



BIG LEAF BASKETBALL

FULL COURT PRESS

POWERED BY THE NATIONAL BASKETBALL ACADEMY



MUSTANG MANIA!

DECEMBER 9, 2021

Mathews Mustangs sixth graders are all smiles and off to a hot 2-0 start! (l to r) Londyn Deak, Derek Herron, Jared Pegg, Trenton Ring, Grayson Polonus, Caden Brubaker, Wesley Murphy and Dane Brubaker.

IN THIS ISSUE...

Please be Patient! Schedules are on the Way!

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Points in the Paint: Marquee Matchups and Power Rankings

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Teams of the Week: Exploring a Champion?

Big Leaf Expert Spotlight: To Wear a Mouthguard or Not?

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What to Expect with the (Unexpected) Schedule...

It is no secret that scheduling is the toughest part of any large league. When you mix that with a pandemic that includes its own set of rules and restrictions, it becomes a monstrosity. Trust us: the fact that your team's complete schedule is not posted is not because we are focused on other facets.

Each day we receive several requests and cancellations amongst other hurdles. Not to mention our emphasis on creating fair matchups and keeping teams as close to home as much as possible.



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We promise we will have our next week's schedule posted by Sunday morning at the latest and will have January 2nd and 9th posted around Christmas. All teams should expect to play on January 2nd unless they filled out a schedule request.

We will be taking off Martin Luther King Weekend as we have a new and exhilarating concept we will be launching. See the flyer for more information. With no games during MLK Weekend, it will allow us to put brackets together for our League Tournament which will take place the last two weekends of January. All teams should have played either eight or nine games going into the league tournament.



January 15-17, 2022

For those teams, that were not in the league last year, our league tournament will be constructed on a team's overall resume and T.A.G. (Team Assessment Grade). There will be multiple brackets constructed in each age group, providing all teams a fair chance to compete. Brackets will be released on our **Selection Sunday**, January 16th. More on that event to come.

Finally, we are all in this together and we will always do what we can to help your team with any conflicts. However, what we do ask, is not to cancel a game based on fear of an opponent or not playing because a coach or star player cannot attend. That will go a long way in assisting us in the grind of an already big task.

DIVISION BREAKDOWNS AROUND THE LEAGUE

3RD GRADE BOYS

The Hawken Hawks kicked off their season last weekend at Cleveland Heights Community Center defeating Shaker Heights 19-9 and following it up with a nail biting victory over Warrensville Heights in one of the best games of the day. Joining the Hawks were the Crestwood Red Devils starting their Big Leaf careers going 2-0 decisively against Berkshire and Cardinal Sunday afternoon. The Hudson Vikings double dipped winning Friday at Christ Community Chapel and turning around and beating Streetsboro 26-17 which was deemed the Game to Watch. Look for the games to get tighter as our scheduler has a little resume to match these newbies up accordingly.



▲ Double OT: Hawken vs. Warrensville Hts.

There are several teams off to a fast start, but none faster than in Geauga County as the Cardinal Huskies and The Chesterland Basketball Team both swept for the second straight weekend of league play and both sit at 4-0.

5TH GRADE BOYS

After two weeks 28 of the 30 teams have played and 23 of them have notched a one in the win column. That being said, there are nine teams that sit with a perfect record, led by Coach Jermaine's 4-0 Bedford Bearcats. The 5th Grade A Division looks like it's gonna be a lot of fun to follow with so many talented teams.

Last weekend also had some phenomenal finishes and performances. Blue Streak Matthew Schlifke hit a three pointer late in the game to force overtime. Madison would go on to beat Riverside Gold 40 - 34. The undermanned Kirtland Hornets fought off Ashtabula 19-16 led by Michael Sullivan who piled in a double/double with 10 points 14 rebounds going 4 of 6 from the line but it wasn't all Big Sully as he fouled out late and the team and they had to finish them off with just 4 players.

Welcome back Mason Bokovitz of Mayfield. Coming back after a broken wrist, the Wildcat got back into action with his notable hardworking and unselfish approach.

4TH GRADE BOYS



▲ Tremont Grinders

After two weeks of league action the cream is rising to the top but that does mean that the rest of the age group will be set up to struggle. With 32 teams in the age group and final scores to go by, the match ups are going to tighten up really fast.



SPECIAL OFFER
for Big Leafers!

20% OFF

code: bigleafhc2021

WINTER HOLIDAY BASKETBALL CLINICS

Boys and Girls: grades 3rd to 8th

DEC. 20-22, 2021: 1 CLINIC LOCATION

Force Sports..... 10:00am-1:00pm

DEC. 27-29, 2021: 3 CLINIC LOCATIONS

Cleveland Hts. Community Center..... 1:00pm-4:00pm

Mentor Heisley Racquet and Fitness Club.... 10:00am-1:00pm

Ursuline College..... 1:00pm-4:00pm

Cost: \$90 Includes a special TNBA holiday T-shirt!

For more information contact Shane:
shane@thebasketballacademy.com || 440-725-6449

REGISTER TODAY: TNBABasketball.com/TNBAOhio

6TH GRADE BOYS

A wild weekend in the 6th Grade A Division. Sunday started hot and heavy as the T.Y.A. Trojans knocked off the #2 Mentor Cardinals 40-29 for 9:00 A.M. game at Spire Institute. Hudson Blue then knocked off the Tremont Grinders by just two points at 10:00 A.M. in Garfield Heights. That was all done before our #1 and #2 teams met at Spire at 11:00 where Mentor Red gave Lonnie Burton everything they could handle only to fall short 47-43.



▲ TYA Trojans Jake Grygier

If that's not all, the day was capped off with two thrillers as Mayfield extended their record to 3-0 as they knocked off Chardon 37-35 and Shaker Heights defeated their neighbor Cleveland Heights 37-36.

Welcome to the League Vienna Matthew Mustangs! They are found in the southeast corner of Trumbull County near Niles. The Mustangs trampled their first two opponents jumping out to a 2-0

start. Keep an eye on Caden Brubaker, his inspired and fiery play is hard to ignore, but what makes him so special is ability to always put his teammates first. His development the last two years has been extraordinary.

3RD/4TH GRADE GIRLS

It was a good weekend for the Aurora teams as their 3rd and 4th grade teams both notched victories. We look for this division to evolve each week as these rookies get more comfortable. But right now it looks like Perry and Chardon along with Aurora 4th are going to battle it out for the top. Look for our scheduler to really match up teams accordingly down the stretch with



teams more than likely playing each other multiple times.

GameChanger had a busy day trying to keep tabs on Alanis Nero and Brooklyn Swain last weekend. Alanis scored 8 of her team's 17 points and a flurry of steals. Brooklyn on the other hand also had 8 points, 6 steals, 7 rebounds. Great job ladies!

5TH GRADE GIRLS

There was not a lot of drama with the 5th grade girls last weekend but the weekend was dominated by some stellar performance. CC Alley of Madison, Mia Pesho of West Geauga, Lela Buleski of Aurora all put GameChanger to the test by stuffing the stat sheet over the weekend.



▲ Kenston's Avery Childress

This coming weekend is going to be a wild one with only three undefeated teams left, at least one is bound to fall. We expect a lot of parity and excitement out of this batch of teams. NEXT WEEK WILL BE CRAZY!

6TH Grade Girls

Just like when they were in 5th Grade the class of 2028 girls division is tough to predict. Mentor and Hudson seem to be the teams to beat but after that anything is possible. Last week eight games were decided by five points or less and we expect at least the same next week.

Some impressive stat lines to mention, in a defeat Solon Lady Runner, Madeline Kormuth, dropped 26 points against Kenston. Madeline can score a lot of different ways, keep it up Madeline. I think there is going to be a common theme with the last name Sullivan at Kirtland. Sister Annie scored a combined 23 points in two pressure cookers and led the Lady Hornets to a 2-0 weekend.

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2021 JINGLE BUCKET



DECEMBER 26-29

Boys Divisions: Grades 3, 4, 5, 6
Girls Divisions: Grades 4, 5, 6

4 Game Guarantee!
\$245 per team

Games will be played at:
Big Leaf gym locations
throughout NE Ohio.
Pool games will be played
closer to your location.

For more information contact:

Matt: 440-321-9334

Shane: 440-725-6449

Office: 216-378-0932

bigleaf@thebasketballacademy.com



REGISTER TODAY!
TNBABasketball.com/BigLeaf

Hey Big Leaf Nation! Do you want to see your son or daughter's smiling face gracing the pages of the next Big Leaf Full Court Press? Or do you want to prove to them that you know what Instagram is? Well it couldn't be easier... just email us your best action shots or silly team pics from after the big game at bigleafsocialmedia@gmail.com. We want to give the kids the recognition they've been working hard for!



Also, make sure you send us your nominations for the GameChanger Player of the Week or the

TNBA Team of the Week. Please include any details on why your player or team had a great week, such as "Sarah hit the game-winning shot against her team's

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

biggest rival," or "Johnny had a double-double with 12 points and 10 boards and even threw in 3 blocks."

Be sure to follow us @bigleafhoops on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and tag us with #bigleafbasketball and we may share your pics and make your team Insta-Famous!



◀ Chardon's 4th grader Felicity Easton is all smiles after wins over Berkshire and Chagrin at Cardinal Middle School.



▲ Aurora Lady Greenmen match up.



▲ TYA Tojans 6th graders huddle for a team pic.



▲ Hillcrest Stars 4th graders came ready to roll with two big wins Sunday.

► Andrew Karaba Riverside Gold 4th grader wrestles for the ball with Hudson White players.



► Riverside Gold 6th grade big man Evan Krajewski skies for the ball in a back and forth battle with Mentor White, coming up just short, 32-28.



▲ Berkshire's 4th grader Hailey Mitchell skies for the jumper.



▲ The stands were packed all day at Garfield Hts. for a big day.

▼ Cleveland Heights 6th grader Bryce Irby squares up for a three in a 40-20 win over Rocky River (LTB).



▲ Double OT celebration! Hawken 5th grader Daniel Lee with the putback to get the 26-24 win over the Euclid Panthers.



▲ Battle of the 4th grade number 1s at Garfield Hts. High. Mayfield Green hits the jumper but Hudson Blue pulls away late with the 28-20 win.



▲ Aurora 5th grade girls battle for the board in a defensive slugfest, winning 9-1 over Twinsburg.



▲ Shaker Heights 4th graders huddle up for some words of wisdom before tip.

► Toppers! Chardon's 3rd and 4th grade team hang with the big girls, members of the 6th grade Chardon team between games.



▲ Berkshire 4th grader Ella Haskett drives on Chardon.



▲ Cleveland Heights 6th grade Chace Nixon looks to attack a tough Rocky Rover (LTB) D.



▲ Michael Durosoko of the 3rd grade Berkshire Badgers takes the tip against Crestwood.



▲ Kick game is strong for the 4th grade Hillcrest Stars!

▼ Chardon Hilltoppers 3rd graders warm up before a matchup with the Perry Pirates at Perry High School.



▲ TYA Trojans 6th grader Hudson Stranko drives to the hoop in a big win over Mentor Red, 40-29.



▼ Aurora 3rd grade Alanis Niro looks to drive to the basket versus Berkshire.



DYLAN ZEIGLER

AGE 11 HEIGHT 5'8"

TEAM

Shaker Heights Raiders (6th)

FAVORITE TEAM

Cleveland Cavaliers

FAVORITE PLAYER

Ja Morant

FAVORITE VIDEO GAME

2k22

WHEN NOT HOOPING?

Playing video games

FAVORITE VACATION SPOT

Myrtle Beach, SC

FAST FORWARD 10 YEARS

NBA

 **BIG LEAF BASKETBALL**

BALLER ALERT

Dylan's Shaker Heights Raiders team finished 2-0 on the weekend and he made the game-winning shot in the final seconds to beat Cleveland Heights, 37-36. Dylan led the team in scoring in both games with 32 points against LTB and 25 points in the Cleveland Heights game. Dylan's coach, Al Robinson, provided this insight, "Dylan's basketball IQ is obvious as he leads the team in scoring, passing, as well as on defense. He takes good shots and gets his teammates involved. He has great leadership."

TORENCE COOPER JR.

Hawken 3

Torence (TJ) led his third grade team to victory scoring 19 points in the first game over Shaker Heights and 21 points in the second game. TJ scored 11 straight points in the 21-19 win over Warrensville Heights.

MICHAEL SULLIVAN

Kirtland 5

Our team only had 5 players to play on Sunday against Ashtabula. Big Sully brought his A game and pulled down 14 rebounds, 1 block, and 10 of 19 points (made 6/6 free throws- but stepped over the line on 2) for a win over Ashtabula. He played his heart out and with 50 seconds left he fouled as- as the Ashtabula coach shared they had to do to have a chance to win. Kirtland then played w 4 players and managed to win. Great team effort for this win!

REGGIE HARWELL E. Cleveland Warriors 5

He's an offensive and defensive player with 12pts, 3 from the 3pt line! Only in 3rd grade playing that high on the 5th and 6th grade level!!!

CADEN BRUBAKER

Mathews 6

Caden plays with his entire heart every game. He is aggressive, works hard and most importantly is always thinking of his teammates. His development over the past few years has been amazing to watch. Keep your eyes open for this player in the years to come. His heart and passion are admirable.

WILLIAM FISHER

Mathews 6

William was the leading scorer for the team in our two wins on Sunday. He is the leading scorer for the season with an average of 11.5 points per game. He is also the defensive leader of the team hustling for rebounds and loose balls. He is a great team player as well as he is just as excited for his teammates when they score or get rebounds as they are.

MATTHEW SCHLIFKE

Madison 5

Matthew hit a 3 pointer to tie the game with under 30 seconds to play. We ended up winning in overtime. Matthew was second on the team in scoring for the game but with that shot he deserves player of the week!

MASON BOKOVITZ

Mayfield 5

Mason played two games with a broken wrist and then missed 2 weeks. Came back and led the team in scoring. Is a hard working and very unselfish player.

THOMAS SKYTТА

Berkshire 5

Thomas leads our team through high energy and ort and provides leadership to our young and inexperienced group by example. He leads our team in scoring and rebounding so far and has balanced multiple roles within our offense while usually being our primary defender as well. He has scored in double digits in multiple games recently and has shown balanced skills in jump shooting and creating free throw opportunities driving to the basket.

TAVARES BOLDEN

Hillcrest Stars 4

He's Mr. All Around for us. He had 12 points the first game and 15 points the second. He's rebounding on the offensive and defensive side of the ball, he's running the court while making great outlet passes.

AVERY CHILDRESS

AGE 11

HEIGHT 5'1"

TEAM

Kenston (5th)

FAVORITE TEAM

UConn and Louisville

FAVORITE PLAYER

Paige Bueckers and Hailey Van Lith

FAVORITE VIDEO GAME

Minecraft

FAVORITE YOUTUBER

Aphmau

WHEN NOT HOOPING?

Playing with Legos I'm really good at making LEGO houses from scratch (no instructions)

FAVORITE VACATION SPOT

Ocean City, MD

FAST FORWARD 10 YEARS

Playing for UConn, Louisville or South Carolina



GC
GAMECHANGER™
BY DICK'S SPORTING GOODS
**PLAYER
OF THE
WEEK**
=AVERY CHILDRESS=
Bombers
KENSTON

 **BIG LEAF BASKETBALL**

BALLER ALERT

Avery has helped her Kenston team to a fast 2-0 start. In her last game she scored 20 points on 8-10 shooting and 4-4 from the free throw line in the Bombers' 32-5 win over the Chardon Lady Toppers! Off the court she is in the fifth grade but takes seventh grade math and loves science!

MADELINE KORMUTH Solon Runners 6

In our teams 37-33 lost to Kenston on Sunday Madeline scored 26 points. She has led our team in scoring in all 3 of our games this season.

MIA PESHO West Geauga 5

Mia had 14 pts in a 24-4 win over Aurora and 12 pts in a 25-10 win versus Twinsburg. She was also our leading rebounder both games.

ANNIE SULLIVAN Kirtland 6

Scored 14 of our 28 and 9 of our 21 in our two games this past Sunday. We won both in close games.

ALANIS NIRO Aurora Lady Greenmen 3

Alanis was our top scorer this week with 8 pts! She had multiple steals on defense which lead to her scoring. She played aggressive both on the offensive and defensive ends of the court! Way to go Alanis!

LELA BULESKI Aurora Lady Greenmen 5

Lela showed tremendous strength and heart this past Saturday! Great hustle and knowledge of the game! Even when things were looking pretty bleak, she never gave up! 7 points first game and 4 points the second game! Averaging 5 boards and steals per game!

ADDISON FLENNER Perry 6

Addison Flenner had 5 points and 7 rebounds in our 20-18 win vs. Chardon. She played tremendous defense against a bigger team and hit two back to back buckets including a three pointer to give us the lead. She has a tremendous work ethic and leaves everything she has out on the court.

PANAGIOTA MARKAKIS Hudson 6

Pan was a team leader in both games this weekend in Hudson's victories over Aurora and Mentor. She controlled the boards and made baskets that changed the tempo of the game. She continues to play with a toughness that is incredible to watch.

BROOKLYN SWAIN Hudson 4

Brooklyn Swain played an excellent all around game. She had 8 points, 6 steels, 10 stops, 7 rebounds in a hard fought matchup against Solon. She worked extremely hard on defense to help her team pull off the W. She was also the team leader in getting 50/50 balls and is always one of the most compassionate and encouraging teammates on the team.

CC ALLEY Madison 5

First games of our season, we have 4 returners, 5 new girls who've never played basketball. We won vs Willoughby (22-12) CC had 15pts along with 5 steals. Win vs Riverside Black (25-8) she contributed 11pts, 4 assists, along with 4 steals.

HAILEY BENNET Cardinal Huskies 3/4

Hailey has shown great confidence and transitioned the most since the start of the season. She shows sportsmanship and encourages her team.

KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR THESE MARQUEE MATCHUPS...

BOYS

3RD

WILLOUGHBY VS. RIVERSIDE BLACK
Sunday, December 12th @ 11:00 @ Spire Court #5

4TH

#1 HILLCREST STARS VS. #6 HUDSON EXPLORERS BLUE
Sunday, December 12th @ 12:00 @ Twinsburg Edge Court #2

5TH

#7 AURORA GREENMEN VS. CHAGRIN FALLS TIGERS
Sunday, December 12th @ 11:45 @ Twinsburg Edge Court #1

6TH

#7 HUDSON EXPLORERS BLUE VS. #5 T.Y.A. TROJANS
Sunday, December 12th @ 10:00 @ Eastlake Force Court #2

GIRLS

4TH

CHARDON LADY TOPPERS VS. SOLON LADY RUNNERS
Sunday, December 12th @ 4:00 pm @ Hiram College Martin Fieldhouse Court #2

5TH

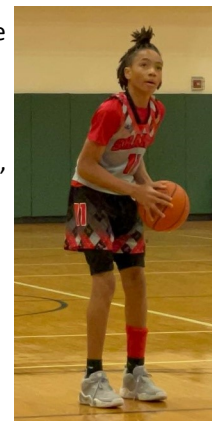
#2 WEST GEAUGA VS. #1 KENSTON LADY BOMBERS
Sunday, December 12th @ 11:00 @ Hiram College Martin Fieldhouse Court #1

6TH

#8 KIRTLAND HORNETS VS. CHARDON LADY TOPPERS
Sunday, December 12th @ 10:00 am @ Cardinal Middle School Court #1

BIG LEAF BASKETBALL POINTS IN THE PAINT

The Braves stayed atop the Sixth Grade Power Rankings, but the GameChanger Player of the Week **Dylan Zeigler** ▶▶, is coming after the crown worn by Turkey Bucket champ Merlin Jackson and his Lonnie Burton Braves. But the Beavers and Wildcats might have something to say about that!



FOURTH GRADE BOYS POWER RANKINGS

1. Hillcrest Stars
2. Garfield Heights
3. Rocky River Pirates
4. Perry Pirates
5. Chesterland Basketball Team
6. Hudson Explorers Blue
7. Streetsboro Rockets
8. Willoughby Rebels
9. Cleveland Heights
10. Aurora Greenmen

FIFTH GRADE BOYS POWER RANKINGS

1. Garfield Heights Bulldogs
2. Solon Runners Blue
3. Bedford Bearcats
4. East Cleveland Warriors
5. Hudson Explorers Blue
6. Willoughby Rebels
7. Aurora Greenmen
8. Shaker Heights Raiders
9. Perry Pirates
10. Champion Flashes

SIXTH GRADE BOYS POWER RANKINGS

1. Lonnie Burton Braves
2. Riverside Beavers Black
3. Mayfield Wildcats
4. Shaker Heights Raiders
5. T.Y.A. Trojans
6. Mentor Cardinals Red
7. Hudson Explorers Blue
8. Willoughby Rebels
9. Mentor Cardinals White
10. Hudson Explorers White

BIG LEAF/TNBA WINTER LEAGUES

Boys 7th/8th Grade League

Sundays starting January 23, 2022
7 game season plus end of year tournament

Cost:

Individual Player: \$125 (will be coached by a Big Leaf/TNBA coach)

Complete Team: \$650 (OHSAA rules apply: only 2 players per school who played on the school team)



Games played at:
Berkshire HS, Cardinal HS, and Lost Nation Sports Park



Sundays starting January 23, 2022
7 game season plus end of year tournament

Boys High School League

2 divisions, JV & Varsity

Cost:

Individual Player: \$125 (will be coached by a Big Leaf/TNBA coach)

Complete Team: \$650 (OHSAA rules apply: only 2 players per school who played on the school team and no players can play who are still in season)



Games played at:
Berkshire HS, Cardinal HS, and Lost Nation Sports Park



Registration: TNBABasketball.com/BigLeaf/

For questions and further information contact:

Shane Kline-Ruminski || shane@thebasketballacademy.com || 440-725-6449

FIFTH GRADE GIRLS

POWER RANKINGS

1. Kenston Lady Bombers
2. West Gauga Wolverines
3. Aurora Lady Greenmen
4. Willoughby Rebels
5. Hudson Kiwanis
6. Madison Blue Streaks
7. Chardon Lady Toppers
8. Chagrin Falls Tigers
9. Twinsburg Tigers
10. Mayfield Wildcats



TEAM OF THE WEEK

GIRLS: HUDSON EXPLORERS 6TH GRADE

“Toughness. That’s how I’d describe this team. Each girl brings her unique talents to the team. They’re all athletic. And they’re all tough,” coach Ken Romanini was proud to explain why his Hudson Explorers 6th grade team was successful. “These girls have played together since fourth grade under Coach Pearson and he did a great job training them and now I’m lucky to get to coach them,” Romanini explained. One element



that separates this group is that there is no off-season. They are constantly working on their own training and working as

a team, especially in the offseason. In summer league they played and competed with eight grade teams. Wow! Not bad for a bunch of sixth graders! In addition to working hard constantly, they all get along. “There’s always 10 girls constantly laughing and having fun,” Romanini beamed. “I’ve never coached a team this deep. There’s a different leading scorer/rebounder every other game.” In their matchup with #1 seed Mentor, the Explorers used their signature toughness, especially on the defensive side of the ball. Mentor came in averaging over 30 points a game. After being down at half 8-1, Hudson won the game 17-10, giving up just two points in the second half to a top notch offense. It looks like coach is right... this team is pretty tough!

Back row (l to r): Angelique Pinson, Ashli Pearson, Pan Markakis, Kiley Gorog. Front row (l to r): Anna Anzevino, Sydney Pallo, Logan Romanini, Charlotte Salem Chloe Chadwick. Not pictured: Claire Orazen

Back row (l to r): Angelique Pinson, Ashli Pearson, Pan Markakis, Kiley Gorog. Front row (l to r): Anna Anzevino, Sydney Pallo, Logan Romanini, Charlotte Salem Chloe Chadwick. Not pictured: Claire Orazen



SIXTH GRADE GIRLS

POWER RANKINGS

1. Hudson Kiwanis
2. Mentor Cardinals Red
3. Kenston Bombers
4. Mentor White 5th
5. Aurora Lady Greenmen
6. Mayfield Wildcats
7. Chagrin Falls Tigers
8. Kirtland Hornets
9. Twinsburg Tigers
10. Solon Lady Runners



BIG LEAF BASKETBALL
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2022

MLK MID-SEASON MADNESS

January 15-17, 2022

Boys Divisions: grades 3, 4, 5, 6

Girls Divisions: grades 4, 5, 6

4 Game guarantee

Cost: \$145 per team

Games will be played at:

Big Leaf gym locations throughout NE Ohio
Pool games will be played closer to your location



For more information contact:

Matt: (440-321-9334) || bigleaf@thebasketballacademy.com
Shane (440-725-6449) || shane@thebasketballacademy.com
Office: 216-378-0932

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BIG LEAF'S INNOVATIVE TEAM ASSESSMENT GRADING (T.A.G.)



Mathews tips off against Cardinal in a 6th grade battle

games in other leagues or tournaments. This will give us the best data to assess your team in our Team Assessment Grading System.

Big Leaf Basketball takes pride in finding the right place for all our teams to feel comfortable on the hardwood. That's why we've come up with the Team Assessment Grading (T.A.G.) System. Starting December 8th, all of our teams will be assessed a grade from the scale to the right. We will also do the research for every team that signs up for our tournaments and shootouts. Gone are the days of coaches registering their team in lower levels in order to try and get some easy wins. The chart will be posted on our website bigleafbasketball.com each Wednesday and be updated each and every week through the end of our season. If you want to have the exact record for your team please use the Jot Form on our website to fill us in on games you have played outside of Big Leaf Basketball. This would include

- SELECT** —
The Elite Teams
- ADVANCED** —
Highly Competitive Teams
- INTERMEDIATE** —
Average Teams
- NOVICE** —
Developmental Teams





TEAM OF THE WEEK

CHAMPION FLASHES 5TH GRADE

They might be from a smaller school district, but this team's got the heart of, you guessed it, a CHAMPION (get it?)! "These boys have been together since third grade," coach Nathan Kish said. "Even when we couldn't play in games last year because of covid, they still practiced the whole time." This Champion 5th grade team is full of kids who play hard. "They're all good athletes, willing to work together and are very coachable and want to do well," Kish explained. All the players are multi-sport athletes and Coach Kish believes that plays a big part in the team's success. "I've got baseball players, footballs players, soccer players." Kish continued, "All the sports go



hand-in-hand. Playing those other sports adds to their experience." This group of boys is known for being in the middle of baseball season but biking over to their teammates' house and playing a little one-on-one. And those skills were on display over this past weekend when the Flashes played their first games of the season. Game one was a 27-17 win over Hudson White. But there was no rest for these Flashes because they had to stay on the court to face the Crestwood Red Devils, who they beat 41-20. "Everyone knows their role and does it to the best of their ability," Kish said. And it's very clear that these Champions are buying into their roles!

BIG LEAF EXPERT SPOTLIGHT • MATTHEW W. KREMSER, DDS • BIG LEAF EXPERT SPOTLIGHT • MATTHEW W. KREMSER, DDS

SURE, SHOOT LIKE STEPH BUT... KEEP YOUR MOUTHGUARD IN YOUR MOUTH!

It's one of the most familiar images of the last few years of NBA Basketball: Steph Curry chewing on his mouthguard. As a dentist, I'm so glad that so many young kids and their parents were reminded of the importance of wearing a mouthguard when on the basketball court. I just wish they saw one of their favorite athletes wearing it properly!



▲ Dr. Kremser and family

A properly fitted mouthguard is, in my opinion, just as important for a basketball player as his shoes or any other piece of equipment. It protects their developing dentition, their developing jawbones, and the soft tissues of the mouth. It also can reduce the chances of concussions on the court. Studies show that basketball is the sport with the highest incidence of dental trauma, and these numbers are continuing to go up. So please, if your young Big Leaf baller

doesn't already have a mouthguard, run up to your local sporting goods store and get them one. Or, contact your dentist and ask what type they recommend or see if they can fit your child with a custom made guard.

My son played in the Big Leaf League, and I have so many great memories of those times. To make sure the players are as safe as possible, I will be donating several "Save a Tooth" kits to the league so they can be on hand at the venues in case of a dental emergency. I will also provide instructions to be kept with the kits so officials will be confident in handling any situation. Hopefully, they will never be needed—and if all our kids wear their mouthguards, I'm confident they never will be needed!

Dental Health Associates OF STREETSBORO

9150 Market Square Drive, Suite 103, Streetsboro

330-626-9090