



2017 BOYS GymRat CHALLENGE POST-EVENT REPORT

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SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY-If one thing has become certain over the two decades of the GymRat CHALLENGE, it's that it takes a lot more than just having a team of individual standouts to win a championship at the storied event.

It does take a combination of will and skill, but more importantly is team play and defense, two aspects of the game not always associated with the sport on the AAU level.

But, that so-called dirty work on the defensive end, along with an often-difficult to accomplish team chemistry on offense once again proved to be the winning formula for most of the teams in the 20th edition of the prestigious event held in New York's Capital Region over Memorial Day Weekend.

No one said it better than Pat McGlynn, coach of the Gold Bracket title at the 17-under age division.

"We've got 10 hillbillies who all know what counts in events like this," said McGlynn. "These kids all came here just to play basketball."



And so they did, and they did it well. The York Ballers were particularly proficient on the defensive end, limiting its three opponents to a tournament-low 70 total points in their three pool-round games and not many more in the championship round.

Platinum Bracket champion at the 17-under division, the New York Havoc squad, similarly played a team-first style to find their stride and capture a title.

"Things didn't go the way we wanted (in a recent AAU tournament in Indiana) ... we talked about the things we had to do better if we wanted to win here," said Havoc coach Patrick Filien.

Those things involved playing together as a team, playing defense and rebounding ... the hard-work aspects of the game that often go overlooked and underused in AAU play. But, that's the recipe for success here.

And, so it went at every level in seemingly every bracket here this season. Teams that played well together, that were fundamentally sound at both ends of the court and did the "little things" that help win games, overcame teams with talent that relied more on individual play.

There, too, was the matter of home cooking being a big motivator this year.

The Havoc, comprised entirely of players from the Albany, N.Y., area, was one of just several teams with local players to capture bracket titles.

"This is our area ... we've got to represent," said Isaiah Moll, a 6-foot-7 forward who plays scholastically at nearby Colonie High School and was the Platinum Bracket's MVG - Most Valuable GymRat.

Teams with local products also had success at the 16-under level where another New York Havoc squad earned a Silver Bracket title at the 16-under level behind the inside work of MVG George Varmah, a powerful 6-5 forward who attends the Albany-based Green Tech Charter School.

And, the City Rocks' team that captured the Platinum Bracket at the 16-under age division is upstate New York's only Nike-sponsored EYBL program.

As usual, the talent level at the event was exceptional and, years from now, it's certain that hindsight will remind us that some of college basketball's standouts ... and, maybe, a smattering of NBA players ... came through this year's GymRat CHALLENGE.

That's one thing that never seems to change at the GymRat, which has become firmly entrenched as the place where young basketball talent begins to emerge, where reputations are earned and where future stars first begin shining brightly.

It's where those who want to be "NEXT" come to earn their reputations.



Several dozen former or current NBA players have come through New York's Capital Region to first show their wares in the GymRat, as have hundreds of Division I players and several thousand who have gone on to play some level of college basketball.

Included in event alums, are Stephen Curry, the only unanimous MVP choice in NBA history, a former NBA Defensive Player of the Year (Joakim Noah), a former NBA Rookie of the Year (Emeka Okafor), a former NCAA Division I scoring champion (Jimmer Fredette), several former NCAA rebound champions, two NCAA National Players of the Year, multiple NCAA All-Americans, at least a dozen players who have been major contributors to NCAA Division I National Championship teams, and 9 NBA Lottery Picks.

Two years ago, it was Muhamed Bamba's turn to emerge. The slender 7-foot, do-everything player was just starting his national ascent when he played in the 2015 GymRat. Now, he's one of the top recruits in the country. Bamba recently committed to play at Texas next season and is already being projected as one of the top three players to be picked in the 2018 NBA draft.

So, who's next from this year's GymRat CHALLENGE?

It should be interesting to find out. And, there's little doubt that those players who not only have exceptional individual talent but also embrace the oft-overlooked aspects of the game -- defense, hustle and team play -- that help win tournaments will also propel them to greatness at higher levels.

The other aspect of the event that has been a constant over its 20-years-and-counting existence is a well-earned reputation for being as well-run an AAU tournament as any in the country.

The well-earned sterling reputation also means a waiting list of teams hoping to come here remains long. In fact, one bracket champion, the Lock It Down squad of the Syracuse area at the 16-under level, was a wait-listed team that didn't learn it could play in this year's event until the day before the tournament began when another team became unable to participate.

"The toughest part of the event each year is having to leave so many teams out," said tournament director John Kmack, of the event played at five sites this year. "We'd like every kid to have the GymRat CHALLENGE experience, but there has to be an upper limit in order to ensure that we continue to provide the kind of evaluation services that have defined us over our history.

"The moral of that story is ... GET IN EARLY."

Those that did make the cut, as usual, put on a superlative basketball show that, with those particularly worthy of GymRat recognition listed below.





A TEST OF SKILL & WILL

17:U GymRat CHALLENGE AGE DIVISION REPORT

MIAMI BLUE RAYS, YORK BALLERS, & NY HAVOC CAPTURE 2017 TITLES

SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY-The MVG (Most Valuable GymRat) of the Platinum Bracket of the 17-under age division of the GymRat CHALLENGE, Isaiah Moll, plays scholastically at Colonie High School, less than 30 miles south on the Northway (I-87) from the Skidmore College site where the 17U championship was decided.

Moll, and his New York Havoc team comprised almost entirely of other players from New York's Capital Region, didn't want to let the home-town supporters go home disappointed.

And, they didn't.

"This is our area ... we've got to represent," said the multi-talented 6-foot-7 Moll, after his team did exactly that with a 52-44 victory over the Chris Ward Basketball squad in the Platinum Bracket's championship contest.

The event also provide a bit of redemption for the highly talented squad that didn't play up to its own expectations a few weeks ago on a trip to Indiana.

"Things didn't go the way we wanted out there," said New York Havoc coach Patrick Filien. "We talked about the things we had to do better if we wanted to win here. We knew we had to rebound better and play with a lot of passion.

"This one is special to us. Playing here, we get a chance to all sleep in our own beds, something you don't often have a chance to do on the AAU circuit. We really enjoyed winning here."

Playing with passion was similarly a theme for the York Ballers that captured the championship of the Gold Bracket.



ENHANCE YOUR PROFILE

"We've got 170,000 people living in our county (York County of Pennsylvania), but my team is made up of 10 hillbillies," said coach Pat McGlynn. "We've got 10 hillbillies who all know what counts in events like this. These kids all came here just to play basketball."

And, they played it exceptionally well, led by bracket MVG Melik Martin, an athletic wing player who has a number of mid-major level Division I offers for his college choice.

"We wanted to come here and play aggressively," said Martin. "We've got a team of great players who take care of the ball. We've got a lot of great shooters. And, we take pride in defense. We know defense is the key to winning games."

Indeed it was for most of the tournament. In fact, the York team only allowed 70 total points in its three pool-round games. That was the lowest total allowed by any team in the age division by a whopping 50 points.

The Silver Bracket was captured in dominating fashion by the Miami Blue Rays squad, which earned a with-ease 70-45 victory over Corey Graham Elite.

Defensive pressure, particularly applied by brothers Reggie and Kobbie Perez set the tone early for the Blue Rays, and the Corey Graham squad also had no defensive answer to stop the winners' Yosnier Cobas, who was named the bracket's MVG.

The winners had a nine-point lead at the intermission, but that lead was up to 20 early in the second half.

Cobas, a powerful 6-foot-5 post player, was a dominant force inside and on the boards throughout the tournament for his Miami Blue Rays' team under Coach Pete Soriano.

17:U AGE DIVISION MVGs (MOST VALUABLE GymRats)

Isaiah Moll, 6-7 forward, New York Havoc/Colonie H.S.: A very versatile, very strong all-around player. He does it all. Has "Grown Man Strength." A floor general from the forward position, a real vocal leader. Great size, already a college-ready build. He has strength, size and athleticism to naturally and effectively change pace and direction with the ball in his hands. Already a good three-point shooter. A real athlete. He scores effortlessly. Already offered by UAlbany, Siena, Vermont, New Hampshire. Early interest from others, including UMass, Richmond, Purdue, Iowa State, George Mason and Oakland.

Melik Martin, 6-6 forward, York Ballers/York Catholic H.S.: A long, athletic wing player. He is a smooth finisher in transition game. Extremely versatile. His athleticism enables him to effectively defend any position on the court. Uses his length to block shots. Smooth finisher in transition. Great passer from the high post. He can score from beyond the arc with demonstrated range out to 24 feet. Already physically college ready. Offers from Duquesne, La Salle, Lafayette, Lehigh.



Yosnier Cobas, 6-7 post, Miami Blue Rays/Doral Academy: A big-time athlete with a great motor. A physical post-player and a matchup nightmare. He has the ability to finish around the rim or step out to make a 15-footer. Very patient pivot with multiple post finish moves. Relentless rim protector on defense. Dominant force inside and on the boards. Showed ability to make an occasional three-pointer. Legit D-I prospect.

17:U AGE DIVISION ALL-GymRat CHALLENGE SELECTIONS

Antonio Rizzuto, 6-4 wing, York Ballers/Northeastern H.S.: A good-sized perimeter wing who can score at all three levels. Very athletic player who can get to the rim and finish there against contact. He can guard all three perimeter positions effectively. Uses long arms, athleticism to great effect on defense. Gets off his feet, finishes with either hand above the rim.

Adam Freese, 6-4 guard, York Ballers/Kennard-Dale H.S.: A pure shooter with big-time range. Just a knockdown shooter from three-point territory. High court IQ, a great passer in traffic. Plays off-guard, but also serves as an effective playmaker. A smooth left-handed player with on-court versatility. Picking up early D-2 offers so far.

Royce Urena, 6-2 guard, Team PA Supernatural/Susquehanna Township H.S.: A true scoring guard. He has big-time range. He can shoot it, and make it, from any place on the court. Uses threat of perimeter shot to go past defenders. He has a great first step, gets to the rim and finishes through contact with either hand. Also showed the ability to find teammates in traffic. Early offer from Stone Hill.

Cherod Gayle, 6-1 guard, Hudson Valley Panthers/Newburgh Free Academy: A very quick and athletic scoring point guard. Goes past perimeter defenders to finish at the rim with athleticism. Showed effective three-point range here. Quickness and great hands make him a superior defender. Gets off the ground, finishes at the rim over defenders. Excels in the open court. Getting early D-2 offers.

Kaadeer Cleaves, 6-1 guard, NYC Warriors/McClancy H.S.: Very good mid-range jump shooter. Great footwork on both ends of the court. A real athletic player who gets out in transition. He can effectively take it coast to coast with his quickness. Has the ability to finish plays around the rim.

Don'yae Baylor-Carroll, 5-10 guard, Central PA Elite-Hughes/Milton-Hershey H.S.: Outstanding at the point. He is a real floor general and a great decision maker. Aggressive player on both ends of the court. Fearless when attacking the rim, despite his size, and has the ability to finish there. Very quick hands make him a good defender.

Daniel Buie, 6-2 guard, New York Havoc/Troy H.S.: Very high court IQ, really knows how to play. A very unselfish player. Versatile wing, sneaky athletic. Smooth game and lets things come to him. Long, active and good hands on the defensive end. Great three-point shooter, either off the dribble, in transition or with feet set. Quiet leader. Great off pick & roll situations. Projects as a D-I prospect.

Matt Delahont, 6-1 guard, NE Blizz/Hanover H.S.: Very high court IQ. Much versatility, very solid all-around player. Has a high motor. Very aggressive performer. Extremely unselfish. Gives it up to open teammates. Great



perimeter shooter. In one game here, had 34 points including 22 in the second half. Also has the strength to attack the rim. Very crafty player.

Jordon Brown, 6-3 wing, CT Elite-DP/Danbury H.S.: An aggressive, athletic wing performer. Has a very smooth offensive game. Extremely unselfish. Runs well in transition. Attacks the glass well. Uses his length to disrupt passes. Finishes round the basket against contact. Overlooked because of an injury this past high school season, but ready to step up in scholastic play this year.

Nevin Zink, 6-9 forward, CT Elite-DP/South Carolina Whitmore School: A high-motor big man. Already has a college-ready frame. He is an athletic and strong post player. Finishes well around and above the rim with either hand. Does most of his work in the paint. Excellent rebounder on both ends. Plans to attend St. Andrews for a post-grad year. Hearing from low-major D-I's so far.

Alex Sobel, 6-7 center, Boom Agostino/Ward Melville H.S.: A solid post presence, particularly on the defensive end. Blocks his share of shots. Uses his size to rebound the ball extremely well. Fundamentally sound. Keeps the ball up high and finishes. Runs the floor well for his size. When he gets the ball in the post, looks to find open teammates.

Tamir Williams, 6-3 forward, New Jersey Panthers/Patterson Kennedy-International H.S.: An explosive athlete. Springy ... gest off his feet well and quickly. Finishes well around the rim. Athletic enough to finish in the lane against traffic. Has a high motor. Attacks the rim with aggression. Rebounds it well for his size.

Ryan Hughes, 6-4 guard, Central PA Elite-Hughes/Middletown Area H.S.: A fiery, vocal leader. Really has a feel for the game, exhibits a high court IQ. Very good jump shooter with good range out to beyond the three-point stripe. Active hands on the defensive end. Uses the pick-and roll well to create his own shot or find teammates. Hearing early from high academic D-1's, Lafayette, Bucknell, Colgate, American.

Sean Conway, 6-4 guard, CT Premier Hoops (PHD)/Fairfield Warde H.S.: A tall, thin combo guard. Best as a catch-and-shoot player. Can make a lot of shots in a row when in rhythm. Has shown the ability to make shots consistently in the mid-range. Needs work on left hand and finishing around the rim. Leading scorer for his team here.

Kobbie Perez, 5-11 point guard, Miami Blue Rays/Doral Academy: A poised, facilitating point guard. Very good change of pace handler who is always looking to create for others. Outstanding vision and decision maker in the open-floor game. Sneaky scorer when his team needs points. Recruiting interest should grow based on his performance here.

Reggie Perez, 5-11 point guard, Miami Blue Rays/Doral Academy: A smart, creative ball-handler. Very good passer and has a high court IQ, both in the open floor and in the half-court game. Needs to become more consistent from behind the three-point arc. Pesky defender on the ball.



Christopher Mann, 6-5 wing, United NJ/Phillipsburg H.S.: A lean and long combo player who can really score. Best skill is his relentless motor. A lefty who is very versatile. Can score on all three levels. Best when he has the ball and is in transition. Just needs to be a little more efficient. Some low-major D-1 attention.

Jacob Robel, 6-6 post, United NJ (DePaolo)/Middlesex H.S.: An extremely long post player who runs the floor very well. Very bouncy and thrives in open space. Very active on the glass. Will protect the rim on defense. Needs to continue to expand his skill set, but his best days are ahead.

Paul Woolhouse, 6-6 post, United NJ (DePaolo)/North Hunterdon H.S.: A lean, very skilled post player. Has a high motor, plays hard at all times. Very active on the glass. Plays the right way. Always seems to be around the ball. Showed the ability to hit stand-still three-pointer, but needs to continue to develop from that range. Great teammate. Early interest from low-major D-1's.

Jasiah Wright, 5-8 combo guard, Rising Stas/Uniondale H.S.: Exhibits great toughness. A play-making combo guard. Never appears hurried or rush, plays at a great pace. Can score on all three levels. A willing passer and he really knows how to play. Showed himself to be a big-moment guy here. He wants the ball in key spots.

Caleb Matthews, 6-3 shooting guard, Team Final-Black/Smyrna H.S.: Thin and long, a catch-and-shoot guard. Excellent shooter with deep range. Needs only a sliver of daylight to pull the trigger. Handles the ball well enough to be a threat on the drive. Good vision, finds teammates off baseline penetration. Good competitor. Some interest from Brown and Lafayette.

Isaiah Sanders, 6-4 wing, Team Final-Black/Timber Creek H.S.: A bouncy, athletic scoring wing. Terrific finisher in traffic vs. contact. Can play above the rim.. Good catch-and-shoot ability from three-point territory. Needs more consistency in mid-range game. Willing to make the next pass. Averaged 14 points per game here. Most definitely a scholarship player.

Randy Rickards, 6-6 forward, Team Final-Black/Cape Henlopen H.S.: A strong forward who creates mismatches. He has great size and moves well. Can definitely play on the perimeter. An excellent driver to finish at the rim. Very good at using his length to defend and rebound. Very versatile player. Needs only to improve consistency on his outside shot.

Tanner McFarlane, 5-10 point guard, Middletown's Finest/Tennessee Prep Academy: A solidly built explosive point guard. Very tight handle and good vision in the open floor. Makes plays for his teammates off the drive. Showed a good ability to score off ball screens, whether shooting the three off the dribble or turning the corner and finishing at the rim.

Cole Prowitt-Smith, 6-4 forward, ABC Krumins/Greens Farm Academy: A long, thinly built wing player that does a little bit of everything for his team. Will rebound and push the break, usually finding open teammates. Also has the ability to drive and finish in traffic with either hand. Good shooter from three. Gets looks on drive and kick. Also shoots well off the bounce. Hearing from some Patriot League teams and high academic D-3's.



Greg Lawrence, 6-6 forward, ABC Krumins/Greens Farm Academy: A left-hander, solidly built. Plays power spot. Moves well and runs the floor well. Was rewarded for running the floor with a few dunks during play here. Good athlete, has the ability to finish with contact and above the rim. Decent post feel and touch around the basket. A good passer/driver from 15-to-18 foot range.

Jackson Ryan, 6-1 combo guard, ABC Krumins/St. Luke's School: More of a scoring guard that has no problem scoring/playing with or without the ball. Gets a lot of 3's off running the floor and spotting up, or off drive and kick-out passes from teammates. Has the ability to handle the ball when needed. Makes plays for teammates off penetration. A tough defender and plays very well on the ball.

Michael Bannon, 6-6 forward, Salvation Army East Northport/Smithtown West H.S.: Long and lean. A real stretch-four player. Has above average perimeter skills for his size. Good shooter out to 20 feet. Also showed the ability to connect on mid-range pull-up attempts. Above-average rebounder on both ends of the court. Uses his length to block/alter shots around the rim.

Jay Vaughn, 5-11 point guard, L&L Running Rebels-PA/Central Catholic H.S.: A tough, smart point guard that does a lot for his team. Tough on-ball defender, forces turnovers and gets steals. Head is always up to make plays and does a great job of getting the ball to open teammates. Also a good shooter. Makes shots off the bounce and off screens. Ability to finish in the lane is also above average.

Chris Wright, 6-1 point guard, Early Risers-LaFrance/Kingston H.S.: A quick and athletic left-handed point guard. He sees the floor well and does a good job creating for others in transition or off his own penetration and kick-out. Made some perimeter shots here, but is better at attacking and scoring at the rim. Very intense and aggressive defender, gets steals and deflections. Caldwell and other D-2's showing early interest.

Stephan Gabriel, 6-7 forward, Early Risers-LaFrance/Columbia H.S.: A big, strong and athletic power forward. Does a great job using his size on defense to alter and block shots. Offensively he runs the floor very well and converted some powerful dunks here. Finishes in transition. A very good rebounder. Does an outstanding job using his size and athleticism on the boards. LIU Post and several NE-10 schools showing early interest.

Zaahir Woody, 6-3 forward, Early Risers-LaFrance/Roy C. Ketcham H.S.: A strong-bodied perimeter forward with a good all-around game. Shoots it well from three-point territory. Draws and dishes well. Also uses his size to post up on occasion in advantageous matchups. Above-average decision-making with the ball. Attacks the offensive glass. Plans a post-grad year at NY Military Academy.

Nash Goldman, 5-11 combo guard, Chris Ward Basketball-Green: Very high court IQ, serves as a coach on the floor. Very good range, consistent three-point shooter. Uses that threat and good shot fakes well to set up effective drives. Quick hands on the defensive end. Nice floaters and mid-range shots. Can finish at the rim.

Nowah Rosado, 6-0 point guard, Elite Hoops/F.D. Roosevelt H.S.: A smooth lefty point guard who can really push the ball and create in transition. Uses jab step well to create space. Good rebounder from the guard position. Has a quick first step. Uses body well to finish among taller players. Very good shooter.



Charlie Considine, 6-5 forward, Mass Premier Elite/Pembroke H.S.: A good positional rebounder and defender. A stretch-four who can score in the post and step out to shoot the three-pointer. Not afraid to step up and take a charge. Will mix it up with bigger post players. Skilled enough to take slower defenders off the dribble. Hearing from Stonehill, Queens and Emerson colleges early.

Xavier Gibbs, 6-2 point guard, Metro Rockets/Gompers H.S.: A very good initial burst off the dribble. Gibbs was able to push in transition and find open teammates in scoring situations. Just as adept when he's in the half court in blowing past a defender in isolation situations. A strong rebounder as well, who crushed the glass and played with a high motor throughout.

Maverson Themeus, 6-4 forward, Metro Rockets/Spring Valley H.S.: Projects as a three-man going forward because of his size, but he was all over the court here doing a little bit of everything to stand out. Able to finish above the rim in the open floor, but also showed a solid mid-range jumper when left alone. A good handle when he had the ball. His team's strongest/most-consistent rebounder during the event.

Colin Liddy, 5-11 guard, Bulls Basketball Club/Westwood H.S.: One of the event's better shooting performances in a pool-play game with 9 made three-pointers. A smooth-stroking left-hander who scores equally well off the dribble to create his own space. Also good on catch-and-shoot three-pointers. Solid running the offense in the half court. Can play either guard spot.

Bayle Rodriguez 6-3 forward, Palisades Elite/Albertus Magnus H.S.: The undersized four-man used his strength defensively to maintain position, and he outworked and outrebounded bigger opponents throughout the event. Offensively he was able to push with a solid handle and take the ball to the rim where he finished against contact. Very dangerous interior scorer.

Jesse Odell, 6-4 forward, Capital City Lightning (Gold)/Schalmont H.S.: An active power forward who is more comfortable with his back to the basket. When he got touches inside he showed good footwork to spin either direction and finish with a soft touch with either hand. A solid post defender. He boxes out well and maintained good positioning to control the glass.

Takaya LaClair, 6-2 point guard, Syracuse Nets (Dodge)/Jamesville-Dewitt H.S.: A steady presence on the ball. Not a blow-by-you quick lead guard, but he makes smart decisions to move the ball around in the half court. Showed a strong ability to connect on mid-range shots off the dribble. A solid on-ball defender particularly when pressuring in the backcourt.

Casey Pluff, 6-3 guard, Syracuse Nets (Dodge)/Baldwinsville H.S.: The main perimeter shooting threat for his team here. Excellent at creating space for shots off the dribble. Shoots a high percentage from deep. Also showed good lateral quickness on defense and is an overall strong two-way player.

Kenneth Cox, 5-10 combo buard, Capital City Lightning (Blue)/Niskayuna H.S.: Played off the ball for the most part throughout the event here, but when he did get the ball in his hands, he attacked the basket and proved unafraid of contact in going hard at bigger defender. Good body strength. Fearless when finishing at the rim.



Cory Gordon, 6-4 forward, Bulls Basketball Club/Teaneck H.S.: One of the stronger and more aggressive wings here. He stood out with an ability to rise above in the paint and finish with authority above the rim. Displayed great toughness inside. When he pushed the tempo he was next-to-impossible to stop when he put his eyes on the rim. Some D-2's starting to show interest.

Vernon Johnson, 5-10 point guard, Bulls Basketball Club/St. Peter's Prep: A lightning-quick floor general who was great getting up and down and beating defenders up the floor. Most of his points came on the break, but also showed a pull-up game. Nice ability to pull up off the dribble and connect. Outstanding on-the-ball/harassing defender.

Brian Broderick, 6-4 guard, Team ACE/Manalapan H.S.: A smooth-shooting left-hander who doesn't need much space to pull the trigger. When defenders pushed up on him, he displayed a quick lefty release. Also strong crashing the boards for rebounds. Uses his strength to box out and he showed strong interior defensive abilities.

Terion Moss, 5-10 guard, Blue Wave Elite/Portland H.S.: Unguardable in open floor/transition situations. Tremendous perimeter defender who uses quick hands and feet to his advantage. Excellent rebounder, given his size. Showed three-point range, both catch-and-shoot and off the dribble. One-man press-breaker. Interest from UMaine, other America East and NE-10 schools.

David Keohan, 6-4 forward, Blue Wave Elite/Thornton Academy: Incredibly strong inside player who finishes with two or three guys around him. Finishes with either hand in the paint. Great pick-and-pop shooter who can step out to hit an open three-pointer. Very good rebounder due to strength. Never stops working, great motor. Some NE-10 schools showing interest.

Kevin Kely, 6-3 guard, Chris Ward Basketball-White/Valhalla H.S.: High court IQ. A crafty finisher around the rim. Also showed an ability to make open three-pointers. If he gains some muscle, will be a very good college player. Excellent decision-maker in ball-screen offensive situations. Strong rebounder for a guard.

Seth Thomas, 6-3 guard, CT Stars-Miller/Norwich Free Academy: Unstoppable in open floor/transition situations. Plays at and above the rim. Finishes through contact. Can make catch-and-shoot three-pointers, but better shooting off the dribble. High court IQ, good feel for the game. Knows when to shoot and when to get teammates involved.

Ryan Takkale, 6-2 guard, Ottawa Phoenix/Sir Wilfrid Laurier School: Good-sized guard with college-ready body. Excellent finisher who is great at getting to the foul line. Very good catch-and-shoot player from three-point range. Great hustle guy and gets more than his share of loose balls. Can play either guard position.

Patrick Meisenzahl, 5-10 guard, RAP Thunder/Greece Athena: No holes in his game; he can do everything. Outstanding ball-handler. Great late-game point guard. Very high court IQ. Good passer, makes clutch free throws, makes winning plays. Makes threes in catch-and-shoot situations. Very good mid-range game with a pull-up and a floater. Good finisher around the rim for his size.



Devin Pope, 6-1 guard, Corey Graham Elite/Chautaugua Lake H.S.: Very good at attacking the rim off the dribble. Very aggressive offensive player. Nice ability to draw contact, get to the foul line and is a good FT shooter. Showed an ability to knock down open three's. Good pull-up mid-range shooter. Hard worker and an above-average defender.

David Gervase, 6-3 guard, Game 7 Sharks White/Middletown H.S. South: A true off-guard who possesses automatic shot on mid-range pull ups. Very good finisher, as well. Strong and athletic, allows him to get to the rim and convert. A real hustler, plays incredibly hard at all times. Knocks down 3-pointers off the dribble. Sees the floor well and not afraid to give it up to open teammates.

Kasai Brown, 6-5 forward, Lightning-Morales/Millbrook Prep: An unbelievable athlete with great length. He possesses both perimeter and post skills. Plays hard and attacks the glass effectively, with his height, on both ends. Finishes well at the rim and through contact. Outstanding student, as well. High potential for the next level.

Shion Darby, 5-10 guard, East Coast Panthers/Peekskill H.S.: A strong and athletic combo guard. Communicates well with teammates and runs the show on the floor. Excellent driving ability going in either direction. Makes some tough and acrobatic finishes at the rim. Can step out and make a three-pointer with his feet set. Also an active and enthusiastic defender.

Nick Prociak, 6-6 center, Valley Thunder/Holy Redeemer H.S.: A strong, big-bodied post player. He is a presence that makes his teammates better when he's on the floor. Good footwork in the post and a nice shooting touch around the basket. He has skills that make him extremely difficult to defend when he catches the ball in the paint.

Nigel Scantlebury, 6-0 guard, RSBA-NY Banks/Greece Athena H.S.: A dynamic, left-handed playmaking guard. He is a tremendous athlete with a quick first step going in either direction. Gets to the rim at will and makes plays for his teammates. Very capable shooter out to three-point range. Superb handle. Fun to watch in transition situations.

Kyree Generett, 6-1 guard, Central PA Elite-Hamilton/York H.S.: A versatile, do-everything guard who is an automatic scorer in transition game. Very disciplined ball-handler with a high court IQ, particularly when he's picking apart zone defenses. Very good athlete. He attacks the rim and finishes through defenders. Good handle and an excellent passer.

Kevin Crawford Jr., 5-11 point guard, Runnin' Rebels/Seymour H.S.: An explosive and athletic combo guard who can score for himself or make a play for teammates. He played up a level here. Showed off athleticism with a monster dunk in traffic. Solid shooter with feet set. Puts the ball on the floor and gets to the rack. High upside player. Bright future.

17:U AGE DIVISION ALL-GymRat HONORABLE MENTION

Will Johnson, 5-9 guard, Valley Thunder



Matthew McGlynn, 6-3 guard, Valley Thunder
 Ian Jordan, 6-3 guard, RSBA NY-Banks
 Abu Kaba, 6-4 forward, MYCW Brockton
 Elijah Brewster, 6-0 guard, MYCW Brockton
 Jaelen Lee, 6-3 wing, MYCW Brockton
 A.J. Morales, 5-11 guard, Lightning Morales
 Patrick Mahone, 6-5 forward, Lightning Morales
 Quinten Battle, 5-10 guard, Finger Lakes Elite
 Mekhi Gray, 6-2 guard, East Coast Panthers
 Gio Tradito, 5-7 guard, East Coast Panthers
 Jake Wilson, 6-3 guard, Central PA Elite-Hamilton
 Jelani Isom, 6-6 forward, Central PA Elite-Hamilton
 Jaylen Crawford, 5-11 guard, Runnin' Rebels
 Noah Warren, 6-0 point guard, Team Final Black
 Jordan Gallimore, 6-5 post, CT Premier Hoops (PHD)
 Jesus Alfnso, 5-11 guard, Miami Blue Rays
 Marc Spinelli, 6-0 guard, NY Extreme Hoops
 Jayshaw Grant, 6-3 wing United NJ
 Jermaine Knight, 5-9 guard, United NJ
 Frank Phelan, 6-0 guard, Game 7
 Billy Muller, 6-5 post, Rising Stars
 Jake Bartholomeu, 6-3 wing, United NJ
 Max Samberg, 6-3 guard, Chris Ward Basketball-White
 Clifford Jones, 6-3 forward, CT Stars-Miller
 Jonathan Swaren, 6-5 forward, Ottawa Phoenix
 Nolan Hagerty, 6-6 center, Blue Wave Elite
 Ryan Kubanka, 6-4 forward, RAP Thunder
 De'Uaveon Milliner, 5-11 guard, Blazers Basketball
 Willard Anderson, 6-0 guard, Corey Graham Elite
 Trevor Book, 6-3 guard, Corey Graham Elite
 Liam Carey, 6-4 forward, Corey Graham Elite
 Bruno Pillari, 6-3 forward, Game 7 Sharks-White
 Jude Bain, 6-2 wing, South Shore Wolfpack-Bailey
 Alec McGovern, 6-3 wing, CT Stars-Mikel
 Zach Sabol, 6-5 forward, York Ballers
 Jaiden Allen, 5-11 guard, Newburgh Zion Lions
 Jayden Nichols, 6-5 wing, Hudson Valley Panthers Elite
 Cole Laney, 6-6 forward, Team PA Supernatural
 Kevin Scanlan, 6-3 wing, House of Hoops
 Reggie Tolliver, 6-3 guard, CT Elite-AR
 Joel Torres, 6-6 center, Team PA Supernatural
 Shamire Broyld, 6-4 forward, Fower City Elite



ENHANCE YOUR PROFILE

Jonas Intner, 6-0 guard, Chris Ward Basketball-Green
Zafir Brower, 6-0 guard, Olympus
Kyle Cary, 6-5 forward, Elite Hoops
James Kesicier, 6-2 forward, Lightning Busch
Jack Rodgers, 6-0 guard, Mass Premier
David Campbell, 6-2 guard, Game 7 Sharks-Blue
Devin Hunter, 5-10 guard, Chris Ward Basketball-Green
Eddie Hassell, 6-3 forward, Mass Premier
Elijah Galloway, 6-5 forward, ABC Rubin
Jose Cruz, 5-8 guard, Middletown's Finest
Craig Turner, 5-1 guard, South Jersey Jazz
Christian Corker, 5-8 guard, Scotia 11
Zion Williams, 6-4 forward, Middletown's Finest
Brendan McNamara, 6-5 forward, ABC Kramins
Matthew Becker, 6-4 forward, ABC Krumins
Scott Cunningham, 6-1 guard, ABC Krumins
Eric San Filippo, 5-10 guard, Salvation Army East Northport
Marvellous Akingbala, 5-9 guard, House of Hoops Pride
Chimdi Eboh, 5-10 guard, House of Hoops Pride
Derryen Whyte, 6-1 guard, House of Hoops Pride
Tyrone Bowens, 6-7 center, House of Hoops Pride
Brandon Powell, 6-2 guard, Early Risers-LaFrance
Marquis Johnson, 6-2 guard, Early Risers-LaFrance
Travis Elmore, 6-5 forward, L&L Running Rebels
Jordan McChristian, 6-2 guard, L&L Running Rebels
Thomas Zodda, 6-6 forward, Metro Rockets
Seamus Keaney, 6-2 guard, North Shore Blizzard
A.J. Yaegel, 6-3 forward, Team ACE
Macio Robinson, 5-8 point guard, Bulls Basketball Club
Chandler Williams, 6-7 forward, Bulls Basketball Club
Alan Willmes, 6-4 forward, Syracuse Nets-Dodge
Will Davis, 5-7 guard, Capital City Lightning-Blue
John Morina, 5-10 guard, Palisades Elite
Jacob Garrison, 5-6 guard, Palisades Elite
Xavier Miles, 6-2 wing, Palisades Elite
Garret Delaney, 6-2 guard, Capital City Lightning-Gold
Brandon Caufield, 6-0 guard, Capital City Lightning-Blue
Thor White, 6-1 guard, Capital City Lightning-Gold
Alex Morton, 6-1 guard, Team ACE
Grant Smith, 6-4 forward, Central PA Elite-Hughes
Chris Plummer, 6-3 wing, Central PA Elite-Hughes
William Aybar Jr., 5-7 guard, NYC Havoc



ENHANCE YOUR PROFILE

Tyler Colon, 6-1 guard, New Jersey Panthers
Justin Roseboro, 6-5 forward, New Jersey Panthers
Kai Kostmayor, 6-7 forward, CT Elite-DP
Isaiah Payton, 5-11 guard, CT Elite-DP
Oliver Moody, 6-1 guard, NE Blizz
Aaron Boise, 6-2 wing, NE Blizz
Brendan Martin, 5-8 guard, BoomAgostino
Kayshawn Cruz, 6-0 guard, Schenectady Basketball-EM
Cameron Coles, 5-9 guard, Schenectady Basketball-EM
Lamar Fisher, 6-4 forward, Schenectady Basketball-EM



A TEST OF SKILL & WILL

16:U GymRat CHALLENGE AGE DIVISION REPORT

NEW YORK SQUADS SWEEP BRACKET CHAMPIONSHIPS

SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY-The 2017 GymRat CHALLENGE drew teams from Miami to Montreal as some of the best teams in the nation converged on New York State's Capital District in pursuit of the GymRat spotlight. Even though challengers came from far and wide, local programs took pride in defending their home turf in one of America's premier summer basketball events.

The City Rocks, with a roster heavy inhabited by Albany and Rochester area players, captured the Platinum Bracket's championship, taking a with-ease 74-60 victory in its title game.

The Silver Bracket crown was also captured, by a 63-49 final score, by the New York Havoc, whose roster was comprised entirely of players from upstate New York's Capital Region.

And, while Gold Bracket winner Lock It Down wasn't from the Albany, N.Y., area ... its base of operations was just a couple hours west of the tournament's location in Syracuse.



ENHANCE YOUR PROFILE

It was fortuitous that the Lock It Down squad had a relatively short drive to make to its Saratoga Springs playing site over the weekend since it had been on the event's wait list and wasn't sure it had a berth in the tournament until it was notified barely 24 hours prior to its first scheduled game.

The last-minute inclusion provided a great opportunity not only for the Lock It Down program to gain some high-level recognition, but for its standout point guard Daimarr Miller to start drawing notice, too.

The 6-foot-1 Miller, a rising junior at Syracuse's Corcoran High School, proved to be a crafty floor general to lead Lock It Down to a 55-53 victory in overtime over Blue Wave Elite.

For his standout work at point guard over the two-day event, Miller was the Gold Bracket's MVG (Most Valuable GymRat).

Amazingly, Miller says he has yet to draw much notice on the recruiting radar, but that's very likely to change quickly. "Hopefully, this will help bring him some recognition and recruiting interest," said Corey Pringle, Miller's coach with the Lock It Down program. "He is a real floor general."

And, a humble one, too.

"We just play well together as a team," said Miller. "I try to be a leader on the floor, making sure my teammates are where they're supposed to be and to get them the ball where they're supposed to get it."

Miller joins dozens of high-major level college standouts who made their early reputations here as an event MVG over the years. Joining that elite group can only enhance recruiting interest in him.

Miller, though, wasn't the only outstanding point guard to be named an MVG in the bracket. Noah Hutchins, a 6-1 point guard from the City Rocks' Platinum Bracket champions, also earned individual honors.

Hutchins, who plays high school ball at the Park School in Buffalo, said he took pride in helping propel a team that had several Albany players on its roster to a bracket championship.

"We made sure we showed up for the Albany guys," he said. "We knew we had to play together, and we did."

"This tournament was very important to us," said City Rocks' coach Patrick Neary. "We're the 'Albany' City Rocks. We're almost always playing away from home, but we view this event as our home tournament.

It was a "home tournament," as well, for Silver Bracket champion New York Havoc roster is exclusively made up of players from the Capital Region area.

It broke the division's old of point-guard MVG's, though, when it was led by its "big" man, Green Tech High School's rising junior standout George Varmah.



Varmah, a 6-foot-5 powerful inside force used his big body to great effect here both on the boards and with a nice mid-range jumper. He finished the championship game with a game high 17 points and chipped in with 5 rebounds.

16:U AGE DIVISION GymRat MVGs (Most Valuable GymRats)

Noah Hutchins, 6-1 point guard, City Rocks/The Park School: A true point guard who runs a team and can contribute with his own offense. A rising junior, he is already rated the 11th-best point guard in New York State by one scouting service and is starting to hear from high-major level college programs, including an offer from Wake Forest. He is extremely versatile and does whatever his team needs. Exhibited big-time athleticism here, a nice feel for the game and the ability to consistently hit shots from long range. His explosive athleticism foreshadows a posterizing highlight clip whenever he has the ball, but Hutchins is far more than simply a chin-on-the-rim dunker. Development of his mid-range game and floor generalship over the past year is noteworthy. Becoming more and more capable behind the arc, but he is silky smooth off the dribble from 17 feet and in. The combination of pull-up proficiency and constant dunkability over defenders of any size, makes Hutchins a nightmare for opposing defenders.

Daimarr Miller, 6-1 point guard, Lock It Up/Corcoran H.S.: A poised and skilled point guard who can also score in a variety of ways. Outstanding jump shot from all over. Can shoot it off the catch or off the dribble. Crafty ball-handler who can drive, finish and pass with either hand effectively. Good moves off the dribble. Very good court demeanor and IQ. Patient play maker. Picks his spots as team needs them. Quick hands on defense. Good vision on the offensive end, especially in traffic.

George Varmah, 6-5 forward, New York Havoc/Green Tech: Showed an outstanding ability to score in the paint. He has a strong build and a high motor that allows him to control the glass on both ends of the court. A straight-line driver off two or three dribbles. Just an explosive athlete with the ability to play high above the rim. Showed some ability here to hit mid-range jumpers. With improved perimeter game he could have wide-ranging college interest in his future.

16:U AGE DIVISION ALL-GymRat CHALLENGE SELECTIONS

Kobe Bogart, 6-5 forward, Lock It Up/Owego Free Academy: A do-it-all point forward on both ends of the floor. Crafty post moves inside vs. players of any size. Can step out and beat defenders off the dribble, as well. High IQ on both ends. Very good passer from the perimeter or post. Can shoot it from all over off the catch or dribble. Matchup nightmare. Hits glass hard on both ends. Protects the rim, blocks and challenges shots. Tough, rugged and a great motor.

Jack Allen, 6-4 wing, Lock It Up/Phoenix H.S.: Long and skilled with much upside and high court IQ. Beats defenders off the dribble with a variety of moves. Creates off the dribble or catch for himself or others. Smooth first



step and is elusive crashing the offensive glass. Good shooter from all over, but needs some added strength for the next level. Moves and communicates well on both ends. Extremely versatile player.

Mark Daniels, 6-2 guard, MSU Skyliners/Plainfield H.S.: Fiery, passionate, do-it-all player who uses his versatility to affect the game on both ends. Good slasher who can create off the dribble, but is best in transition. Plays bigger than his height due to outstanding athleticism around the rim at both ends. High IQ player, but has to keep emotions in check. Good shooter off the catch and plays off his teammates. Never hunts shots.

Shemar Franklin, 5-11 point guard, Lightning Haber/Holy Cross H.S.: Explosive scoring guard who also willingly creates for others. Very good ball-handler, attacks well in pick-and-roll situations or off the dribble. Slashes well and can finish or make plays in traffic. Streaky shooter from three, percentages go up when he shoots it off catch in mid-range. Needs strength and some improvement on the defensive end.

Gavin Greene, 6-3 forward, CT Premier Hoops/St. Joseph H.S.: High motor, athletic forward who produces. Skill set still in early stages of development, but shows glimpses of his growing talent attacking bigger players off the dribble and slashing and finishing around the hoop, both in transition and half court. Team's leading scorer in several games here. Must continue to develop his skills while maintaining his intensity and productivity.

Rodney Medor, 6-4 wing, CT Premier Hoops/Notre Dame-Fairfield: Very talented and skilled wing, can create off the dribble or the catch. Good ball-handler, but could tighten it up a little. Yet, he breaks down defenders off the dribble to finish at the hoop or pull up and convert from long range. Uses length and athleticism at both ends, blocks shots and scores over and around multiple defenders. Great upside, still developing skill and body wise but is already productive.

Marquese Ward-Morning, 5-11 guard, CT Premier Hoops/Danbury H.S.: Strong and explosive, a nightmare because he is always attacking the rim. Uses strength and athleticism to get by his man, go through him, or shed any contact. Great body control, shifts and spins to score around the rim in a variety of ways. Nice pull-up jumper. Needs to be more consistent from three-point territory, but does everything else. Active hands on defense.

Miles Mahoney, 6-2 forward, ASA Hoops/Boston Latin School: Long wing forward that has the ability to put the ball on the floor. Gets to the rim or can pull up for outside jumpers which he hits consistently. A very good finisher in transition and against contact. No fear of getting into the lane. Can defend multiple positions effectively due to his length.

Michael Ortale, 6-3 wing, New York Havoc/Bethlehem H.S.: A physical wing player with an inside-out game. Sees the floor well, particularly in transition game. Deceptive athleticism combined with toughness allows him to make plays off the bounce and finish through contact at the rim. Can make outside shots, but needs to work on long-range shooting consistency.

Martini Martin, 5-11 point guard, Bulls Basketball Club/Dwight Morrow H.S.: A power guard who is highly effective getting into the lane off the dribble. Strong frame allows him to take a hit and keep his dribble alive. Good



use of change-of-speed and dribble moves to get to the rim or into his effective pull-up jumper. Good form on perimeter jumper, just needs consistency.

Quaran McPhersn, 6-4 wing, PSA Cardinals/The Patrick School: Very fluid, yet a powerful athlete that relies on physical gifts and solid feel for the game. Multi-positional defender with quick hands and feet. Gets a ton of deflections that led to run outs and easy baskets. Great court vision and passing instincts, particularly in transition and against zone defenses. Scores around rim and gets where he wants off the dribble. Good mid-range jumper, but needs work on mechanics.

Franck Kepnang, 6-9 center, PSA Cardinals/MacDuffie School: Obvious physical gifts of size and length, but still adjusting to speed and physicality of the game. Good lateral movement. Can hedge and recover in ball-screen action. Runs the floor well. Alters and blocks shots at the rim, although foul prone. Offense, for now, limited to dunks and put-backs, but showed an improved feel around the basket as the tournament progressed.

R. J. Davis, 6-0 point guard, PSA Cardinals/Archbishop Stepinac H.S.: Scoring guard with a unique ability to score at all three levels. Has an extra gear in transition. A crafty finisher around the rim. Good feel for the game. Likely needs to be a true PG to play at highest level. Great potential as a defender due to quick hands and feet. High level shooter with deep range. Offers from mid-majors already, some interest from higher levels.

Zachary Gibson, 6-4 forward, Mass Hoops Jaguars/Williston Northampton School: Good feel for the game, lets scoring come through the flow of the offense. Needs strength, but long frame and arms allow him to rebound by the rim and defend multiple positions on defense. Long first step gets him by defenders on his way to the rim. Scores off straight-line drives, smart cuts and mid-range jumpers.

Pat Williamson, 6-1 point guard, Lightning-Mitchell/Harborfields H.S.: Pure shooter with smooth mechanics and release. Good feel for the game with incredible vision and good passing instincts. Can play either guard spot, but is vocal as a floor general. Uses pivots and ball fakes to get defender off balance and get into the paint. A real crafty scorer.

Kamron O'Banner, 6-4 forward, MD Hoopmasters/Archbishop Curley H.S.: A lean forward who still has some growing to do to fill out his frame and add strength. Already a nice soft touch on mid-range jumper. Uses a jab step effectively to create space and open up driving lanes. Active on the offensive glass. Uses his length to get deflections and to keep the ball alive.

David Johansson, 6-3 wing, United NJ (Coates)/Hunterdon Central H.S.: A crafty lefty with a good feel for the game and a high basketball IQ. Able to switch assignments on defense, and showed toughness by stepping in to take multiple charges here. Smooth stroke from the perimeter. Ability to make shots opens up driving lanes. Intelligent, vocal defender. Good passer when he penetrates.

Jahlil Evans, 6-4 center, Back 2 Basics Academy: Very strong player and a strong presence around the hoop. Goes hard inside and draws fouls ... lives at the foul line. Scores around the hoop with ease, a true inside force.



Takes up space and gets rebounds. Seals well and presents a big target in the low post. Uses either hand to score when he gets in inside.

Cameron Lovejoy, 5-10 point guard, Blue Wave Elite: A true point guard. He really runs the show. Good court IQ and court vision. He lives to distribute the ball. Gets the job done against bigger, more athletic players. Has a major impact on most games. Efficient style of play, knows how to play. Shoots well with his feet set. Excellent range on jumper, hit several treys here.

Ben Onek, 6-4 forward, Blue Wave Elite: Very athletic player and decent size the way he plays. Shows nice upside potential. A lefty slasher. Runs the court and finishes in transition. Does need some improvement on his jump shot, but he scores by getting to the hoop off the dribble. Came up big when needed here and made some clutch free throws. Will defend and block shots.

Wol Maiwen, 6-4 forward, Blue Wave Elite: A long, lanky and athletic forward. Uses his size and length to block and alter more than his share of shots. Very adept scorer in the paint with clever moves. Uses his athleticism and jumping ability to get rebounds in traffic. Not afraid to mix it up inside. Clutch player, stepped up at big moments here.

Issac Percy, 6-2 forward, CYC Basketball - Kingsbread Pride: A strong, versatile player who can play multiple positions. Gets inside and finishes with either hand. Extremely valuable team player. Scores in the paint, gets to the rim and goes hard to the hoop. Showed a nice spin move in the lane. Unselfish, will hit open teammates. Decent mid-range jumper, and uses fade-away jumper if necessary.

Hunter Cole, 6-5 forward, Early Risers-LaFrance: Very good size for a perimeter player. Good combination of size, length and athleticism. Uses his length to advantage on defense. Blocks and alters more than his share of shots. Can step out and make shots from three-point range. Decent passer out of the paint.

Jalen Ricks, 5-8 point guard, Early Risers-LaFrance: Extremely quick left-handed guard. Uses his speed to get to the basket and will finish around the hoop. Also a capable drive-and-dish threat. Distributes the ball well. Showed a nice cross-over dribble. Will hustle after loose balls. Hassles opposing ball-handlers on defense. His quickness makes an impact on games.

Zack Swaby, 6-1 forward, New York Ratz: Uses strength athleticism to be a difficult-to-defend player around the hoop. Scores against bigger opponents. Draws fouls with his strength. Also creates position for himself in the paint. Dependable scorer. Drives to the hoop well, but can make a mid-range jumper. Quick off his feet and has a real nose for the ball.

Chad Kratzer, 6-2 shooting guard, Lehigh Valley Select: A guard who has a good feel for the game, a real court IQ. Knows how to play. Fluid athlete with outstanding fundamentals. Just a clever player. Has a nice hesitation dribble. Can shoot off the dribble. Has 3-point range. Gets in the lane and draws fouls. Uses the rim well for finishing protection.



Jamal Watson, 6-6 center, Lightning-Nuss: An extremely strong "big," who makes it difficult to match up with him. Just a force under the basket. He establishes and holds position in the low post. Scores well in the paint, using his size and strength to overwhelm defenders. Draws his share of fouls. Good defender who blocks and alters shots.

Tommy Dooling, 5-11 shooting guard/Mass Premier Elite: A smart player who has excellent range on his shot out to 3-point territory. A crafty left-hander. Showed a good first step that enables him to drive to the basket and score or dish when he gets into the paint. Sees the court extremely well. Knows how to move and find open space when he doesn't have the ball.

James Marsh III, 5-11 shooting guard, Mass Premier Elite: A classic three-point shooter. Outstanding fundamentally sound shooting form. Likes to catch and shoot and scores in bunches when he gets hot. Let's the game come to him. Doesn't force the issue. Very unselfish player. Makes good decisions about when it's better to shoot or pass.

Michael Kimble, 6-7 forward, Early Risers-LaFrance: Shows great upside potential. A long and athletic wing player, nice height for the way he plays. Capable of stepping out and hitting perimeter shots. Very comfortable playing on the perimeter, and his height makes it tough to guard him out there. Decent defender using his length and athleticism.

Gerald Drumgoole, 6-5 forward, City Rocks/Irondequoit H.S.: A real strong player who is a force to be reckoned with in the paint. He boxes out well and is a strong rebounder. Goes strong to the hoop and draws attention, contact, and fouls Outstanding foul shooter, nearly perfect from the line here. His height and strength serve him well. Can receive passes above the rim to dunk with ease.

August Mahoney, 6-3 wing, City Rocks/The Albany Academy: Smart player who moves very well without the ball. Plays either guard or small forward spots. Has a great vertical leap and rebounds well. Gets the ball to the outlet quickly. Decent ball handler against tight defense. Effective shooter from mid-range. Also showed some three-point range here.

Jake Cook, 6-10 center, City Rocks/Shaker H.S.: Extremely mobile for a real big player. He rebounds the ball and boxes out opponents well. Offensively, he takes the ball to the hoop with strength. Jumps well and uses length and leaping ability to be an effective shot-blocker. Gets the ball to the outlet. Hustles on defense. Posts up well and looks to help out on defense.

Declan Porter, 6-6 guard, City Rocks/Canton H.S.: A good ball-handler in traffic. Outstanding size for a perimeter player. Passes the ball well and seems to see the open man and gets the ball to him effectively. He crashes the boards consistently and rebounds well. Plays good defense and anticipates seemingly a step ahead.

Caley Moon, 6-3 guard, MABC Bengals/Cathedral H.S.: An exceptional ball-handler for an off-guard. He can lead the break and sees the passing lanes well. Gets the ball to those up court consistently. Can hit from beyond



the three-point stripe, but also scores well on mid-range shots. Not afraid to take it to the basket against bigger opponents.

Nick Eiorillo, 6-4 forward, Maine Renegades/Scarborough H.S.: Just has great basketball court sense. Moves well without the ball and puts himself in great position to receive the ball in the post. Scores well inside. Draws fouls and is a proficient foul shooter. He can bring the ball up court and, with his size, sees over defenders. Moves the ball upcourt quickly. Boxes out and rebounds very well. Makes difficult passes easily. Unselfish player.

Tyler Crespo, 5-9 combo guard, Team Emerald/Markheim Township H.S.: A quick scoring guard against who defenders struggle to keep in check. Scores at will, yet is an unselfish player, too. Good three-point shooter. Disrupts the passing lanes with his quickness, creating scoring opportunities for himself and teammates. Potential scholarship player, starting to get some low-major D-I looks.

Ajani Simmons, 5-9 combo guard, Team Emerald/J.P. McCaskey H.S.: Capable of playing either guard position, although primarily best at putting up points himself. Strong for his size, and uses his strength and quickness to get to the hoop and finishes well against contact. Showed a nice three-point shot here. Very good at shooting off the dribble.

John Donaldson, 6-0 shooting guard, Lightning Haber Red/Lynbrook H.S. A very good scorer from just about anywhere on the floor. Does a great job at attacking the basket and finishing strong through contact. Also showed a nice outside-shooting touch here. Good instincts on defense, forcing more than his share of turnovers.

Semir Dervirevic, 6-3 small forward, Global Sports/Museum H.S.: A long, lanky athlete who is a prototypical small forward. He uses his athleticism, size and quickness to effectively get to the rim and score in traffic. He showed a nice touch from three-point range here. Can become a very good perimeter defender when he learns to use his length/athleticism to his advantage.

Shane Regan, 5-11 point guard, Global Sports/Rose Country Day School: An outstanding true point guard who makes the difficult passes look easy. Long arms, and uses that attribute to get off shots in the lane when he gets to the rim. Finishes well through contact. Showed an ability to keep defenders honest with three-point range.

Ben Gold, 6-6 power forward, Global Sports/Beacon H.S.: A prototypical "stretch four" forward. He has deep, deep range on his three-point shot. Tough for a big man to guard him. Has an underrated ability to also put the ball on the floor to get into the lane and score. Decent rebounder and when he concentrates on that aspect he could be a superlative one.

Will Bowen, 6-6 post, Central PA Elite Bowen/Lower Dauphin H.S.: A real presence down low. Has the ability to post up in the block and score off either shoulder. Equally effective operating out of the high post as the low post. Good passer from the high post, or can move to the hoop. Great rebounder. Hustler, plays hard on every possession.



Luke Hedrick, 5-11 combo guard, Central PA Elite Bowen/Hershey H.S.: A true combo guard who can handle the ball but is also a scorer. He can score from three-point range as well as pull up for mid-range shots off the dribble. Uses effective dribbling skills to get to the basket and finish through contact. Showed strong defense ability on the perimeter while here.

Javon Dorrey, 6-3 forward, Bulls Basketball/Spring Valley H.S.: A very good athlete who hustles at all times, very high motor. Uses his athleticism/quickness to attack the rim at will and finishes there effectively and consistently. Crashes the glass hard, goes after every rebound opportunity. Looks to be an improving outside shooter.

Johnny Ferraro, 6-2 wing, Empire State Storm/Clarkstown South H.S.: Aggressive perimeter player who attacks the basket well. Very good defender who deflects passes to create offensive opportunities for his team. Really knows how to play the transition game. An all-out hustler all the time, real high motor.

Ian Thomas, 5-10 combo guard, More Than That-Bulldogs/Hunterdon Central H.S.: Just a great shooter with range well beyond the three-point stripe. Defenses need to account for his whereabouts on every possession or he'll score in bunches. Can play either guard spot. Defends opponents' top perimeter player. Does not back down from that challenge.

Nicholas Memoli, 6-2 wing, Early Risers-Memoli/John S. Burke H.S.: A terrific shooter with deep range on his shot. A wing player who is effective at both the guard or the small forward spot. Outstanding perimeter defender, really gets after it. Smart player, under control. Won't force anything. Always looking to make the right play, and usually does.

Shane Williams, 6-4 wing, Shore Stars/Brick Memorial H.S.: A pure scorer with good size to play guard or small forward. Can go off the dribble to get into the lane or get a pull-up jumper but also showed an ability to shoot from deep range. Very good athlete who blocks shots in transition. Does everything possible to help his team win. An obvious competitor.

Jahquel Harvard, 6-4 wing, Hudson Valley Panthers Elite/Poughkeepsie H.S.: A great athlete who combines that trait with a high motor. Good size for a perimeter player. He uses his length and all-out hustle to be a relentless rebounder on both ends of the court. Goes after every missed shot. Can make a perimeter jumper out to 15 feet.

Eric Berschadsky, 6-2 shooting guard, Riverdale Hawks/Tenafly H.S.: A lefty wing player with an extremely quick first step. Also showed an ability to consistently hit outside shots. Just a great athlete who gets to the rim. Threw down one monstrous dunk in transition in a game here. Potential scholarship player.

Wahad Johnson, 5-11 combo guard, Riverside Hawks/Bishop Loughlin H.S.: One of the best shooters in this age division. He has deep, deep range. Can play either guard spot effectively. He's a crafty passer when he gets into the lane. Also a standout perimeter defender, really hounds opponents and gets into passing lanes. Made five treys in one game, four in another here.



Chance Greene, 6-2 wing, Early Risers-Memoli/Monroe-Woodbury H.S.: A lefty wing player who is a dynamic scorer either from the guard or small forward position. Displayed deep and effective range here on three-pointers. Uses that threat to get past defenders and attack the rim effortlessly. Very good multi-position perimeter defender.

Kevin Ryan, 6-6 power forward, RAP Rangers/Pittsford Sutherland H.S.: A skilled, physical "big." A crafty finisher around the rim. Impressive interior passer who finds people out of the post. Physical player and a real "space-eater." Has a great feel for reading the defense and taking what it gives him. Plays angles well.

Logan Blankenberg, 6-4 wing, RAP Raiders/Wayne Central H.S.: A highly skilled wing player. Has a long frame and it looks like he will grow. Excellent three-point shooter, but also a crafty player off the dribble. Gets into the lane and finishes there with his size. Good court vision. Uses his size to see over defenders and find open teammates. Good rebounder from the perimeter.

Nick Carmichael, 6-5 forward, RAP Raiders/Wayne Central H.S.: A wide-bodied, undersized post who is a space-eater and plays the angles well. Plays bigger than his height. Excellent footwork for a big, and can score with either hand around the basket. Great power-drop step in the post. Crafty finisher. Carves out space for offensive rebounds and embraces physicality. Passes well from the high post.

Quinn Guth, 6-1 guard, CSA Velocity (Green)/Immaculate H.S.: Played up a level. Hits big shots and makes winning plays. Made tip-in to win a pool-play game here. Excellent court vision and sees plays one and two passes ahead. Good basketball IQ. Plays very hard and is not afraid to mix it up. Good 3-point shooter, and effectively uses a shot-fake, one-dribble pull-up. Nephew of former Siena College standout Matt Brady.

Sidney Thybulle, 6-6 power forward, Chris Ward Basketball/Irvington H.S.: A long, lanky forward. Has a good frame with broad shoulders. More prospect than player right now, but a chance to be a solid D-I performer if development continues. Good athleticism with a good set of hands. Shot looks good, and he's comfortable shooting out to three-point range. Right now, though, his best range is 15-feet and in.

Timmy Kiggins, 6-0 guard, Lightning-Blackford/Holy Trinity H.S. A lefty shooter. Has an unorthodox release, but it goes in. Very good passer. Sees the floor and delivers good passes. Made a couple of impressive full-court passes with his off hand here. Best skill, though, is his three-point shooting. He has very deep range.

Kyle Young, 6-6 forward, L&L Running Rebels/Bethlehem Catholic H.S.: A skilled "four" man. Good size and frame. Very active in the paint and on the glass. Finishes well around the hoop. Plays angles well. Range out to three-point land, and makes his FTs. Room to grow as a prospect. Excellent passer out of the post, low or high. Stepped up his game in championship-round play.

Amari Mills, 5-10 point guard, L&L Running Rebels/East Stroudsburg North H.S.: A very quick point guard who plays with good pace. Finds open teammates and has good court vision, especially in the open court. Streaky 3-point shooter. Looks like he might grow a couple of inches. Broad shoulders for a guard. Excellent on-ball defender with very quick hands.



Dwayne O'Hagan, 5-9 point guard, North Shore Blizzard/Woonsocket H.S.: An aggressive, quick point with an explosive burst off the dribble. He competes! Always looking to push the pace. At his best in transition. Over 20 points in all three pool-play games. Good 3-point shooter, but at his best creating off the dribble. Quick hands and feet on defense. Plays with an obvious edge!

Lee Mosley, 6-4 wing, L&L Running Rebels/Pocono Mountain West H.S.: Had more than 30 points in one game here. Relentless, high-energy player. Always seems to be around the ball. A slasher and driver who is a strong finisher around the basket. Above-average athlete. Very quick second jumper. High motor. Game-winning put-back in final pool-play game here.

Keyon Moore, 5-10 guard, Coast 2 Coast Basketball/Danbury H.S.: A quick and aggressive guard. Outstanding creator off the dribble. Strong finisher in the lane and against contact. Good in pick-and-roll situations. Made a couple of terrific pocket passes here. Good enough three-point shooter. Uses quick hands effectively on the defensive end.

16:U AGE DIVISION ALL-GymRat HONORABLE MENTION

Oliver Culliton, 5-9 guard, ASA Hoops
Reece Brown, 6-6 forward, New York Havoc
Aaron Satin, 6-3 wing, New York Havoc
Spencer Zweil, 5-9 guard, Bulls Basketball Club
Jaylen Murray, 5-11 guard, PSA Cardinals
Jason Ayala, 6-0 guard, Mass Hoops Jaguars
Isaiah Baker, 6-3 wing, Lightning-Mitchell
Jake Krantz, 5-10 guard, united NJ (Coates)
Kyle Migliore, 5-8 guard, United NJ (Coates)
Truth Harris, 5-10 guard, PSA Cardinals
Frederick June Jr., 6-2 guard, RAP Raiders
Xavier Fitzgerald, 5-11 guard, House of Hoops
Michael DeMarco, 5-10 guard, House of Hoops
Colby Martins, 5-8 guard, Chris Ward Basketball
Miles Jones, 6-0 guard, Chris Ward Basketball
Ben DiGiovanni, 6-4 wing, RAP Raiders
Billy Thomson, 5-10 guard, RAP Raiders
Matthew Panara, 5-10 guard, RAP Raiders
Matt Brevard, 6-0 guard, CSA Velocity Green
Tyler Zegray, 5-7 point guard, CSA Velocity Green
Rob Disibio, 6-4 forward, CSA Velocity Green
Keyon Herring, 5-9 guard, L&L Running Rebels PA
Nazair Holland, 6-6 wing, Coast 2 Coast Basketball
Aaron Davis, 5-10 guard, Coast 2 Coast Basketball



ENHANCE YOUR PROFILE

CJ Jones, 5-10 guard, Lightning-Blackford
 Richie Whigham, 6-0 guard, Lightning-Blackford
 Faizo Cizmesija-Ulmer, 6-2 guard, Back 2 Basics Academy
 Trey Ballew, 6-4 forward, Blue Wave Elite
 Elton Wilkins, 6-3 forward, CYC Basketball-Kingsbred Pride
 Brandon Adams, 6-1 forward, Early Risers-LaFrance
 Damani Scott, 6-3 forward, Mass Premier Elite
 Bryant Ciccio, 5-9 guard, Mass Premier Elite
 Jayden Figueroa, 6-5 forward, New York Ratz
 William Fredericks, 6-3 forward, New York Ratz
 Jacob Barnett, 6-2 guard, New York Ratz
 Joseph Captelli, 6-0 guard, Lightning-Nuss
 Nick Spinoso, 6-7 forward, Lightnig-Nuss
 Richard Manigault III, 6-4 forward, Lehigh Valley Select
 Ryan Boyland, 6-1 forward, Lehigh Valley Select
 Skiler Ryan, 6-5 center, Early Risers-LaFrance
 Mitch Kemizan, 6-2 forward, Early Risers-LaFrance
 Connor Coffey, 6-0 guard, Early Risers-LaFrance
 Jader DeJesus, 5-10 guard, Back 2 Basics Academy
 Nicholas Manso, 5-11 guard, Shore Stars
 Matthew Bernstein, 6-3 wing, Shore Stars
 Jamik Carter, 6-0 guard, Hudson Valley Panthers-Elite
 Niyal Goin, 6-1 guard, Hudson Valley Panthers Elite
 Davontey Thomas, 6-2 guard, Hudson Valley Panthers Elite
 Tyler Phillips, 6-0 guard, NB Rampage
 James Felton, 6-3 forward, Riverside Hawks
 John Guerra, 5-11 guard, Early Risers-Memoli
 Mickey Urso, 6-2 guard, Early Risers-Memoli
 Ahmed Berba-Bey, 6-1 guard, More Than That-Bulldogs
 Carlos Edmundo, 6-0 guard, More Than That-Bulldogs
 Tyreik Frazier, 6-6 forward, Lightning Haber Red
 Kevin Gunning, 5-11 guard, Lightning Haber Red
 Johnny Besecker, 6-0 guard, Team Emerald
 David Kamwanga, 6-5 post, Team Emerald
 Cameron McGrath, 6-0 guard, Empire State Storm
 Tony Hastings, 6-0 guard, Empire State Storm
 Alex Liptak, 6-3 forward, Empire State Storm
 Griffin Jackson, 5-11 guard, Central PA Elite-Bowen
 Howie Rankine, 5-8 guard, Central PA Elite-Bowen
 Kristian Martinez, 6-0 guard, Bulls Basketball
 Tyler Mozeleski, 6-1 guard, Central PA Elite-Bowen
 Jonathon Thomm 6-1 guard, Bulls Basketball



ENHANCE YOUR PROFILE

Joe Cavelli, 5-10 guard, Bulls Basketball
 Jair Currie, 6-5 forward, City Rocks
 Eldon Terry, 6-2 forward MABC-Bengals
 Sebastian Borgard, 5-10 guard, MABC-Bengals
 Zeccharia Barnes, 5-10 guard, Newburgh Goldbacks
 Max Horrego, 5-9 guard, Newburgh Goldbacks
 Matt Fleming 6-5 forward Maine Renegades
 Chance Trottman, 5-9 guard, Harlem USA
 Christian Sturdivant, 6-1 guard, Harlem USA
 Dervely Juste, 5-6 guard, Harlem USA
 Tyler Stephenson-Moore, 6-2 forward, Rising Stars
 Armani Cruz, 6-2 forward, Rising Stars
 Travis Brescia, 6-3 forward, NY Extreme Hoops Red
 Darnel Shillingford, 6-2 forwrd, NY Extreme Hoops Red
 Rob Disibio, 6-3 forward, CSA Velocity (Black)
 Quinn Guth, 6-2 guard, CSA Velocity (Black)
 Allon Johnson, 6-4 forward, MSU Skyliners
 Anthony Goffe, 5-11 guard, MSU Skyliners
 Kersaint T. Fils, 6-1 guard, Ottawa Phoenix
 Dujardin Sojo, 6-2 guard, Lock It Up
 Will Donovan, 6-6 forwad, Lock It Up
 Jack Ryan, 6-2 guard, CT Premier Hoops
 Jace Darby, 6-0 wing, CT Premier Hoops
 Aaron Worley, 6-3 post, Lightning-Haber



A TEST OF SKILL & WILL

15:U AGE DIVISION GymRat CHALLENGE REPORT BABC DOMINATES AND TEAM PA SUPERNATURAL RALLIES



ENHANCE YOUR PROFILE

RENSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE, TROY, NY- The Platinum bracket featured arguably the best individual talent in the entire age division in versatile 6-4 guard/forward Judson Martindale, who led national powerhouse BABC to a lopsided victory in which it led by as many as 25 points in the first half and never looked back in a victory over the City Rocks-Black.

The City Rocks' squad had two key players lost during its semifinal-round matchup, and the deeply talented BABC team took full advantage. The winners subbed in waves throughout the championship contest, played full-court pressure defense and wreaked general havoc on the City Rocks' ball handlers.

Numerous turnovers and steals led to a number of fast-break opportunities for the winners.

Martindale was clearly one of the event's standouts at any level of the tournament and finished with a game-high 19 points in the championship contest to be named the division's MVG (Most Valuable GymRat). He opened the contest with a powerful transition dunk that set the tone for the rest of the contest.

BABC had multiple high-level players capable of strong play at both ends of the court and dominated the division from the start. It won pool-round games by an average margin of 47 points.

In the Gold Bracket, down by 12 points at halftime of the championship game, Team PA Supernatural never panicked.

Why should it have? It had the bracket's best player in 5-foot-10 guard Jayson Pilsitz, who turned in a "supernatural" effort after the halftime break that enabled his squad to rally back and overwhelm the MSU Skyliners Red team in the second half.

Pilsitz finished with a game-high 18 points, most of them in the second half as Team PA Supernatural earned a 54-49 victory in the championship contest.

Pilsitz, who got promoted to the varsity level midway through this past season at Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg, PA., accumulated his points with fearless drives to the basket, by making mid-range jumpers ... often with a hand in his face ... and helped close out the victory by making three clutch free throws in the closing minute.

Pilsitz was a humble in his post-game assessment as he was proficient on the court.

"The key for us was that we changed up our defensive pressure in the second half ... I think that was the difference," he said. "It's more of a laid-back pressure, and they (MSU Skyliners Red's players) didn't know what to do with it at first."

The defense helped the winners get right back into the game with an 8-0 run in the opening 90 seconds of the second half.



After that, the opponent didn't know what to do to contain Pilsitz.

15:U GymRat CHALLENGE AGE DIVISION MVG's (Most Valuable GymRats)

Judson Martndale, 6-4 wing, BABC/Worcester Academy: A lengthy, athletic player who showed the versatility to shoot with range, finish at the basket and knock down mid-range shots. Through-the roof potential. Great size. Terrific all-around player. Can do it all. Strong finisher and plays above the rim. Very consistent shooter from 3-point range. Total understanding of the game, super court IQ.

Jayson Pilsitz, 5-10 guard, Team PA Supernatural/Bishop McDevitt H.S.: A strong guard who uses his body well. Finishes with contact. Not extremely quick, but clever and uses changes of speed and direction really well. A very good on-ball defender. Has good hands and reads passing lanes. Sees the floor well on drives and finds open teammates. Just a force in the championship-game victory, taking over in the second half with drives, with mid-range shooting and with clutch last-minute free throws.

15:U AGE DIVISION ALL-GymRat CHALLENGE SELECTIONS

Dante Bouchard, 5-8 guard, Glove City Raiders/Gloversville H.S.: Uses either hand when under pressure. Very smart player, uses change of speed and direction effectively. Takes contact and makes shots. Real range out to 20 feet. Tough as nails, a fearless "gamer." Great leadership skills. Wants the ball with the game on the line.

Mahki Baskin, 6-0 guard, Mass Premier Elite/Mansfield H.S.: Extremely quick feet and hands. Gets off the floor quickly, excellent vertical leap. Strong ball-handler used to breaking pressure. Best in the open court, using quickness as slasher. Decent jumper, but needs to work on range and consistency. Pickpocket on defense. Plays under control Strong enough to finish at the hoop. Plays both guard spots.

Drew Plunkett, 5-9 guard, Mass Premier Elite/Medway H.S.: Stellar point guard who played varsity ball as a freshman. Smart player, always in the right place at the right time. Excellent ball-handler, adept with both hands. Never gets rattled breaking pressure defense. Excellent passer in transition or half court game. Can create own shot, and creates shots for teammates. Good passer to the post. Consistent jumper. Only needs range on his shot.

Jason Comeau, 6-1 forward, Mass Premier Elite/Mansfield H.S.: Physically mature and strong for his age. Not afraid to bang inside for rebounds. Knows how to get position in the post. Uses body to seal off defenders. Runs the floor well. Showed a nice shooting touch around the basket. Range out to 15 feet. Needs only to develop ball-handling skills, and stronger left-hand.

Torin Smith, 5-9 guard, Early Risers Leo/John S. Burke H.S.: Incredible motor, always plays hard. Fearless when driving to the basket and strong enough to finish when he gets there. Excellent ball-handler in transition or



half-court game. Sees the floor well. Nice touch on jump shot has a consistent mid-range jumper. Doesn't force things. Knows when to attack or pull up to run an offense.

Dejour Reeves, 5-8 guard, City Rocks Orange/Corcoran H.S.: An athletic slasher who is always looking to get to the basket. Quick off the floor. Has quick hands and feet. Game is suited for transition. Can handle and break pressure. Not afraid to take on larger bodies for rebounds. Creates own shot. Strong defender, knows how to use quickness on that end. Needs only strength and a consistent jumper.

Niyal Goins, 6-2 forward, Hudson Valley Panthers Elite/Poughkeepsie H.S.: Plays taller because of long arms and wing span. Can knock down mid-range or 3-point jumper. Extremely quick and athletic. Gets off the floor quickly. Doesn't hesitate against pressure defense. Better in transition, always looking to attack the basket. Too willing to settle for his own 3-pointer in half court. Can be used to break pressure. Blocks and alters shots.

Jamik Carter, 6-0 guard, Hudson Valley Panthers Elite/Poughkeepsie H.S.: Aggressive, attack-style guard. Has strength to get to and finish at the basket. Best when in transition. Can create own shot. Quick hands and feet. Strong defender, although tends to reach too often. Can shoot well off the dribble, although his shot needs consistency.

Brian Johansson, 6-1 guard, United NJ-Hughes/Readington Middle School: Played up an age level. Smart player who knows where to find open spot in zones and against pressure defense. Plays taller than height because of long arms. Tough for smaller guards to throw over him. Accurate with mid-range and 3-point jumper. Handles well with either hand. Will drive and attacks the basket. Passes well in transition and half court.

Maximus Edwards, 6-3 wing, CT Premier Hoops/Bunnell H.S.: Always looking to attack the basket. Gets off the floor, numerous dunks in pool play. Can go the length of the floor to score. Strong ball handler, although he relies too much on left hand. Strong, physically mature for his age. Played varsity as a freshman. A menace on defense with size and physical play. Instinctive player, always around the ball on defense. Gets to hoop and finishes. Showed mid-range and 3-point jumper. Much better in transition.

Joe August, 6-3 guard, CT Premier Hoops/Straford H.S.: Pure shooter. Can knock down mid-range and 3-point jumper. Knows where to find holes in zone and against pressure to get shots. Shoots off the dribble. Scores in transition as a slasher or trailer. Solid passer in transition and half court. Excellent on the line. Gets to the hoop and is strong enough to finish. Gets off floor quickly, uses leaping ability, rather than boxing out, to rebound.

Ben Pearce, 5-8 guard, Team Rock/Rye Country Day School: Quick, slasher type. Gets to the basket in a hurry and finishes. Solid mid-range jumper, although 3-pointer needs work. Excellent handle in transition. Can create own shot in half-court game. Quick, strong defender. Game suited for transition. Plays with more energy in transition. Quick hands and feet. Relentless defender in full-court game.

Jacob Shadders, 5-10 guard, MSB Elite/Pitsford H.S.: Excellent ball handler in half court and transition. Can create shot for himself and for teammates. Jumper good in mid-range and from 3-point territory. Can break down



opponent off dribble. Strong passer. Defends needs better fundamentals vs. quicker players. Smart player, seems to be in the right place at the right time. Instinctively finds holes against zone and transition defense.

Kobe Long, 6-1 guard, MSB Elite/McQuaid Jesuit H.S.: Quick hands and feet. Strong defender, plays taller and longer than his height. Can run an offense in transition and in the half court. Accurate mid-range and 3-point shot. Can also slash to the hoop and score. Above-average defender. Excels in open court and excellent passer in transition. Strong ball handler, rarely turns it over or makes a bad decision.

Kittrell Blocker, 6-2 wing, MSB Elite/Aquinas H.S.: Handles ball well in transition. Runs the floor well and hard. Plays taller than his height. Very athletic and quick. Can jump and gets off the floor quickly, skills that make him a strong rebounder. Tough defender in pressure defense ... all arms. Accurate with mid-range and 3-point jumpers.

Carlos Nunez, 5-10 guard, BABC: A tough, scrappy guard. He has excellent speed and quickness. Showed off a great mid-range game. Hustles more than anyone on the court in every game. Has a good feel for what's going on during games. Big-time playmaker. Also showed an ability to make the three-pointer.

Donovan Pacatte, 6-2 forward, Capital City Scrappers/Cobleskill-Richmondville H.S.: A very active player without the ball. Great passer in traffic and transition. Showed an excellent mid-range shot. Great court vision for his frame. Tenacious rebounder, willing to dive on the floor. Great toughness.

Dallion Johnson, 6-2 guard, BABC: Excellent all-around quickness. Really gets off his feet. Excels in the open court and transition situations. Able to find open teammates. Showed the ability to finish above the rim. Very quick on defense. Excellent court vision. Crafty finisher when he gets to the rim.

Michel Ndayishimiye, 5-10 guard, VT Elite/Rice Memorial H.S.: Outstanding ball-handling point guard. Excellent work in transition game. Extremely quick and uses his speed. Very fast without the ball, too. Good pull-up mid-range jumper, but can also shoot and make the deep three-pointer. Very good court vision. Played up a level.

Smith Vilbert, 6-7 center, Harlem USA/St. Joseph Regional H.S.: A strong rebounder on both ends of the court. A big-time shot-blocker. Already great size for the next level. Aggressive, particularly when finishing at the rim. Runs the floor well for a big man. Dominates the paint on both ends. Holy Cross showing early interest, definite D-I potential.

Chayne Trotman, 6-1 guard, Harlem USA/Mt. Pleasant H.S.: Very good length, good size for his position. Can create his own shot. Has a great handle and is excellent in transition game. Good court vision. Has the ability to find the open man in half court or in transition. Strong finisher at the rim, not afraid of contact. good on-ball defender.

Aaron Cooley, 6-4 wing, Boston Bobcats/Newton North H.S.: Good size, length for the division. Excellent on-ball defender. Showed a great mid-range game here. Has a long and quick first step, allowing him to create offense for himself. Excels with his pull-up jump. Disciplined defender who blocks shots.



Kekoa McArdle, 6-7 forward, BABC/St. Joseph Regional H.S.: Exhibited an outstanding mid-range game here. Also excels at using his height to rebound the basketball. Strong finisher around the rim and against contact. Really runs the floor well for a big man. Has good instincts for playing his position. A true defensive leader.

Andre Jackson, 6-6 wing, City Rocks-Black/Albany Academy: A long wing and a freakish athlete who makes the game look easy. Versatile, natural scorer. Shoots with range off the dribble and the pass. Gets to the basket with ease and finishes at the rim. Great defensive instincts and shot-blocking ability. High-level D-I potential if development continues. Member of the 2017 NYS Federation Tournament championship team.

Jermaine Taggert, 6-2 forward, 585 Bobcats/McQuaid Jesuit H.S.: Very high motor and has a nose for the ball. Hustle player with some nice skills, as well. Makes good decisions out of the high post and has a consistent mid-range shot. Keeps the team together, a real "glue" guy. Rebounds and has ability to start the fast break and make the right decisions on the court.

Tahjae Hill, 6-1 guard, City Rocks-Black/Hilton H.S.: Great, strong build. Long arms and a real pure athlete. Gets to the basket and finishes with ease even against contact. Plays the game under control, makes good decisions with the ball. Great at changing speeds. Crafty finisher at the rim. Nice floater. Very good defensive instincts. Varsity player since eighth grade. D-I potential.

Will Amica, 5-10 point guard City Rocks-Black/West Genesee H.S.: A true floor general who was the perfect compliment to some big-time scorers on his team here. He is the one who makes everything go on offense. Ultra athletic, quick first step. Smart player with a great attitude. Capable of scoring when he needs to. Great defender both on the ball and in help side situations.

Jelani Mason, 5-10 point guard, MSU Skyliners Red/Seton Hall Prep: Strong and fast lead guard. He makes his team go. Pushes the ball in transition and finds open teammates or knocks down pull-up mid-range shot. High basketball IQ. Plays with a ton of heart. Isn't afraid to mix it up underneath. Crafty finisher at the basket.

Griffin Rooney, 6-0 guard, MSU Skyliners Red/Seton Hall Prep: The leading scorer here of a high-powered team's offense. A pure knock-down three-point shooter. Has a quick first step and is able to get off mid-range shots as well. Willing to give up the ball, and showed the ability to find open teammates. Plays hard at both ends of the court.

Mike Walsh, 6-2 guard, South Shore Wolfpack/Marshfield H.S.: A versatile player who does it all. A solidly built combo guard with a great feel for the game. Solid ball-handler who makes good decisions with the ball in his hands. Controls the tempo of the game. Good defender and rebounder for his size. Has the ability to get the ball off the glass and start fast breaks.

Zechariah Scott, 6-4 forward, 585 Bobcats/U Prep: A long, lengthy and athletic forward. Extremely active on both ends. High motor and always seems to get a hand on the ball. Great rebounder. Quick off his feet and into



second jump. Soft touch around the basket. Keeps a lot of plays alive. Big-time potential if his body fills out, if he continues to grow and develops a consistent jumper.

Trevor Seitz, 5-9 guard, York Ballers/Eastern York H.S.: A pure natural scorer. Led his strong team in scoring throughout play here. A very tough player who exhibited a high court intelligence. Good defender both on the ball and in help side situations. Uses quickness to his advantage. Great basketball instincts.

Devin Strickland, 6-0 guard, Next Level Elite/South Brunswick H.S.: A slasher who always looks to take the ball to the basket. Can beat opponents off the dribble. Aggressive on both ends. Instinctive defensive player, always in the passing lanes with quick hands and feet. Can run and jump, elevates quickly. Needs a mid-range shot, and too often takes it in against multiple defender. Wide wing span.

Devyn Baltimore, 5-7 point guard, York Ballers/Dallastown H.S.: Heart and soul of a good team here. What he lacks in size is made up for with heart and desire. Always going full speed. True court general with outstanding vision. Crafty with the ball. Delivers timely passes to open teammates. Gritty defender who uses quick hands to his advantage.

Marquis Dukes, 5-9 guard, Middletown's Finest/Iona Prep: A tough lead guard. Just an absolute bulldog on the defensive end. Picks up opponents with highly effective full-court pressure defense. Has a good handle and passes the ball well, particularly in the transition game. Makes good decisions all over the court.

Daequan Clark, 5-9 guard, Middletown's Finest/Middletown H.S.: Lightning quick guard who works extremely hard on the defensive end. Pressures the ball all over and gets hands in passing lanes for deflections and steals. A slasher who gets to the basket and is a crafty finisher. Plays much stronger than his slender frame. Shows great toughness.

Dylan Diaz, 5-7 guard, Lightning Haber/North Babylon H.S.: A super quick, score-first guard. Shows plenty of heart and toughness getting to and finishing at the basket. Also showed solid ball-handling ability. All-out hustler. Showed a very quick first step to get past defenders. Finishes at the rim with either hand.

Jake Kelly, 6-4 forward, Team PA Supernatural/Bishop McDevitt H.S.: An athletic forward who runs the floor well. Shows a high understanding of the game. Good open shooter who uses jump-shot threat to set up drives. Goes strong to the basket and finishes with either hand. Also a good defender.

Nick Eiler, 6-3 wing, Hudson Valley Panthers-Black/Saddle River Day School: A very smooth and smart player. Great shooter with range beyond the arc. Good defensive rebounder who gets the ball and goes coast to coast. Finishes well against contact. Considering his size, could be a D-I prospect with improved ball-handling skills.

Samaad Dock, 6-1 forward, Hudson Valley Panthers-Black/Poughkeepsie H.S.: Long wingspan, which allows him to play bigger than his height. A slasher who gets to the basket with ease and draws contact. Gets more than his share of free throws and converts. Good FT shooter. Runs the floor well. Can make the open 3-pointer.



Nick Rappa, 6-4 post, L&L Running Rebels PA/Parkland H.S.: Good length and uses long arms to keep rebounds alive. Quick off his feet. Good shot-blocker and stays straight up when contesting. Good offensive rebound, secures and keeps the ball high. Needs to get stronger. Good shooting touch from 15 feet and closer.

Will Harper, 6-3 post, L&L Running Rebels PA/Liberty H.S.: Athletic player who runs the floor well. Has great inside footwork. Uses drop steps and spin moves to great advantage. Good rebound. Outstanding passer for a post player, kicking it out to open teammates. Can drive effectively from the short corner.

Jayden Walsh, 6-1 guard, L&L Running Rebels PA/Central Catholic H.S.: A strong defender who turns dribblers and gives ballhandlers fits. Athletic and strong player. Can finish in traffic. Draws fouls and is a good FT shooter. Needs improvement in ball-handling and shot release, but has quickness and range.

Matt Aviles, 6-1 guard, NY Extreme/Putnam Valley H.S.: A very good shooter with range out to the arc. A fearless player who gets to the hoop with ease and finishes well against contact. Draws his share of fouls and converts and is a good foul shooter. Very good in transition, runs the floor hard and well.

Anderson Jones, 5-9 point guard, Glove City Raiders/Gloversville H.S.: A very tough defender who turns the other team's point guard and stays in front of him. Strong, but not overly quick. Uses his strength to get into the lane with drives to the basket and mostly looks to pass. But, he also showed an ability to finish in the paint. Sees the floor well when bringing it up court.

Joe Rowback, 6-3 forward, Glove City Raiders/Gloversville H.S.: A stretch four type with a great shooting stroke and long-range accuracy. Really good on pick-and-pop situations. A left-hander who gets a great first step and motors hard to the basket. Solid defender and above-average rebounder.

Sean St. Lucia, 5-11 guard, City Rocks-DiBacco/Niskayuna H.S.: A strong guard who gets to the rim and finishes with either hand. Takes contact and can still score. Uses shot fakes well to set up moves to the hoop. Smart player who understands angles. Very good defender. Exhibited good range on his jumper.

Orlando DiBacco, 5-7 point guard, City Rocks-DiBacco/Bethlehem H.S.: A quick guard who really pushes the ball up court and sees the floor. Very good defender who disrupts opposing point guards. Good on the drive-and-dish play. Plays hard on every possession. Shoots out to 15-feet, needs to improve range. Quick hands on defense, reads passing lanes well.

Massiah Mallory, 6-4 forward, City Rocks-DiBacco/Rensselaer H.S.: Showed good hands when receiving passes into the post and has good footwork on the block. Exhibited an effective jump hook that he makes with either hand. Runs the floor well for his size. Decent-enough defender. A good rebounder who is strong when he gets the ball.



Jack Kruse, 6-1 guard, NY Extreme Hoops/Lakeland H.S.: Very strong and uses his strength to get to the hoop and finish with either hand. Good rebounder for his size and converts put-backs. Follows his shots. Good defender. Decent range, solid out to 18-foot range. Has the ability to drive and dish when going to the hoop.

15:U AGE DIVISION ALL-GymRat HONORABLE MENTION

Kye Lewis, 5-6 guard, MSU Skyliners Phenoms
Ryan Hogan 6-4 forward, Next Level Elite
Chris Cain, 6-4, forward, Early Risers, Leo
Dylan Bayliss, 6-2, wing, Early Riders Leo
Twyquan Jenkins, 6-2, guard, City Rocks Orange
Tim Barrett, 6-1, forward, Spa Saints
Andrew Lauan, 5-10, guard, United NJ (Hughes)
Shymar Robinson, 6-2, guard, CT Elite-JP
CJ Coppola, 6-0, wing, CT Elite-JP
Devontray Thompson, 6-2, guard, HV Panthers-Elite
Joey Gulbin, 5-9, guard, CT Premier Hoops (PHD)
Paul Fabbri, 5-9, guard, CT Premier Hoops (PHD)
Dionte Easy, 5-10, guard, CT Premier Hoops (PHD)
Chris White, 5-7, guard, Team Rock
Colby Adrien, 5-10, wing, Team Rock
Jeff Strieble, 6-1 forward, NB Rampage
Mike VanDemark, 5-7 guard, NY Extreme Hoops
Jaden Shelby, 6-3 forward, Hudson Valley Panthers-Black
Bryce Bleibfrey, 5-9 guard, City Rocks-DiBacco
Osvaldo DeJesus, 6-0 forward, Glove City Raiders
Eric Ludwig, 6-2 guard, L&L Running Rebels
Ty Coleman, 6-2 forward, Running Rebels White
Jackson Atty, 5-11 guard, Glove City Raiders
James Chestnut, 5-11 forward, City Rocks-DiBacco
Luke Vanslyke, 6-6 center, Glove City Raiders
Miles Monchecourt, 6-4 forward, City Rocks Black
Brendan Cassidy, 5-11 gurd, Reign
Noriel Brown, 5-9 guard, Middletown's Finest
Trey O'Connor, 5-11 guard, South Shore Wolf Pack
Kobe Green, 6-1 forward, York Ballers
Cashiss Day, 6-4 forward, York Ballers
Jacob Daly, 6-2 wing, Reign
Brendan Cassidy, 5-11 guard, Reign
Justin Lacks, 6-0 forward, MSU Skyliners Red
Ryan Szatkowski, 6-2 wing, MSU Skyliners Red



ENHANCE YOUR PROFILE

Evan Mallios, 6-2 forward, South Shore Wolfpack
Tyje Kelton, 6-2 forward, MSU Skyliners Red
Tony Arnold Jr., 5-10 guard, 585 Bobcats
Deandre Newsome, 5-2 guard, 585 Bobcats
Logan Patnode, 6-1 forward, NH Gym Rats
Michael Lau, 6-1 guard, Runnin' Rebels Red
Ryan Aiello, 5-11 guard, Chris Ward Basketball
Dior Johnson, 5-10 guard, City Rocks Black
Leo Chaikan, 6-1 guard, VT Elite
Jackson Sevakian, 5-7 guard, VT Elite
Ricardo Alleyne, 6-1 guard, Flatbush Youth Association
Bobby Sommers, 6-3 wing, Boston Bobcats
Will Dorion, 6-0 guard, Boston Bobcats
Jerome Baker, 5-4 guard, Miami Blue Rays
Vladimir Jeanty, 5-9 guard, Miami Blue Rays
Jayavan Leonard, 5-6 guard, South Shore Wolf Pack
Elijah Gantt, 6-1 guard, South Shore Wolf Pack
Quest Harris, 5-11 guard, BABC
Shemar Dennis, 6-3 wing, BABC
Matt Cross, 6-7 forward, BABC
Jamall Griffin, 5-8 guard, BABC





A TEST OF SKILL & WILL

14:U AGE DIVISION GymRat CHALLENGE REPORT

BOSTON BOBCATS DOMINATE ON WAY TO TITLE DESPITE ARTIFICIAL OBSTACLES

CLIFTON PARK, NY-One of the most-dominating start-to-finish team efforts the GymRat CHALLENGE has ever seen at any level resulted in the Boston Bobcats cruising to a 14U Age Division Championship. The Bobcats accomplished their impressive feat despite having to overcome a pre-meditated, and systematic cheating attempt with use of illegal players by Revolution Elite (a.k.a., NY Revolution), and their now disgraced Head Coach, Giuseppe McQueen. As a result, their deplorable acts, both Revolution Elite (a.k.a NY Revolution) and Giuseppe McQueen have been permanently banned from all future GymRat events. They will receive no further recognition or mention in this report that is designed to highlight outstanding performances by young players. Because the GymRat CHALLENGE firmly believes that bad acts such as these should be exposes as loudly as possible in order to deter and prevent reoccurrence, you can read more about the unraveling of this cheating scam in the Report Addendum that can be found by clicking here. This precautionary tale should be specifically noted by all event operators, as grassroots basketball must police itself in order to maintain the ethic preservation of our game. Cheating in any form will not be tolerated at the GymRat CHALLENGE and will be addressed at the highest possible levels.

The Bobcats won their three pool-play games by an incredible average margin of 55 points and pulled away early in the championship contest that resulted in a 68-53 victory in the championship contest.

It could also be said that the Bobcats came up "big" throughout the event with an abundance of quality big men making big contributions throughout.

No one was bigger, or came up bigger when it counted, than the Bobcats' 6-foot-6 post player Camaron Tongue, a consistent post scorer and an excellent rim protector who helped keep opponents' offense in check throughout. For his work throughout the tournament, Tongue was the age division's MVG (Most Valuable GymRat).



ENHANCE YOUR PROFILE

Additional Bobcat "big" 6-foot-4 Shyheim Odom and 6-foot-4 Casey Simmons also helped out inside down the stretch to ensure that the advantage never crept below double digits in securing the victory and winding up a dominant weekend of big-time basketball by the Boston Bobcats.

14:U AGE DIVISION GymRat CHALLENGE MVGs (Most Valuable GymRats)

Cameron Tongue, 6-6 center, Boston Bobcats/Rivers School: A big, physical post player with the ability to play above the rim. Attacks the offensive and defensive glass with aggression. Good hands and has a soft touch around the rim. Uses his body well to seal off smaller defenders. Monstrous presence on both the offensive and defensive end of the court. Can finish with both hands around the rim. Spearheaded a dominant team here.

14:U AGE DIVISION ALL-GymRat CHALLENGE SELECTIONS

Evan Thompson, 6-4 forward, ASA Hoops/Day Middle School: Extremely hard-working, athletic wing that runs the court well. Relentless on the offensive glass and willing to work for second-chance opportunities for himself and for teammates. Gets early position on offense and buries defenders under the rim. Superior athleticism to majority of players on the court.

Louis Cardillo, 6-1 shooting guard, NY Extreme/Mahopac H.S.: Very quick first step that allows him to get to the paint seemingly at will. Finishes tough floaters around the rim. Showed a smooth stroke from three-point range, making him very tough to defend. Extremely active defenders. Creates turnovers and finishes in the open court.

Max Poulton, 6-2 shooting guard, Boston Bobcats/Wellesley H.S.: A pure shooter with a quick release. Can get his shot off from anywhere. Active on defense with a very high court IQ on both ends. Can shoot off the dribble on the move and spot. Finishes well enough around the rim and active on the boards, gets his share of tip-ins.

Shyheim Odom, 6-4 guard, Boston Bobcats/Beaver Country Day School: A strong, tough guard that can get in the paint and create for teammates. Good first step with enough body control to finish through contact in the paint. Showed glimpses of shooting from deep that will improve with age. Looks to push the tempo and find teammates in the open court. Floor general with plenty of composure.

Casey Simmons, 6-4 guard, Boston Bobcats/Milton Academy: A lanky guard that creates a lot of turnovers as an aggressive defender. Has quick hands and good lateral movement. Very tough to stop in the open court. Pass-first guard, looking to make post entries off the dribble. Athleticism allows him to finish above the rim.

Javon Johnson 6-0 forward, Hillside Rebels/Ann Mullen H.S.: An active player that moves well with and without the ball. Likes the give-and-go, as well as hesitation move with a strong finish. Can, and will, play outside and inside at any position. Very versatile player. Capable of using his size to post up, yet can also step out and make the three-pointer.



Shawn Tyree, 5-9 forward, Hillside Rebels/Uptown School Complex: Uses very good body control and slides to the hoop. An athletic player that is relentless on the board and gets more than his share of rebounds. Likes the jump-stop move to split defenders. Showed a nice jab-step-and-go move to attack tight defenders.

Taeshawn Sanchez, 5-6 guard, CT Premier Hoops/Derby Middle School: An active player with a nice handle to get past defenders. Will drive and kick as well as finish strongly. Reads the defense well, and will pull up for a shot when stopped. Showed a good ability to make three-pointers after ball reversal.

Sincere Sullivan, 6-0 forward, CT Premier Hoops/Bridge Academy: A strongly-built player who clearly also possesses a strong will on the court. Aggressive and persistent on the boards. Effective use of the shot fake to open up driving opportunities. Finishes strong on all takes, and also finishes others' missed shots with elevation and tip-in ability.

Justin Ildefonso Jr., 6-3 center, Soldiers/Shenendehowa H.S.: Uses the pass fake to set up an effective drive. Strong and fluid player that attacks the hoop strongly. Has a nice jump-hook move as well as being able to play with his back to the basket. Draws the defense one way, then spins the other way to score. Good court IQ.

Marko Gibbons, 6-1 forward, Soldiers/Bethlehem H.S.: A long, lanky player that will drive as well as step out and hit a long-range shot out to beyond the three-point stripe. Hits the boards aggressively and effectively. Finishes well against contact and consistently gets the "and ones." Uses his length to block and alter shots.

Moshe Wilson, 5-10 forward, Bulls Basketball Club/Hackensack Middle School: Goes to the boards hard on both ends of the court. Likes to penetrate and shows good body control with a double-pump move when he gets into the paint. Keeps the defense honest with an ability to step out and hit the three-pointer.

Desontee Bowen, 5-10 guard, BABC/O'Brien School: A very aggressive player on the offensive end. Likes to take it strong to the hoop but keeps defenders honest with an ability to step out beyond the three-point stripe. Has the ability to draw a defender one way and, then, turning the corner to get to the rack. All-out hustler.

Kurtis Henderson, 5-8 guard, BABC/Catholic Memorial: Plays hard and well at both ends of the court. Has deceptive quickness with his hands to step in passing lanes and steal passes. A true point guard who sees the floor well and doesn't hesitate to set up the alley-oop play to his center. Drives and finishes softly with a nice finger roll.

JoJo Powers, 5-11 guard, NE Blizz/Dedham Middle School: A taller guard for this age division. Uses both hands well. Good range and also comfortable getting to the rim on drives. Stays with a good tempo. Doesn't force the issue, very under control. Pitches the ball ahead instead of dribbling for no reason. Gets a lot of deflections.

Cooper Davis, 6-4 center, Maine Renegades/Mountain Valley Middle School: A big left-handed post player that is agile for his size. Moves into open gaps well against zones. Nice ability to tip the ball to himself on the offensive glass. Has an ability to step out and make shots to the 18-foot range.



Todd Williamson, 6-0 wing, Schenectady Basketball/Notre Dame-Bishop Gibbons: A point-forward who drives aggressively. Has good size and makes good decisions while handling the ball the length of the floor. Rebounds very well, Quick second jump. Gets teammates involved. Reads the play instead of pre-determining moves and path to the rack. Gets to the rim and can finish with either hand.

Louis Ethan Robinson 5-6 combo guard, Middletown's Finest/Iona Prep: Has deep range on his shot. Plays well with nice tempo. Doesn't force shots. Drives the baseline well and can finish, particularly at the front of the rim. Has a runner to get shot off against taller defenders. Uses retract dribble to set up penetration.

Matthew Delaney, 6-4 forward/center, City Rocks/Clearview Regional Middle School: Great body for his age. Strong and athletic front-court player. Moves his feet well on defense and gets blocks and deflections even out of his area. Good passer. Gets steals or rebounds and pitches ahead. Finishes well, doesn't overcomplicate play.

Dior Johnson, 6-0 guard, City Rocks/Saugerties: Played up a level. Scores the ball inside using upper body strength. Uses athleticism to his advantage on front of press. Very aggressive and confident player. Good handle, although can over-dribble. Can see over the top of zones and makes tough passes to big me. Put up big stats here.

Robert Brown III, 6-3 forward, City Rocks/Albany Academy: Does a little of everything, extremely versatile. Good shot mechanics and has range out to three-point territory. Finishes well with either hand at the rim. Good rebounder and gets rebounds outside of his area. Good multi-positional player.

Marcus Gentile, 5-7 forward, Crossover Movement/Bethlehem Middle School: Great footwork inside the paint and strong moves to the hoop. Consistently reliable FT shooter under pressure. Boxes out well, using his body and size under the hoop. Protects the ball when securing a rebound. Passes and anticipates openings in defense. Very coachable player and a strong defensive leader.

Mohamed Awaye, 5-7 point guard, Vermont Elite/Lyman C. Hunt Middle School: A real leader on the floor, more of a conductor. Quick hands and feet. Excels on defense with his quickness. Coachable player. Seems to be everywhere on the floor, extreme hustler. Can shoot with either hand. A true team payer with a bright future.

Amari Tice, 5-9 forward, Hudson Valley Panthers Elite/Meadow Hill School: Very athletic physically, protects the ball when moving strongly to the basket. Has an eye for seeing the open lane and taking advantage of it. Plays larger than his frame due to exceptional leaping ability. Positive attitude and fundamentally strong at both ends. Quiet player who lets his play do his talking.

Mekhi Bassett, 6-0 forward, South Jersey Jazz/Hammonton Middle School: Played up a level. Can block shots and make steals on defense with ability to anticipate plays. Listens to coaching. Very aggressive defensively. Can finish what he starts with strong moves to the hoop. Selfless player with a nice touch on long-range shots. A forward, but dribbles like a guard and commands respect of his teammates.



Kimbo Mafuta, 5-9 forward, Vermont Elite/Hunt Middle School: Played up a level. Hustles at all times, and always the most unselfish player on the floor. Passes and shoots well, but the best aspect of his game is on the defensive end. Great defensive rebounder who gets the ball to the wing quickly. Sacrifices his body with hard screens, allowing teammates to shine. Strong, fast with solid fundamentals.

Ryan Libolt, 5-1 guard, Dare 2B Great/Spaekenkill Middle School: Played up a level. Had multiple steals in open court due to hustle and quick hands. Commands the offense and plays much bigger than his size. Runs the team, real energy player. Can hit long-range shots and also converts free throws in pressure situation. Catalyst on every play. Outstanding passer who gives it up to open teammates.

Unique Hicks, 5-9 guard, Hudson Valley Panthers/Temple Hill Middle School: Top defensive player. His defense creates offense for his team. Many steals that he converts either for himself or with a great dish to a teammate. Can also hit the three-pointer and dribble with either hand. Fundamentals make him stand out. Strong, smooth and out hustles everyone else on the floor.

14:U AGE DIVISION ALL-GymRat CHALLENGE HONORABLE MENTION

R.J. DeSantis, 5-10 guard, Early Risers
Matt Shea, 5-10 guard, Early Risers
Donte-White Barboza, 5-10 forward, ASA Hoops
Micheal Rivero, 5-9 guard, Schenectady Basketball
Jadeion Buckley, 5-8 guard, Middletown's Finest
Delano Knox, 6-0 guard, NY Extreme
Ben Kaczmarek, 6-3 forward, Boston Bobcats
Grayson Kilmartin, 5-10 forward, CT Gym Rats
Mark Garavel, 5-6 point guard, CT Gym Rats
Daniel Bello, 5-9 guard, Stanford Peace
Wyatt Hathaway, 5-8 guard, Maine Renegades
Billy Lea, 6-2 forward, City Rocks-Black
Jeremiah Davis, 6-1 forward, Schenectady Basketball
Todd Williamson, 6-0 forward, Schenectady Basketball
Jadeion Buckley, 5-8 forward, Middletown's Finest
Revelation Garriga, 5-7 guard, Middletown's Finest
London Spiak, 5-7 guard, Soldiers
Andrew Martin, 5-7 guard, Soldiers
Toree Mahan, 6-0 forward, Hillside REbels
Isaiah Turner, 6-2 forward, Hillside Rebels
Aren Cummings, 6-2 center, CT Premier Hoops
Alexander Viandis, 5-6 guard, CT Premier Hoops
Tyrese Hammonds, 5-5 guard, CT Premier Hoops
Zach Baeler, 6-0 forward, Early Risers-Begley
Ashon Wright, 5-9 forward, Bulls Basketball Club



ENHANCE YOUR PROFILE

Chris Dark, 5-5 guard, Bulls Basketball Club
 Ralph Marinas, 5-8 guard, Bulls Basketball Club
 Michael Kepner, 5-5 guard, Runnin' Rebels Red
 Matthew Gulbin, 6-4 center, Runnin' Rebels Red
 Andrew Banaby, 6-0 forward, BABC
 Ethan Argusto, 6-2 forward, BABC
 Jahaan Henry, 5-3 guard, CT-Elite
 Joshua Zangerle, 5-11 forward, Dare 2B Great
 Preston Graber, 5-7 guard, Capital City Lightning
 John Harris, 5-7 guard, Runnin' Rebels-Lanham
 Floyd Whitaker, 6-0 forward, South Jersey Jazz
 Nicklaus Iuliano, 5-1 guard, Crossover Movement
 Colby Dodson, 5-10 forward, Crossover Movement
 Willem Feeney, 5-4 guard, Crossover Movement
 Kelvin Diaz, 5-8 forwr, Hudson Valley Panthers



A TEST OF SKILL & WILL

13:U AGE DIVISION GymRat CHALLENGE REPORT TEAMWORK KEYS CITY HOOP DREAMS TO CHAMPIONSHIP

SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY-The City Hoop Dream program's first tournament championship in any event in more than two years was a by-product of great all-around play and teamwork.

The squad from the Westfall, MA area, got production from a variety of players and ran set plays with the precision of a well-oiled machine to upend a talented City Rocks-Black opponent, 72-69, in overtime in the 13-under age division's championship contest.

The winners needed big plays down the stretch in regulation with baskets by forwards Noah Colon and Patrick DiLillo to send the contest into the extra session.



ENHANCE YOUR PROFILE

In the two-minute overtime, City Hoop Dreams gave up just one basket, while it scored five points in the extra period of play.

"We just play well as a team," said coach Jaryd Piecuch. "We move the ball very well. We really hustle. We've got a lot of hard-working players."

Success here is no stranger to the program, which finished as the 12-under age division's runner-up a year ago.

This year, though the team had even better results with a combination of outstanding shooting, strong rebounding, hustle and intelligently run offense.

The team's best shooter was 5-foot-5 wing Richie Shahtanian, who connected on three long-range three-pointers in the game's first few minutes to give City Hoop Dream a sizeable early lead. He finished with 11 points in the contest and was a consistent double-digit scorer throughout the event to earn the age division's MVG (Most Valuable GymRat).

"Our guys were just out to win," said Shahtanian. "I got open shots and that's because everyone moved the ball well to get some of my open looks."

13:U AGE DIVISION GymRat CHALLENGE MVG (Most Valuable GymRat)

Richie Shahtanian, 5-5 wing, City Hoop Dreams/Andover School: A pure shooter who is just deadly from long range. Made three consecutive three-pointers early in the championship-game victory. Works hard on both sides of the court. When his feet are set, you want the ball in his hands. Has a quick release. Finds the gaps in defenses. Ready to shoot when he catches the ball. Great footwork.

13:U AGE DIVISION ALL-GymRat CHALLENGE SELECTIONS

Patrick Di Lillo, 5-10 forward/center, City Hoop Dreams/Peabody School: Has a tremendous all-around game. Active on defense, even against bigger players. Extremely high motor. Attacks the glass and finishes. Solid rebounder. Hustler on both ends of the floor. Scores from high post, put-backs and has a nice drop step to the hoop.

Alvin Harrison, 6-2 center, Mass Team Premier/Wamsutta Middle School: A big body post player who uses size well. Works for position inside on offense. Rebounds well on both ends. Looks upcourt in transition and passes well. More than his share of put-backs on offense. Can get out and run. Good composure and post moves in the paint. Hustles for loose balls. Solid double-double performer.

Joey Steeves, 5-4 guard, Mass Team Premier/Dr. Phillip O. Coakley Middle School: A playmaker who creates space. Reads the defense well and finds open teammates. A lefty, three-point threat. Excellent passer in transition. Creates own shot. Smart defensively. Hustles on both ends. Attacks with outside shots, pull-up jumper and drives. Has deep range.



Zaveon Little, 5-10 guard, City Rocks-Black/Troy Middle School: A big-time scorer. An athletic guard who creates his own shot, but also draws defenders and finds open teammates. Quick step off the dribble and gets to the glass. Creates space with pull-up jumper and 3-point shot. Active defender. Quick hands and feet. Smooth driver. Solid stop-and-pop and catch-and-pop shooter.

Victor Pharr, 5-9 wing, City Rocks-Black/Troy Middle School: Hustles on both ends. Makes things happen. Active feet/hands on defense. Excels in pressing game. Quick ups. Aggressive rebounder on both ends. Quick, athletic and gets good shots. Good handle in traffic. Steady from 3-point range when his feet are set. Excellent weak-side help defender. Outstanding in transition.

Dwayne Plunkett, 6-1 center, City Rocks-Black/Troy Middle School: Rebounds with authority. Gets inside position. Solid on offensive put-backs. Can alter shots with his size. Reads the ball well off the rim. Scores on tip-ins. Good hands on the block. Will get better when he learns to use his size back to the basket and post moves. Solid double-double threat.

Andrew Kent, 5-11 forward, Hoop Roots/Cazenovia Middle School: A steady, hard-working player on both ends. Can handle north-to-south. Consistent finisher and offensive rebounder. A nice lefty pull-up jump shot. Moves his feet on post defense. Has a turnaround jumper on the low blocks, but also can make a trey. Has a power post move to the hoop. Moves well without the ball, active defender/shot-blocker.

Christian Jahnel, 5-11 center/forwr, Capital City Lightning/Guilderland Minddle School: Excellent variety of back-to-the-basket post moves from either block. Has a turnaround jumper, up-and-under move, a power slide and a drop step. Works on both ends. A shot-blocker. Can catch and shoot from mid post. Good high-post passer. Reads double-team and finds open teammates. Gets position on boards and works.

Camron Adams, 5-11 forward, Early Risers-Rabess/Monroe-Woodbury Middle School: An unselfish player who is a factor on both ends. Good hands. Effective on the offensive board. Has quick ups. Can handle full court. Rebounds and finishes on the offensive end. Gets steals and converts them to baskets, or finds open teammates. Quick hands on defense. Nice turnaround jumper on the blocks. A real hustler.

Mikel McDonald, 5-4 point guard, Early Risers-Rabess/South Middle School: An aggressive point guard who has an outstanding handle. Distributes well, yet knows when to take his shot. A three-point shooter with a quick first step who can get to the glass. Excellent passer in transition. Hustles and pressures the ball on defense. Good triple-threat attacker.

Tejesh Chunduru, 5-11 forward, Central PA Elite/Central York School: A steady player who does all the little things, as well as scoring. Moves well without the ball on offense. Attacks the hoop. Solid power pivot baseline drive and has an excellent post game. Good passer. Draws and distributes. Plays hard at all times. Sticks with the board on both ends. Runs the floor well in transition.

Yathin Vemula, 5-7 guard, Next Level Elite/Crossroads Middle School: Good shooter from three-point range. Finishes well vs. contact. Sees the floor well in transition. Good defender and very active on the ball. Aggressive



on the boards. A real worker who brings energy to both ends. Deceivably quick first step. Attacks the glass. Great inside-out handle. Moves well off the ball, finds the gap and catches and scores. Feet always moving on both ends.

Zaire Baines, 5-11 guard, Heat Elite/PS 138 Sunrise School: Lefty guard with an excellent triple-threat attack. Effective off the dribble, from long range or with a pass. Very unselfish. Strong and athletic. Draws defenders and finds open teammates. Works on the boards. Active on defense. A team leader. Sees the floor. Strong post finisher on the baseline. Great fakes. Thinks time and score. Bright future.

Shyniem Davis, 5-7 guard, Next Level Elite/Crossroads Middle School: A real floor general on both ends of the court. Distributes the ball well off the dribble. Gets after the ball on defense. Uses his athleticism to his advantage. Makes the hustle plays. Under control when running the offense. Showed an ability to shoot well from behind the three-point stripe. Under control, humble player.

Christian Mangrum, 5-7 guard, Next Level Elite/South Brunswick Middle School: Sees teammates in transition and delivers the ball. Shoots the mid-range jumper well. Finishes with contact with either hand. Crashes the boards hard. Shoots the ball well and with confidence to beyond the three-point line.

Nate Wylie Jr., 5-11 guard, Schenectady Basketball/Central Park School: Very good transition player who can dribble the ball with either hand. Has a great change-of-direction move off the dribble. An improved outside shot will make him a real threat on offense. Causes problems on the defensive end with his effective and aggressive play.

Arion Jack, 5-9 forward, Rock Elite/Chestnut Ridge Junior H.S.: A very solid player, particularly in the paint. Has very good footwork on defense. Good, solid body that he uses for position under the basket. Very effective rebounder on both ends. Will be even more effective when he develops range on his jumper, but overall a solid player on both ends of the floor already.

Kayvaun Mulready, 5-5 wing, Worcester Team United/Nativity School: A very aggressive player on both ends. He can affect the game with his ability from long-range. Showed an ability here to go coast to coast off a rebound. Seems to be under control at all times. He has a very strong body that he uses effectively under the basket. Looks to have a bright future.

13:U AGE DIVISION ALL-GymRat CHALLENGE HONORABLE MENTION

Thomas McCluskey, 6-2 center, CT Gym Rats
Theo Bosecker, 5-10 forward, Rock Elite
Nino Robinson, 5-9 forward, Schenectady Basketball
Vincent Ret, 5-0 guard, Rock Elite
Bush Etienne, 5-6 forward, Rock Elite
Malik Johnson, 5-1 guard, Runnin' Rebels
Mike Atta, 6-1 center, Rise As One
Nate Pluiose, 5-5 guard, Rise As One
Nomar Tejada, 5-6 guard, City Hoop Dreams



ENHANCE YOUR PROFILE

Jared Vacher, 5-8 forward, Mass Premier
Jeriah Arne, 5-4 guard, Team Rock
Marc Toupuissant, 5-0 guard, Team Rock
Naz Emery, 5-4 guard, Hoop Roots
Nick Furlong, 5-9 guard, City Rocks-Black
Kenneth Allison, 5-7 guard, City Rocks-Black
Zahki Fallen, 5-0 guard, City Rocks-Black
Adrian Brown, 5-10 forward, Flatbush Youth Association
Dorian Delmas, 5-2 guard, Flatbush Youth Association
Ben Fiori, 5-7 guard, Capital City Lightning
Liam Teague, 5-5 guard, Capital City Lightning
Chris Smith, 5-7 guard, Early Risers-Rabess
Mekhi McDonald, 5-3 guard, Early Risers-Rabess
Richard Delahaye, 5-5 guard, Early Risers-Rabess
Nick Rizzutto, 5-10 forward, Central PA Elite
Micah Meyers, 6-0 forward, Central PA Elite
Ryan Gentilucci, 5-7 forward, Worcester Team United
Damien Downes, 5-10 forward, Next Level Elite
C.J. Mangrum, 5-7 guard, Next Level Elite
Tommy Crossen, 5-9 wing, Runnin' Rebels
Kyle Dowden, 5-9 guard, Heat Elite
Jordan Evelyn, 6-0 forward, Heat Elite
Noah Colon, 5-8 forward, City Hoop Dreams
Victor Torres, 5-3 point guard, City Hoop Dreams
Nomar Tejada, 5-6 guard, City Hoop Dreams
Michael Atta, 6-2 center, Rise As One
Alvin Harrison, 6-2 center, Mass Premier
Andrew Kent, 5-11 forward, Hoop Roots
Zaveon Little, 5-10 guard, City Rocks-Black
Victor Pharr, 5-9 wing, City Rocks-Black
Camron Adams, 5-11 forward, Early Risers-Rabess





A TEST OF SKILL & WILL

12:U GymRat CHALLENGE AGE DIVISION REPORT

CT PREMIER HOLDS ON FOR TITLE

SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY-Championship teams often have to survive close games. CT Premier Hoops had to win two nail-biters to earn the program's first GymRat CHALLENGE championship.

The squad won by two points in the semifinal round and, then, by an even slimmer margin when it earned a hard-fought one-point victory, 44-43, over Harlem USA in the championship contest.

The winners survived a mid-championship game injury to standout guard Charlie Honig with some strong team play from other contributors.

Not the least of which came from guard Gavin Murphy, a 5-4 backcourt player with long-range shooting capabilities. But, it was a nifty pass from Murphy to teammate Nazir John that produced a basket with about 30 seconds left that accounted for what proved to be the game's deciding points.

Harlem USA had two possessions after that, but misfired on both as CT Premier Hoops captured the title by the smallest of margins.

"We just played well as a team," said coach Drew Carothers. "We just move the ball around and get open shots."

Murphy was the beneficiary of many of those open looks and delivered early and often.

"I'm confident with my shot," said Murphy. "I think I can shoot from just about any place."

"He definitely can really shoot it," added Carothers, about Murphy. "But we've got a nice group of kids on the team. We've got some good ball-handlers, and that helps in end-of-game situations."



CT. Premier had its share of tight end-of-game scenarios here over the weekend tournament, and seemed to come up big every time ... at least often enough to earn a prestigious GymRat CHALLENGE age-division championship

12:U AGE DIVISION GymRat CHALLENGE MVG (Most Valuable GymRat)

Gavin Murphy, 5-4 guard, DT Premier Hoops (PHD)/Bedford Middle School: A pure shooting touch already, and he used it often and effectively here, both on mid-range shots and attempts beyond the three-point stripe. A double-digit scoring threat every time he's on the floor. Also, an effective ball-handler who isn't afraid to give it up to open teammates. Plays hard on both ends of the floor.

12:U AGE DIVISION ALL-GymRat CHALLENGE SELECTIONS

Royal Brown, 5-8 forward/center, City Rocks-Black/Cohoes Middle School: A big man at this level who has an above average wing span. Very aggressive player on both ends of the court. Also showed the ability to put the ball on the floor to attack the rim on offense. A real hustler who goes after every rebound opportunity.

Charlie Honig, 5-3 point guard, CT Premier Hoops (PHD)/Bedford Middle School: A hard-nosed point guard with real spunk. A left-hander who handles and distributes in true point-guard fashion. Also showed the ability to consistently make shots from the outside. Quick feet and hands, resulting in any steals. Very high hoops IQ.

Nazier Carter, 5-4 point guard, City Rocks-Black/North Albany Academy: A very quick point guard with outstanding court vision. He is also a strong ball-handler. Uses dribble penetration to attack the lane hard. No fear when taking it inside against bigger opponents. Also showed a nice long-range shot here.

Daniel Covington, 5-5 combo guard, City Rocks-Black/Brighter Choice School: A very poised player for this age bracket. Exhibited a high basketball IQ. Outstanding finisher when he gets to the rim, but also showed a consistent shot from the outside. Smooth player who has great body control on layup attempts.

Marquis Hamby, 5-7 wing, City Rocks-Black/Troy Middle School: Great size for his age. He is just a stone-cold finisher around the rim and is fearless when he gets the ball in the lane. Also showed a nice touch on long-range shots. Very good length and uses it well. Good ability to dribble with either hand.

Sam Griffin, 5-5 wing, ASA Hoops/North End School: A hustler all over the court at all times. Good body control. Runs the floor hard and well. Can start and finish a fast break. Long arms, resulting in more than his share of blocked shots. Very unselfish player, looks for open teammates and delivers good passes.

Braeden Shrewsbury 5-4 guard, ASA Hoops/Wellesley School: Already possesses a good, solid build for his age. Uses it well, not afraid to attack the rim on offense. Also showed a good long-range shooting ability here. Very unselfish player, gives it up to open teammates. More than willing to fight for rebounds.



Nazir John, 6-0 forward/center, CT Premier Hoops (PHD)/Graham Middle School: A true "big man" at this level that is very strong underneath the rim. Uses his size to intimidate and to block more than his share of shots. Has a very high basketball IQ, always seems to be in the right place. Effective rebounder.

Luke Michalski, 5-6 guard, New York Ratz/Goshen Intermediate School: A deadly long-range shooter. Very high court intelligence. A real hustler that always seems to be in the mix on both ends of the court. Uses his motor to be a highly effective player on the defensive end. Can score in bunches.

Vincent Sabatino, 5-3 point guard, New York Ratz/Washingtonville Middle School: A real point-guard's vision of the court and makes good passes. A very good and active defender who is adept at keeping his man in front of him. Has quick feet and hands, leading to steals. Doesn't mind attacking the rim to score.

Arthur Anderson Jr., 5-11 forward/center, New York Ratz/Warwick Valley Middle School: A very "big" inside player. His size is intimidating. Very good around the rim, an effective finisher inside. Rebounds come easy for him. Has long arms and uses them to his advantage, blocking more than his share of shots.

Damani Hinks, 5-5 wing, Harlem USA/P.S. 180: A very athletic slasher with good size for this age level. Quick hands and fast on both ends of the court. Has a good handle and can use both hands. A very smooth, under control and effective player, particularly on the offensive end. Always finds and delivers to open teammates.

Dsani Barnes, 5-1 point guard, Harlem USA/West Prep Academy: An intelligent and very aggressive point guard who showed a nice handle here. Attacks the rim well with dribble penetration and can score when he gets in the paint. Team plays better when he's on the court. Outstanding court vision and looks to get teammates involved.

12:U AGE DIVISON GymRat CHALLENGE HONORABLE MENTION

Andrew Church, 5-6 forward, City Rocks-Black

Robert Chandler, 5-6 forward, City Rocks-Black

Isaac Chiu, 5-1 guard, ASA Hoops

Oscar Edelman, 5-10 forward/center, CT Premier Hoops

Josh Dorcely, 4-8 guard, Team Rock

Jean Italien, 4-8 guard, Team Rock

Harrison Neil, 5-8 forward, Harrison Neil

Nicholas Noone, 4-11 guard, New York Ratz

Leondre Sanchez, 5-4 forward, CT Stars

Jonathan Morales, 5-4 forward, Harlem USA

Sekow Tranally, 5-6 forward, Harlem USA

Nazir Biggins, 5-7 forward, Harlem USA



REPORT ADDENDUM: A CHEATING SCANDAL UNCOVERED

BEWARE OF REVOLUTION ELITE (a.k.a, NY REVOLUTION) & GIUSEPPE McQUEEN

Unfortunately, social media has become a forum where ill-formed opinions can far too often be expressed as if they are fact. This is a dangerous by-product of an otherwise well-intentioned tool. As a result, and in order to accurately separate fact from fiction, the GymRat CHALLENGE is providing the response below to some of the most commonly raised comments in reference to the intentional use of blatantly illegal players by Giuseppe McQueen and the NY Revolution (aka, Revolution Elite). Please be sure to read this information in its entirety, and please give thorough thought to any replies....especially those make FALSE allegations of cheating against 13-15 year olds from other reputable organizations:

- 1. How did Giuseppe McQueen and the NY Revolution cheat? Doesn't every team have to submit a roster?** Absolutely. EVERY team that competes in the GymRat CHALLENGE is required to submit a roster that is then verified electronically through our system. For various reasons, some rosters are submitted after our print deadline, so they are not included in the Event Program, but ALL rosters are supplied electronically for verification. If teams fail to complete that process, they are not allowed to compete in the event. Giuseppe McQueen and the NY Revolution submitted a roster electronically that contained nine players that were all 100% verified in our system. Every player listed on that roster met AAU grade and age eligibility requirements. Every player on that roster was checked in at the site of the team's first game on Saturday. All of the players listed on the roster competed in the team's two pool play games on Saturday....an 8 point victory and a 24 point victory. Here's where the systematic and deplorable cheating begins....Knowing that his team would be facing a national powerhouse and highly respected program in BABC on Sunday morning, Giuseppe McQueen instructed three of his LEGAL players on Saturday evening that they would not be playing on Sunday. He asked for their jerseys, and re-issued those jerseys to three players that he fully knew were completely too old to compete in the 14U Age Division. Those three players were 18, 17, and 16 years old respectively. The 18 year old graduated from high school in 2016 and would've been too old to compete in the 17U Age Division. The 17 year old is a high school senior. Giuseppe McQueen instructed all three of the ILLEGAL players that, if there were any formal inquiries, they were to assume the names and identities of the LEGAL players that were listed on the verified roster, including displaying those birth certificates if necessary. Those instructions and actions put all three of those young men at risk of criminal prosecution for identity theft under NYS statutes. With complete disregard for the rules or well-being of the LEGAL 14U players that his team was competing against, Giuseppe McQueen knowingly and willfully instructed three ILLEGAL players to assume the identities of three LEGAL players that were listed on his roster and who participated in the event on Saturday. When these ILLEGAL players began to out-perform they're much younger competition, they garnered publicity from the GymRat Evaluation and Social Media teams. As these illegal players began to appear in pictures captioned with their assumed and false identities on the GymRat CHALLENGE social media feeds, calls and messages began to flood into our office unmasking this scam. An investigation pursued and the details reported above were uncovered.
- 2. What happens now to Giuseppe McQueen and the NY Revolution?** Giuseppe McQueen represents every negative stereotype that exists in youth sports today. He has no place coaching youth sports at any level. As a result of the systematic actions detailed above, criminal charges of fraud and conspiracy to commit identity theft are being considered against Giuseppe McQueen. In 20 years of running some of the largest events in the country, we have caught teams using illegal players and disqualified them. Never in those 20 years have we encountered a more deplorable, systematic, and pre-mediated attempt to use illegal players. Further, several parents, players, and coaches within the NY Revolution program were aware that the phony players utilized on Sunday were illegal, and that they were assuming a false identity. Those knowing parents, players, and coaches were complicit in this scam. Additionally, upon consideration and belief, Giuseppe McQueen and the NY Revolution have perpetrated similar acts in other events during the current AAU season....this is simply the first time they have been properly exposed in order to prevent these actions from occurring again. As a result, NY Revolution (aka Revolution Elite) has been permanently banned from all GymRat CHALLENGE events and AAU has been officially notified of their transgressions. We hope that all other event operators take note and follow suit in banning this program from competing in their events. **THERE IS NO PLACE IN YOUTH BASKETBALL FOR ADULTS WHO HAVE NO ETHICAL STANDARDS AND WHO PUT CHILDREN AT RISK. THERE IS ALSO NO PLACE FOR "PROGRAMS" THAT ARE THIS LACKING IN ORGANIZATIONAL CONTROL AND OVERSIGHT THAT THEY WOULD ALLOW SOMEONE AS MORALLY BANKRUPT AS Giuseppe McQueen TO REPEATEDLY PERPETRATE THESE ACTIONS.**



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3. **Why is there a \$100 protest fee at the GymRat CHALLENGE?** The protest policy at the GymRat CHALLENGE is very clear. All protests must be made in writing and must be accompanied by a \$100 protest fee. HOWEVER, IF THE PROTEST IS UPHeld, THE FULL \$100 PROTEST FEE IS RETURNED TO THE PROTESTOR. Similar policies are utilized by sports organization across the country in order to prevent frivolous protests for erroneous reasons like “that player looks too big”. While we are obviously in the business of maintaining the competitive integrity of our events, we are not in the business of embarrassing a potentially already self-conscious child over his/her size. All legitimate protests are heard and investigated through the proper channels and process. Rumors, innuendo, and attempts to embarrass children are dismissed.
4. **Why has the GymRat CHALLENGE reported this story so widely and loudly?** Cheating will absolutely not be tolerated at the GymRat CHALLENGE and it shouldn't be tolerated anywhere in youth sports. Over the past two decades, the GymRat CHALLENGE has grown to become the largest event of its kind in the eastern United States. It is where today's NBA and WNBA players, as well as NCAA Players of the Year, National Champions, and All Americans have come to earn their reputations. It is an event that provides an annual impact of over \$13.8 million on New York State's Capital Region economy. With that kind of reputation and accomplishment also comes responsibility. We will absolutely take every possible step to ensure the competitive integrity of this event that has become a grassroots basketball institution over the past 20 years. We will provide a venue where teams throughout the country can come to compete for the national spotlight on a level playing field. When systematic cheating like that perpetrated by Giuseppe McQueen and NY Revolution occurs, we have an ethical obligation to every event operator, player, and parent to ensure that as many people as possible know about it in order to prevent it from re-occurring elsewhere. The more people are aware of this type of cheating, and those who perpetrate or condone it, the less likely it is to happen again. All of those who truly care about grassroots basketball should ensure that we're policing ourselves in order to preserve the game and a level playing field. Anyone who is upset that the NY Revolution have been damaged by this episode should point their displeasure squarely in the direction of Giuseppe McQueen and his intentional and pre-meditated bad acts. That displeasure is misplaced if it points towards those that were damaged by those acts or at those who reported those bad acts. In other words, don't blame those who report the cheating....blame those who cheat.
5. **Were there illegal players on the Boston Bobcats and/or BABC 14U teams?** The answer to this question is an ABSOLUTE and UNCONDITIONAL NO. EVERY player on the BABC and Boston Bobcats rosters was COMPLETELY eligible under AAU grade and age eligibility requirements to compete at the 14U Age Division at any event in the nation. Any comments that have been made in any forum to suggest otherwise are COMPLETELY FALSE, COMPLETELY WITHOUT MERIT, and COMPLETELY IRRESPONSIBLE. Please remember that we are talking about 13-15 year KIDS in this age grouping. At that age, young athletes come in many different shapes and sizes based on where they are in the physical maturation process. There are some young men in this age grouping that still look like they're 10 years old, while others may resemble a fully grown adult. For anyone to suggest in this or any other forum, that a player is illegal because he “looks too big” is simply irresponsible and inflammatory. Please also bare in mind that the situation that precipitated this entire conversation is about ADULTS behaving badly. Please don't be part of the problem by suggesting in any way shape or form that the actions of Giuseppe McQueen were somehow justified because other teams had “big kids too”. Please choose to be part of the solution by taking the time to understand the FACTS instead of firing off uninformed comments behind the relative anonymity of a keyboard. Elite level teams like those that traditionally come from across the country to compete in the GymRat CHALLENGE, including BABC and the Boston Bobcats, will always have bigger athletes competing in their programs. Being big does NOT make a player illegal....it simply makes them big. Former Kansas Jayhawk star and current Minnesota Timberwolf, Cole Aldrich, competed for the Minnesota Magic in the GymRat CHALLENGE when he was 14....and 6'11” and 240 pounds. Size does not make a player illegal....their birthdate does. NONE of the players competing for the Boston Bobcats or BABC in the 2017 GymRat CHALLENGE had birthdates that made them illegal. The Boston Bobcats have developed an elite national level program behind strong adult leadership. BABC has been a legendary nationally elite program for decades. BABC has literally sent thousands of players onto college basketball careers and dozens of players on to professional basketball careers. That program is led by one of the most respected and credible men in all of grassroots basketball, Leo Papile. Both of those programs had complete age verification paperwork and identification at the GymRat CHALLENGE, because both of those programs operate at a highly professional level as a matter of course and culture. NONE of the adults involved in either of those programs would risk their long-standing reputations and/or the safety and well-being of any player by cheating. Any suggestion to the contrary is patently false.



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