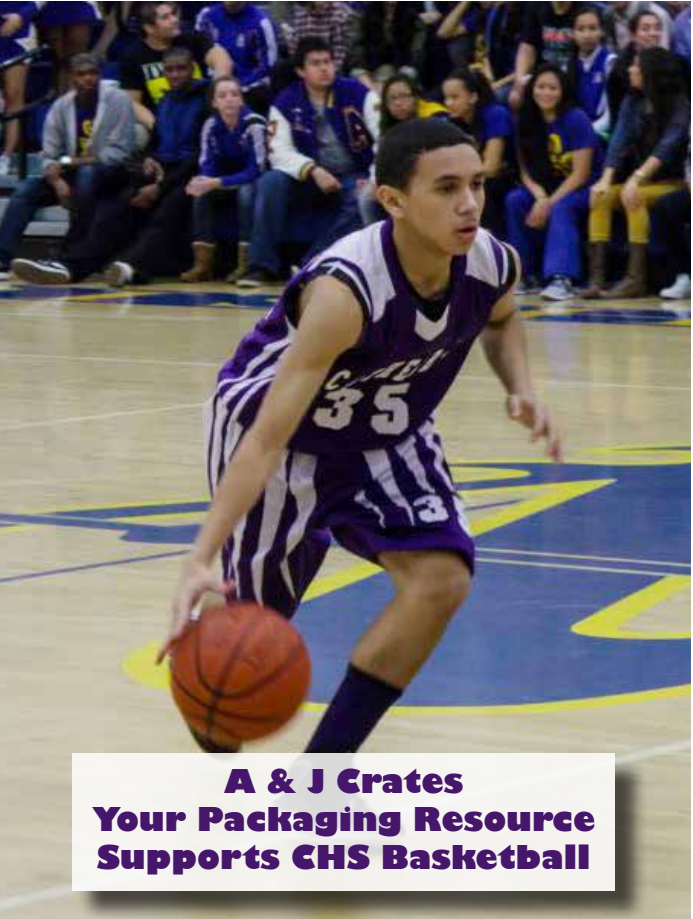
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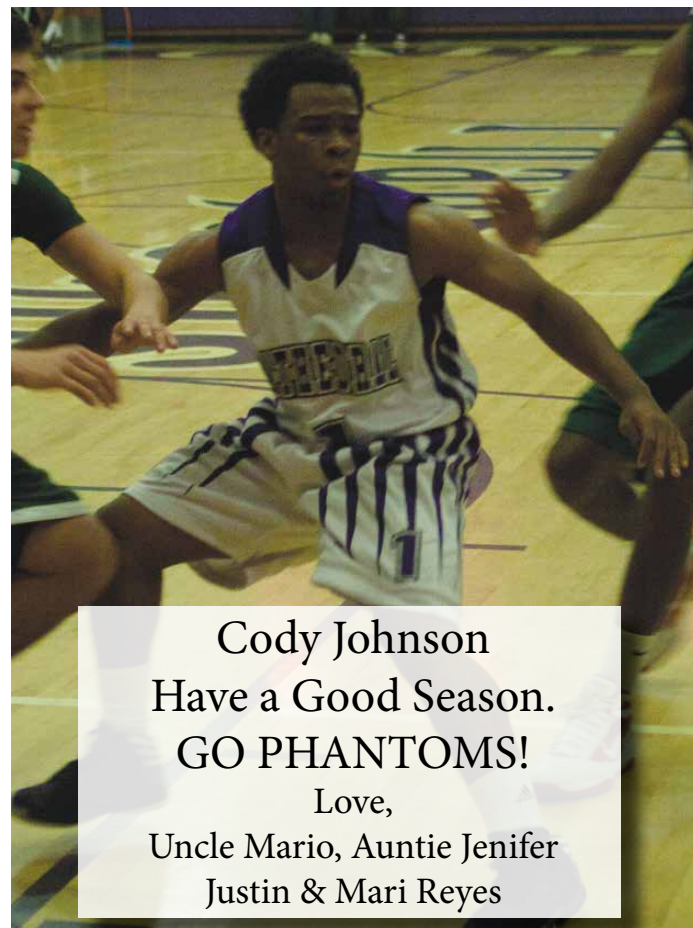
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Cathedral's 1972 Varsity Basketball Team Wins First League Title Since 1929

By Bill Marin

It took the Cathedral varsity basketball team 43 years to win a league title in 1972. The last league championship was in 1929 just four years after the school had opened. For so many years, Cathedral's Varsity basketball team had come so close in winning a league title as a Division 1 school, which was the highest division of 4 divisions in the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Southern Section. During this time there were only Four CIF Divisions which over time has increased to over ten. Cathedral was always considered to have an outstanding athletic program with a small school enrollment of less than five hundred students competing against schools that had as much as one thousand or more students.

Cathedral always had very strong competitive teams in the Catholic League, but it was challenging to compete against teams like: Loyola, Notre Dame, Mt Camel and Pius X. In 1972, the stage was set when Cathedral was dropped from Division I and the Catholic league to compete for a league championship. Cathedral was moved to a lower division to the Santa Fe League for basketball with a new coach and a potential strong team.

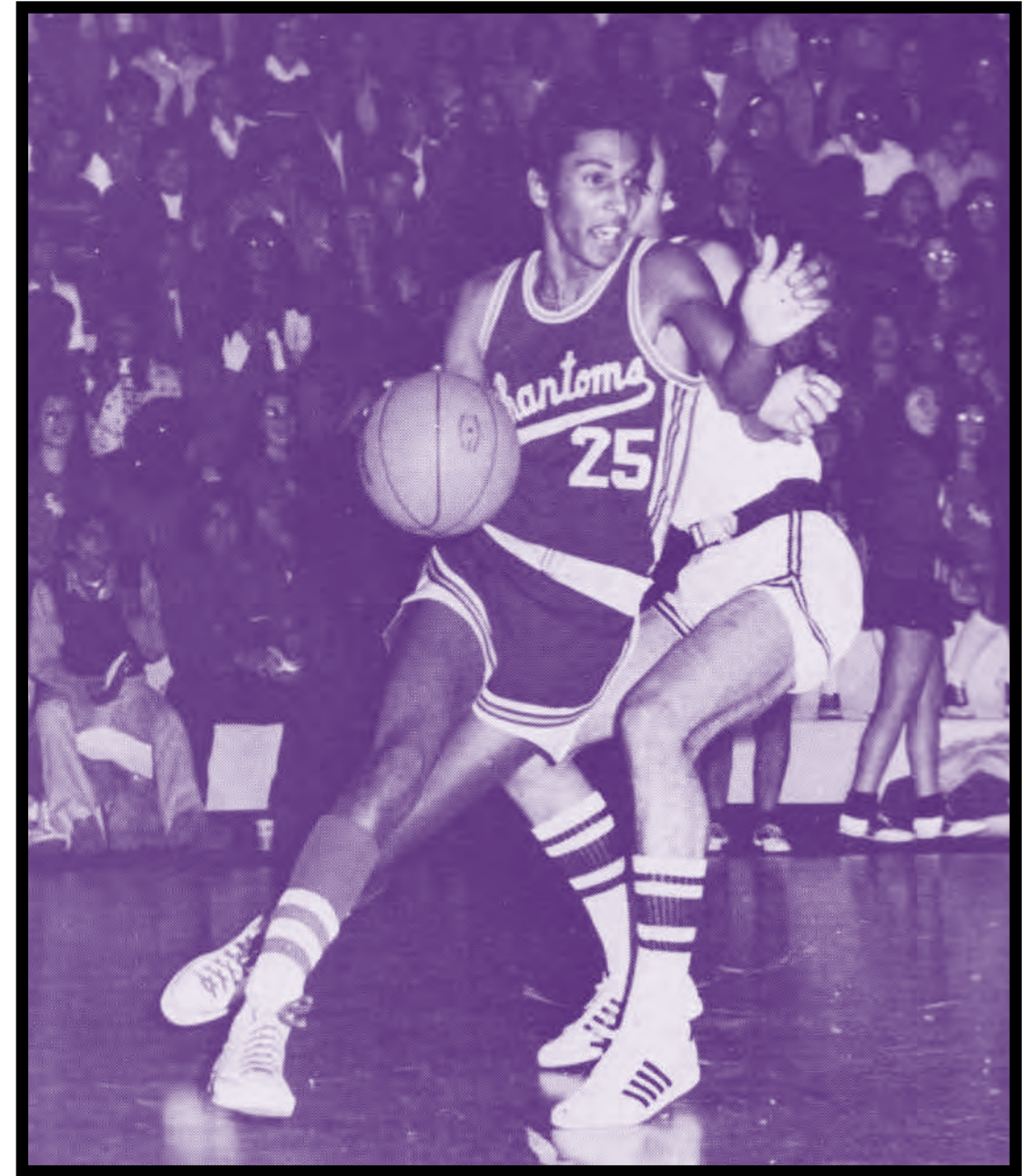
Their new coach was John Moor, who graduated from Loyola High School and played on their varsity basketball team for two years in 1963 & 1964. He learned his basketball and coaching skills from a former Phantom Bill Sanchez '51 who coached him at Loyola. The team wasn't tall, but their speed and defense was the difference and they could shoot from anywhere on the court. Coach Moor bought out the best in each player and formed a team concept.

This team featured four players that averaged in double figures and the fast break was the name of their game along with the outstanding shooting and strong rebounding for a below averaged sized team. They played well together and built on each other's strengths. This team was unselfish and they always found the open player on the court. Their quickness on defense and offense led to turnovers and fast break baskets. Their spirit and drive of the game renewed the enthusiasm and excitement of the student body and fans that had been missing for many years in the old gymnasium.

There were six seniors and four juniors on this outstanding team. The starting seniors were Jose Gonzalez (guard), Paul Montoya (forward), Frank Garcia (center) who was the team captain and John Perez (guard). The seniors coming off the bench were Jose Huerta and Mario Pacho. The only junior that started was Jose Largespada (forward), who was the league's M VP. The other juniors on the team were Brian Evans, Peter Tostado and Larry Elizalde. The floor leader of the team was John Perez who led the fast break along with double digit assists per game.

The 1972 Phantoms lost their first two games in their new season against two very good schools in St. Monica and Mt Carmel. After beating Culver City in their third game by 21 points, they went on to win the Murphy Tournament beating Salesian, St. Monica and St. Bernard's. In the Murphy Xmas Classic Tournament, they beat Loyola and Harvard Westlake. Prior to league play, they beat Damien, Alemany and Loyola again 60 – 48.

There was balanced scoring on the team with Jose Largespada, averaging 18.0 pts, Jose Gonzalez 18.0 pts, John Perez 15.2 pts and Paul Montoya 14.9 pts. The leading rebounder was Largespada who averaged 13.2 per game followed by center Garcia at 11.7 rebounds per game and Montoya at 10.5. The leading assist leader on the team was Perez with 10.5 per game. The Santa Fe League Champions lost one league game to St. John Bosco and later beat them on their home court in the final league game 57 – 47. The Phantoms

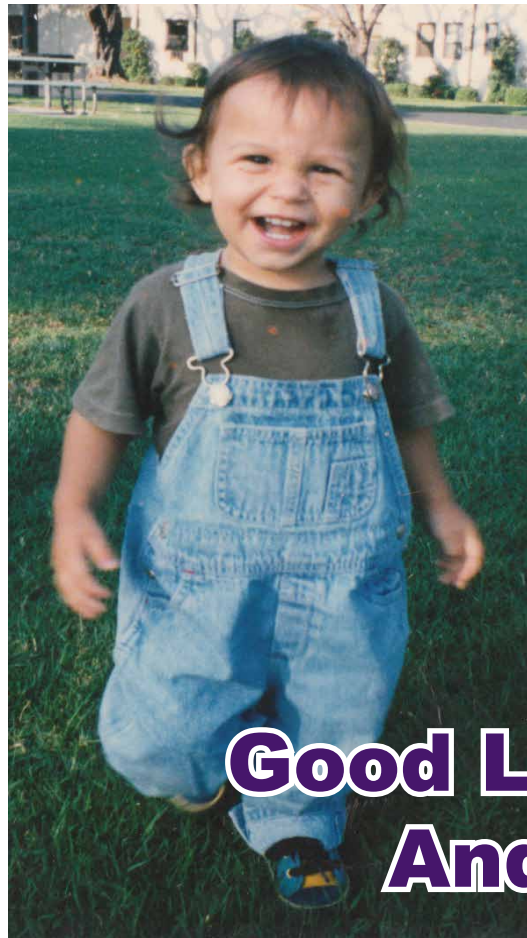


Jose Largespada handling the ball.

accomplished a record of 26-8 going into the CIF playoffs. Their first opponent was Valencia, who they beat 66 – 64 and then followed a second round win in a thriller over Gladstone 54 – 53. In the quarterfinals the Phantoms lost to Daniel Murphy 73 – 56. The Phantoms ended the season with a 28 – 9 record.

The outstanding play of the 1972 Phantom Championship Team led to the honoring of Jose Gonzalez and Jose Largespada making the Santa Fe All League First Team. Making the Second Team All League was John Perez and Paul Montoya. The Phantoms wouldn't win another league championship until 1978 which included Cathedral's first CIF championship. Then ten years later, the Phantoms went on to win five straight championships from 1988 - 1992.

The 1972 team and the school have dedicated this league championship banner to John Perez who passed away 10 years ago in a car accident. John Perez was one of the best complete ballplayers, Cathedral has ever produced, who could do it all; quick and lead the fast break, great passer, tough defender and mid-range shooter. He was a great leader on the court and had an upbeat positive attitude. He was the engine that drove the squad with fierce competitiveness and the drive to win. John Perez was a three year varsity letterman in basketball and all-tournament in his senior year in the Santa Monica and the Murphy Classic.



**Good Luck Cole To You
And Your Team!**



1978 Basketball Team – C.I.F. Champions *“First Ever in Phantom History”*

By Bill Marin



Every high school athlete's dream is to win their league and be crowned CIF champs. For the hundred of schools that made that their goal each year, only one school in each division accomplishes that dream. The 1978 Varsity Basketball team of Cathedral High School achieved that dream and won the 1-A CIF Championship, the first CIF basketball championship in Cathedral High School history.

In his first coaching job at Cathedral in 1977, John Nuccio, who had transferred from La Salle High School, inherited a team of players that year that individually had great talent, but had yet to mesh as a team. They were very inexperienced and lacked consistent varsity level play, but the athleticism to compete was evident. The team was only returning four players, James Hubbard, Manuel Ayala, Estanislao and Dave Walls. Only Hubbard and Walls had

varsity experience coming into the season.

The 1977 team set the seed for their title the following year. It was a year of learning for a new coach that needed to know the caliber of his players, so he experimented with different starting line-ups during the pre-season that included mostly seniors. But by the start of league play, the coach inserted two talent sophomores in guards Ray Owsley and Chris Brussard to go along with Hubbard, Walls and Bailey. The coach created an up-tempo and a fast break style for the Phantoms. They placed third in league that year and lost in the playoffs in the first round to El Monte High School.

With a year of experience under his belt in coaching the varsity team, Coach Nuccio knew he had the talent, but his challenge was to build a strong

team concept. “I toughened our summer league schedule and our preseason tournament schedule the next year in order to prepare us for the playoffs”, stated Nuccio. The pre-season games included three tournaments, the Phantoms played 2-A, 3-A and 4-A teams that probably prepared them to their road in winning the Santa Fe League. Their pre-season record was 8 – 4, taking 3rd place in the St. Monica and Alhambra tournaments and earning the Consolation Championship in the Nogales Tournament. Many basketball high school coaches and alumni believe that those games prepared them not only to win their league, but a shot at the CIF championship.

In the preseason games, the team still needed to improve their play in defense and rebounding in order to meet their potential and reach the next level of play. “Our

Congratulations
Elio
Hernandez!





The Team

By the time the league started, Coach Nuccio assembled a starting line of talent that could compete with any team in the CIF and had the team playing ball with an “up tempo offensive” and a strong emphasis on defense.

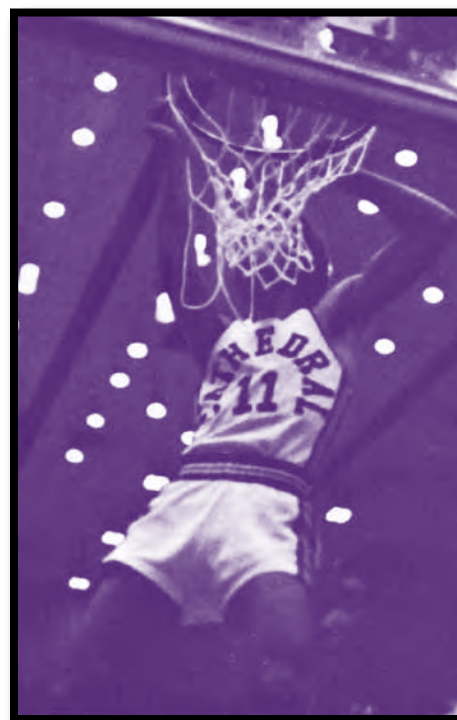
Leading this all-star squad was the team’s Most Valuable Player, senior Eric Bailey at 6’6” that led the team in scoring and rebounding. He averaged over 20 points a game and had many games of 30 plus points. He may go down as one of the greatest basketball players Cathedral has ever produced. He had a great jump shot from any where on the court and was the go to player especially in big games. Eric Bailey made 1st team all-CIF and was selected to the All-Central Los Angeles City team. The other senior in the starting line up was Dave Walls, a 6’4” forward who averaged 17 points a game and a great leaper that was second on the team in rebounding. He was a great low post player and shared the offense and defense with Bailey. He usually took the best big man on defense. Walls was an all-league player and named to 2nd team All-CIF team.

Probably the most talented player on the team was junior Ray Owsley according to his coach. At 6’2” Ray Owsley was a great point guard, who possessed the quickness, speed, power and the ability to run the break or play the half court game. He averaged 15 points a game and could get his shot off against any guard in the city. Only a junior, his talents grew as the season progressed and became unstoppable. He made all-

league and 1st team All-CIF.

The next juniors were shooting guard Chris Brussard, who was all-league and probably the overall best athlete on the team besides Ray Owsley. With his speed and Owsley quickness they transformed the team into an “Up Tempo Full Court Team”. Lastly, Sergio Garcia, 6’3” forward who was a major role player that always guarded the toughest offensive player from the other team. He was a very smart and competitive player, who didn’t back down from a challenged. He loved getting to the rim off the dribble. He was the key to the success of the team and did all the little things that sometimes went unnoticed.

The team was only seven players deep during games unless they blew out opponents. The two reserves that came off the bench, who made a great impact were Senior Ruben Corral, a 6’3” first guard/forward off the bench who played great defense. The next reserve was Senior Sean Colon a 6’0” second guard/forward off the



bench and was aggressive on the court. Both reserves would have started on most teams. The rest of the seniors on the team were Eddie Miller, Henry Pena, Manuel Martinez, and Vincent Valenzuela. The juniors were Brian Hill and Rodney Mitchell.



The Phantoms dominated the league with their talent and team work and played like potential champions. The team had won all their games by an average of 10 points until they lost to St Monica on their home court. Phantoms had a five point lead going into the fourth quarter but a couple of Phantom traveling calls cost them two baskets and we missed key free throws down the stretch with the great Leon Wood that could not be handled (he shot 10 plus free throws in the last quarter). With that lost, St. Monica ended

Cathedral’s 10 game win streak as both teams were crowned league champs. The Phantom lost assisted the team to play flawlessly for the remainder of the season.

Playoffs

In the first round of the playoff the Phantoms routed Tehachapi High school 70 – 50. Their scoring machine continued in the second round as they once

again won by 20 points against Carpinteria. In the quarter finals, they faced a tough Imperial High team, but nothing was going to stop the Phantoms as they won 74 – 51 to set up the semi-final game against # 1 seeded Banning of Indio.

After beating Banning 67-58 and stopping their 19 game win streak, the Phantoms finally reached the CIF finals. The Phantoms played archrival St Monica in the 1-A Championship game with a chance for redemption and avenge their only league lost. The game against St. Monica would be a game to remember in the history of Phantom athletics.

The CIF Championship Game

The CIF 1-A championship game was played at the Long Beach Sports Area that featured the four seeded Phantoms against the Santa Fe League Co-Champions, St. Monica. This match-up was widely anticipated by basketball fans throughout Southern California. It would feature two of the finest high school basketball players in

Southern California history in Eric “Flash” Bailey from Cathedral and CIF Division One “Player of the Year” and future NBA basketball player and NBA referee, Leon Wood.

After defeating Banning in the semi-finals, the Phantom entered the championship game nervous, but confident. The team knew that if they could handle the talent level of Banning, they could easily take care of St. Monica. The Phantoms played one of their finest games of the season as they dominated St. Monica throughout the game in spite of Leon Wood’s 37 points. Eric Bailey scored 35 points and had 15 rebounds as he was named MVP of the game. David Walls had 21 points as Ray Owsley and Chris Brussard both had double figures while Sergio Garcia kept Woods under his scoring average of 42 points. Cathedral won 84 –73 to become the first Basketball I-A C.I.F. Champion in the history of the school. GO PHANTOMS!



Phantoms Basketball League Champs Five Years Straight 1988 - 1992

By Jim Marin



After winning the league title and the CIF 1-A championship in 1978, it took the Phantoms 10 years before they would win another league championship in 1988. They did not only win league that year, but they won a string of five league titles in a row, 1988 – 1992. The most amazing part of this incredible championship run was they accomplished this feat with four different coaches in five years. The varsity teams during these five years had to learn and adjust to four different coaching systems which are not easy when you're building a program. During these five years, one can say it was the talent of these Phantoms players or outstanding coaching that led Cathedral to these five

titles.

During these five years of league championships, Cathedral produced nine (9) all league selections starting with Javier Montenegro '88, Icclander Williams '88, Louis Fuentes '89, Paul Gonzalez '91, Randy Horn '91, Mario Alvarado '91, Eddie Flores '91 and from the class of 1992 were Jason Cordova and Gabriel Calderon. Randy Horn was the only four year letterman during this five year and also made the All CIF team in his senior year. A special recognition goes to Sergio Sanchez who played varsity 3 years for the Phantoms, but did not make all league. The starting five on the 1991 Championship League Team were

selected to the All-League Team which provided an historical accomplishment for Cathedral and league history. This selection of the FAB FIVE also made history in the Southern Section of the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) which had never been done.

1988

The 1988 season began with a new coach, Mike Miller, who was the youngest coach in the CIF that year at the tender age of 23 years old. He inherited a squad of eight seniors with only two returning varsity starters in Javier Montenegro and Icclander Williams and one junior, two sophomores & one freshman.

The team tied with a league best record of 12 – 2 and were Co-Champions with Bell Jeff in the Santa Fe league. Both losses were to Bell Jeff.

The team was lead by all-leaguers Javier Montenegro, Icclander Williams and junior Louis Fuentes; the other two starters were Michael Coughlin and freshman Randy Horn. The team had a strong bench with seniors Ernie Quintero, Matias Farfan, Joe Marquez, Carlos Gomez and David Bautista. The rest of team included future all-league Steve Arrellano (sophomore) and Aldo Sanchez, also a sophomore. Javier Montenegro, who was an outside shooter along with aggressively driving to the basket was named all-league. He always came close to getting a triple-double in scoring, assists and rebounding in his senior year.

Icclander William was a force in the middle and pounded the boards along with his outside shooting was also an all-league selection and the league's Most Valuable Player at the center position for the team.

In their first playoff game against First Baptist, Montenegro hit five three-point baskets and scored 34 points to win 77-75 at Cathedral. The team won their first playoff victory in 9 years by beating First Baptist. Icclander Williams scored 18 points and junior all-leaguer Luis Fuentes scored 12. Freshman Randy Horn scored 7 points.

Going into the second round with a 19-6 record, the Phantoms played against Whittier Christian, who was ranked #2 in the CIF and they played them on their home court. They were down by 15 points in the 4th quarter and center Iceland "Ice" Williams had fouled out while

still down by six points. With one minute left, the Phantoms were tied 66-66. Montenegro ran the clock down to 13 seconds left when he saw an opening made a lay-up to give the Phantoms a 2-point lead. Whittier Christian turned the ball over, Javier then hit another free throw finalizing a win 69 – 66 victory. He scored 24 points in the game. They lost in the semi-finals of the CIF division to Beaumont High School, the Phantoms lost to a great Beaumont team that included 7 foot Scott Haskins who went on to eventually played in the NBA.

1989

In his second year of coaching, Mike Miller was challenged to develop a young team and only having 1 starter from his



championship team the year before in Luis Fuentes who was all-league. Like every coach in the league was not excepting the Phantoms to do well in the 1989 season including Coach Miller. He stated, “All things equal, we shouldn’t have won the championship. We were a young team – drastically young – probably the youngest team in the CIF.” The team had only two seniors, six juniors and three sophomores. Luis Fuentes, the all-leaguer provided leadership for the younger team and was a great outside shooter along with his moves on the court. The other senior on the team was Ron Gateb who provided experience for the team. This team was only returning four varsity players from the 1988 League champs,

The turning point in the season came at the Village Christian Tournament. It was at this tournament, the team met the challenges that turned the team around. They won that tournament as Louis Fuentes was MVP and sophomore Randy Horn made all tournament. In league play, the high point of the team was when they defeated Cantwell in the first round after losing to El Segundo for their only loss of the season. With a league record of 11 – 1 and losing to El Segundo in the first half of the season, the 1989 Phantoms won their second league title under Coach Miller, After winning the league title, the Phantoms won the first round beating St. Genevieve and winning the second round against

Tehachapi and losing to Banning in the quarter finals. The 1989 team produced three all-league selections in senior and team captain Luis Fuentes who was the league’s MVP, junior Steave Arrellano and sophomore Randy Horn. Also contributing to the success of the team were future all-league sophomore standouts Eddie Flores and Paul Gonzalez. The following year Coach Miller went on to coach at Los Angeles City College.

1990

With the departure of Coach Miller, the 1990 Phantoms had a new coach with Mike Dennison who had a tough pre-season,



VARSITY BASKETBALL: Top Row: Michael Ramirez, Tony Chang, Socorro Arredondo, Mario Rosas, Gabriel Calderon, Alex Arredondo, Randy Horn, Paul Gonzales, Mario Alvarado, Art Moreno, Jason Cordova, Sergio Sanchez. Bottom Row: Louis Valencia, Coach Paul Bodenshot, Head Coach Herman Flores, Coach Oscar Leong, Eddie Flores.

but won their own tournament (Cathedral), for the first time in many years. Coach Dennison inherited a young but a veteran team that included all-league Steve Arrellano and Randy Horn plus starters Eddie Flores and Paul Gonzalez who provided the leadership and scoring. They won the Santa Fe League title for the third year in a row. The Phantoms went undefeated in league play with a record of 10 – 0. In the CIF playoffs, they won the first playoff game and lost in the next round. The team had three all-league players in Randy Horn (junior), Steve Arrellano (senior), who was a 3 year letterman and Eddie Flores (junior) and two scorers in Mario Alvarado and Paul Gonzalez. They had a deep bench returning letterman Angel Santiago (senior), Mike Orozco (senior) and sophomore Jason Cordova. The other seniors on the

team were A.T. Garcia, Alfonso Esparza and Norman Bautista.

1991

After winning three league championships in a row, the 1991 varsity team was under a lot of pressure to produce another title, especially returning all of their starters except for Steve Arrellano and two all- leaguers in Eddie Flores and three times all first team in Randy Horn. The 1991 basketball season started slow with 6 wins and five losses in the pre-season. The team took awhile to learn the complex system installed by new head coach Herman Flores. He would be the 3rd coach in 4 years. After a tough pre-season schedule, the Phantoms were ready to take on the Santa Fe League teams, especially Salesian who was

undefeated when they met the Phantoms in the first round of league. They were both 4 – 0, the Phantoms visited the Mustangs home court with a first place on the line defeated Salesian 104 to 67. Most points scored in recent years by a varsity team.

The Phantoms won the league title for the fourth year in a row on their final league game against Salesian who was also 9 – 1, 77 – 67. The only lose came from Daniel Murphy. This team had great scoring from Randy Horn, Mario Alvarado and Paul Gonzalez who used their individual skills to put the ball in the hoop. The team had a strong bench who was instrumental in the success of the team with Mike Ramirez, Gabriel Calderon, Art Moreno and Alex Arredondo. The other three seniors on the team were Tony Chang, Socorro Arredondo and Louie Valencia.



This was an unselfish team who played well together. With a 15 – 6 record going into the CIF playoffs, they had the unfortunate pairing of playing Verbum Dei in the first round. They lost to Verbum Dei, who went on to place second place in the CIF division. The Phantoms had their five starters on the all-league team, seniors Randy Horn, Paul Gonzalez, Mario Alvarado, Eddie Flores and junior Jason Cordova who became known as the FAB FIVE. Randy Horn was selected all-CIF. This was the first time in the history of Cathedral that all five starters were named to the all-league team and the first time in the CIF.

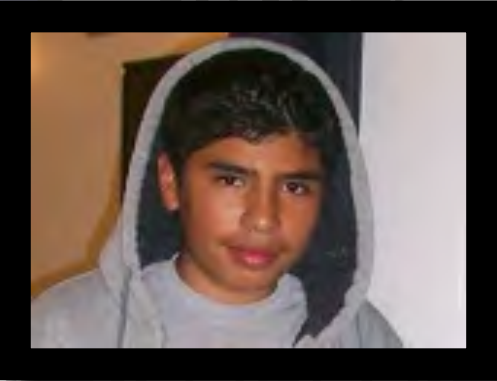
1992

The 1992 team was the last of the five in a row league champions. It wouldn't be until the next

century, the Phantoms would win another league title. Of all the league champions of these five years, this team probably had the hardest challenge to win a league championship. They had one starter returning in all-leaguer in Jason Cordova and a new coach in Steve Pindea, who would be the 4th coach in five years and win the 5th league championship. They had a tough pre-season with a record of 5 – 9, losing most of their games by an average of 3 points. After a 20 point blow-out by Bell-Jeff, it seemed as those the Phantoms were headed for a losing season. However, the Phantoms rallied back and went on to win four consecutive games including games which made the consolation championship of the LaSalle Tournament. The Phantoms won the Santa Fe league with a record of 6 – 2, losing to Cantwell in the first half of the league season and destroying them the second time around 58 –

31. Their other lost was to Daniel Murphy. The team lost in the first round of the CIF playoffs to Laguna Beach 79 -54. The team was led by seniors Jason Cordova & Gabriel Calderon, who were both all league selections. Adding scoring punch to the team were Seniors Sergio Sanchez (3 year letterman) and Art Moreno along with Juniors Ricky Quintero, Mario Rosas and sophomore Eddie Nieves. The seniors playing their final season were Joe Cortez, Enrique Espinoza, and Mike Carrasco. This team came together as a unit as they confronted the challenges early in the season to become a Champion. Winning five straight league championships may never happen again for the Phantoms, but this year's 2012-2013 Varsity team has the talent and a new coach in William Middlebrooks to begin a new era in bringing back league titles to the Cathedral Basketball Program. GO PHANTOMS!


Phantoms



Alexies Diaz

I play to win, whether during practice or a real game. And I will not let anything get in the way of me and my competitive enthusiasm to win.

-Michael Jordan





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