



BIG LEAF BASKETBALL

FULL COURT PRESS

POWERED BY THE NATIONAL BASKETBALL ACADEMY



NAILBITER TIME!

DECEMBER 16, 2021

The Geneva Eagles and Madison Blue Streaks get set to tip off in a battle to the wire in 4th grade play that Madison ends up winning 16-13 at Spire Institute.

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Teams of the Week

Respect the Game... and the Officials!

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Looking into a Crystal Ball... 2030 is Looking Special!

Every few years a class sticks out that is full of talent from a team chemistry and player perspective. We know it's really early but the class of 2030 is totally looking the part. Last week, Big Leaf nation saw a bunch of nailbiters throughout the 4th grade division and this coming week has all of the heavy weights squaring off. Mark this down! Stay tuned the next nine years as this talented bunch makes their mark in Northeast Ohio Basketball!



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This past Saturday over 150 Big Leafers and their families helped fill Rocket Mortgage Field House as the hometown Cavaliers easily defeated the Sacramento Kings. Due to a mid-week change in NBA protocols, the attendees, unfortunately, were unable to go on the court for a pre-game photo. The Cavs did not want to disappoint so they allowed everyone (not just players) a close up to the pre-game shootaround. It was great to see our players, families and the Big Leaf community take in the newly renovated fieldhouse and watch the Cavs put on a masterful and electrifying display as they dismantled the Kings 117-103. It was many of the attendees' first ever game and hopefully Big Leaf and the Cavs made it a memorable one.



BIG LEAF BASKETBALL
powered by The National Basketball Academy

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:

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▲ Mayfield Wildcats and Euclid 5th graders mark up.



▲ Big Leaf Tie Up of the Week!
Perry 3rd graders with the 19-12
win over the Geneva Eagles.



▲ Special shout out to all the amazing Big Leaf refs. We know it's a hard job and we know everyone else can do it better ;) but we are grateful for you!



▲ Aurora Greenmen 3rd grade battle it out in a tough 23-18 loss to the Chagrin Falls Tigers.



▶ Time to regroup. Chardon 6th graders lost a tough defensive battle to Kirtland, 8-6.



▲ Willoughby Rebels Brynley Schneider 5th grader brings the ball up in a 23-11 win over the Geneva Eagles.



▲ All smiles for Cleveland Heights 4th graders after a 31-17 win over East Cleveland Warriors.



▲ Riverside Black keeping a foot in the paint as the Willoughby Rebels set up their offense.



◀ Madison Blue Streaks 5th graders unleashing some tough D.

▼ Kirtland's 5th grader Enzo Marous gets ready to inbound the ball against Edgewood.



▲ Thumbs up for Rocky River LTB 4th graders after a 33-30 win over the Mentor Cardinals.



▲ Huddle after heartbreak. Chardon 5th graders huddle up after a loss at the buzzer to Madison.



▲ Isabel Stocker of the Geneva Eagles 5th grade directs traffic.



▲ Madison 5th grader KJ Abrams skies for the board in a 21-14 win over Ashtabula.



▲ Kirtland 5th grader Griffin Gabriel with the lefty floater in the lane during a 33-25 win over the Edgewood Warriors.



▲ Aurora 3rd grade loses a physical defensive battle with Berkshire 4th, 12-4.



▲ Geneva Eagles 5th graders Hailey Spade and Kenley Sheppard read to sub in.



◀ Hudson Vikings 3rd graders getting pumped up before a tight win over the Aurora Greenmen, 15-12, to bring their season record to 5-0!



▲ Hawken Hawks 3rd graders are pumped up for their game!



◀ Willoughby's 5th grader Cole Kadlub plays tough man-to-man D in a huge 50-34 win over Riverside Black.



▲ Riverside Gold 3rd grade celebrating their first win of the season in a big way, 22-2, over Ledgesmont at Spire Institute.

▲ Hiram College's Martin Fieldhouse was bumpin' all day Sunday with tons of competitive games.



▲ Cardinal Huskies 5th grade cheering on Ora Barcikowski after a big free throw, along with the Huskies' biggest fan, Lori Barcikowski!

TORENCE COOPER

AGE 9 HEIGHT 4'10"

TEAM

Hawken Hawks (3rd)

FAVORITE TEAM

Cleveland Cavaliers

FAVORITE PLAYER

Stephen Curry

FAVORITE VIDEO GAME

2k22

FAVORITE YOUTUBER

Professorlive

WHEN NOT HOOPING?

Spend time with my family

FAVORITE VACATION SPOT

Hawaii

FAST FORWARD 10 YEARS

College

FUN FACT?

I like to do puzzles and swim



BALLER ALERT

Torence is a serious stat sheet stuffer! In his team's dramatic 28-27 loss to the Hudson Explorers, Torence scored all 27 points, racked up 10 rebounds, 5 steals and added 4 blocked shots. He truly left it all on the court and has been a leader for his team all season long!

TREY RODI

Aurora 5B

Trey's energy on the defensive end and on the glass helped Aurora hold off a very good Chagrin Falls team. Trey finished with 7 points 6 rebounds and 4 steals.

VITO CONFORTE

Crestwood 3B

Scored 16 of our 24 points and also was tasked with guarding the other team's best player. Went 8-14 scoring 16 points. Final score of the game was 24-14. Vito attacked the rim all game and shot 57% from the field.

CHARLIE GILE

Chagrin Falls 3B

We are a growing young team that is learning the game. Charlie is a force on defense and in his last game had 10 rebounds. He is a team leader and always supportive of his teammates who are just learning the game. Win or lose he has a smile on his face and loves the game of basketball. He's the first to congratulate a teammate for a good play and shake the opposing team's hand. He's a joy to coach.

MARLIN JACKSON

Lonnie Burton 6B

Marlin scored 27pts against Cleveland Height to keep his team undefeated

DOMINIC TARANTINO

Chardon 4B

In our game against Rocky River Dominic had 25pts was 3-6 from the 3 point line and he made a 3 to tie the game in the final minute in our game.

GRIFFIN GABRIEL

Kirtland 5B

We played two games back to back this weekend. Griffin took over the 2nd half of our game against Edgewood when we were behind by 1. He went on a 5 or 6 point run on his own. He shut down their point guard in the second half and got some big rebounds of us. He dominated the second half of the game from the offensive and defensive end. It was a great team win and effort, but Griffin really stepped up as a leader and helped us to win that game.

GHAVYN JOHNSON

Warrensville Hts. 4B

Hard worker, great team player and all around great guy. He aims to help his team anyway he can on the court.

WALKER ASHTON

TYA Trojans 6B

TYA 6 was losing to Hudson Blue with under three minutes to go in the game. Walker (Boo) Ashton took over from the foul line down the stretch hitting 7 of 8 foul shots to help win the game. Money at the line or TYA 6 loses to Hudson Blue. Boo is the point guard for TYA 6 and he took the game into his own hands with hard drives to the hoop and bringing the ball up the court against Hudson Blue's press defense. TYA 6 won a tough game 24 - 19 over Hudson Blue in the marquee matchup game of the week in the 6th grade boys A division.

ZYEN WALKER

Maple Heights Vultures 5B

I nominated this player because he had a phenomenal two games back to back he showed up on both sides of the ball and he was most valuable to the team

ORA BARCIKOWSKI

AGE 11 HEIGHT 5'0"

TEAM

Cardinal Huskies (5th)

FAVORITE TEAM

Buckeyes

FAVORITE PLAYER

Odicci Alexander

FAVORITE VIDEO GAME

Roblox and Minecraft

FAVORITE YOUTUBER

Bella Storytime

WHEN NOT HOOPING?

Playing softball

FAVORITE VACATION SPOT

Camping

FAST FORWARD 10 YEARS

Playing on a college sports team

FUN FACT?

I have 3 sisters and love country music!



GC
GAMECHANGER™
 BY DICK'S SPORTING GOODS
**PLAYER
 OF THE
 WEEK**
 =ORA BARCIKOWSKI=

BIG LEAF BASKETBALL

BALLER ALERT

Ora scored 23 points out of her team's 39 total points in a big win over Riverside Black. Ora has also helped the other 5th grade Cardinal Huskies team when they were shorthanded and has even helped the 5th grade Huskies boys' team with a couple baskets, great picks and solid defense!

DYLAN ZEIGLER Shaker Heights 6B

Dylan is a very good basketball player. He get his teammates involved in the game and he controls the flow of the game. He is an excellent defender as well as rebounder he has no flaws in is game

IAN SINDELAR Cardinal Huskies 5B

Ian has been helping the 6th Grade Cardinal Huskies team and had a incredible game against Sunday. He shot 62% scoring 16 points for his team and in group effort win against Geneva. Ian leaves it all on the court regularly giving every effort he has.

LANDON DURHAM Perry 5B

Landon lead the way to our victory over Chardon 27-20. He lead the team in points with 11 , rebounds with 9 and steals with 2. He also played outstanding on defense!

SOPHIE SIVON Perry Pirates 6G

Sophie Sivon lead our team this week to a hard fought victory over an undefeated Mentor team. She had 6 points, 4 steals, and 5 rebounds while leading our team as lead point guard. She scored the game winning bucket with 2 seconds left in a 16-14 victory.

EVA HUMINSKY Hudson 5G

Eva played a breakout all around game as a first year travel basketball player. She set a personal best for rebounds and assists and showed great sportsmanship in a tough match with West Geauga.

GIA GRANZHORN Aurora 3G

During our tough fight against an older and much taller team Gia stepped up and matched up against some girls that were physically, a lot bigger then her. She rose to the occasion, wasn't afraid to use her body and did a great job. She even stole some passes that the other team tried to throw into the lane! Great Job Gia!

MIA TRIVISONNO Aurora Greenmen 4G

Mia had 16 points, 4 rebounds, 3 steals and 1 assist to lead the Lady Greenmen in three games this weekend. She also made hustle plays on offense and defense that don't show up on the stat sheet but were keys to the victories!

TEEGAN GECEWICH Perry Pirates 6G

She scored a career high 8 points and was a very active player on defense, leading to steals and rebounds. She hustled every minute that she played. She has shown improvement each week and is one of our most coachable girls.



◀ **THIS IS WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT!** It may have been a big battle between 3rd graders Aurora and Chardon but it didn't stop a rival from helping out!

KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR THIS WEEK'S MARQUEE MATCHUPS...

BOYS

3RD **CRESTWOOD VS. STREETSBORO**
 Sunday, December 19th @ 11:00 @ Garfield High School Court #2

4TH **#1 HILLCREST STARS VS. #2 GARFIELD HEIGHTS**
 Saturday, December 18th @ 10:00 @ Garfield Hts. High Court #2

4TH **#4 PERRY VS. #5 CHESTERLAND BASKETBALL TEAM**
 Sunday, December 19th @ 9:00 @ Perry High School Court #1

5TH **#10 CHAMPION VS. STREETSBORO**
 Sunday, December 19th @ 2:00 @ Garfield High School Court #2

6TH **WEST GEAUGA VS. CHARDON**
 Sunday, December 19th @ 9:00 @ Eastlake Force Court #3

GIRLS

BERKSHIRE BADGERS VS. PERRY PIRATES 3RD/4TH
 Sunday, December 19th @ 11:00 pm @ Perry High School

#6 HUDSON EXPLORERS VS. #3 WILLOUGHBY REBELS
 Sunday, December 19th @ 1:00 @ Cardinal Middle School Court #1

#3 KENSTON VS. #4 CHAGRIN FALLS
 Friday, December 17th @ 6:30 @ Cardinal High School Court

4TH

5TH

6TH

BIG LEAF BASKETBALL POINTS IN THE PAINT

Lonnie Burton stays at the top but Shaker Heights and Riverside Black are hot on their trail. And don't forget about the T.Y.A. Trojans, who hopped on the back of **Walker Ashton** ▶ to beat Hudson and keep their slow but steady climb toward the top going.



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

EVERYONE STAYS THE SAME!

FIFTH GRADE BOYS POWER RANKINGS

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

LOTS AND LOTS OF CHANGES!

SIXTH GRADE BOYS POWER RANKINGS

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

SOME SMALL SHAKEUPS!



TEAM OF THE WEEK

MADISON BLUE STREAKS 5TH GRADE

FIFTH GRADE GIRLS

POWER RANKINGS

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

The 5th Grade Girls Madison Blue Streaks are off to a great start at 4-0 after the first three weeks of Big Leaf play.

This group of girls was formed brand new this year, as four of them are coming down from playing up, with the now 6th graders. Five new girls have been added to the mix and they are blending together nicely. Last weekend, the girls played a doubleheader at Force Sports and found themselves down four points at halftime against a tough Mayfield team. CC Alley sparked the team with 14 second half points and Lauren Martin added 11 more for the girls to take a 29-15 decision.

In the second game Sunday against Chardon, the girls found themselves in a tight contest. Paced by a great effort on the boards by Maddy Randall and an

excellent defensive effort from Tenley Clark the Blue Streaks found themselves up six points with four minutes to go. But the tough Chardon team came back to



Madison players huddle up: CC Alley, Lauren Martin, Aleya Pillar, Riley Mailhot, Allana Marshall, Tenley Clark, Bella Diebold, Madelyn Randall, Marya Alsawafah and head coach Karen Alley and assistant Mike Martin.

tie the game up in the final seconds. With eight seconds on the clock, CC Alley got an inbounds and got a shot up that just missed, but was able to scramble to get her own rebound at the foul line, and able to get a shot up as the buzzer went off and the shot went in, sending the girls off with a 24-22 win in what was a great game. "The girls have done a great job coming together as a team and the new players Riley, Marya, Alanna, Bella & Aleya are getting better everyday," coach Karen Alley beamed. "Coach Martin and I could not be more pleased with their effort and drive to get better. Its been a great start for these girls." It certainly has been! Keep it up girls!



▲ Team leader CC Alley drives to the hoop.



SIXTH GRADE GIRLS

POWER RANKINGS

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



SPRING *East*

BOYS & GIRLS TRYOUTS: MAKE-UP SESSIONS

@ Force Sports, 34650 Melinz Pkwy, Eastlake, OH 44095



BOYS

Sunday, January 2, 2022

3rd and 4th Grade Boys @ 3:00pm-4:00pm

5th and 6th Grade Boys @ 4:00pm-5:00pm

Please pre-register to attend. If you cannot we do take walk-ins.

If there are any questions please contact:

Jermaine Gay || jermaine@thebasketballacademy.com || 216-308-2889

GIRLS

Sunday, January 2, 2022


3rd and 4th Grade Girls @ 3:00pm-4:00pm

5th and 6th Grade Girls @ 4:00pm-5:00pm

Please pre-register to attend. If you cannot we do take walk-ins.

If there are any questions please contact:

Kelsey Michaels || kmichaels@thebasketballacademy.com || 419-603-2732



REGISTER: TNBABasketball.com/Teams



TEAM OF THE WEEK

T.Y.A. TROJANS 6TH GRADE

If you haven't heard of the T.Y.A. Trojans before, you wouldn't be the only one. They're not exactly from these parts. "We are part of the McDowell school district in Millcreek, Pennsylvania," coach Dave Ashton explains. That's right, Pennsylvania. "I believe playing good competition makes you better," Ashton continued. "We go to Pittsburgh, Western New York and Big Leaf, of course. We get a wide range of invaluable experiences playing different teams."

And I guess you could say that this system is working for the 6th grade T.Y.A. Trojans, who sit at 4-2, and have only lost to two of the top three teams in the battle of the big boys.

"The best thing about this team is that they are best friends," Ashton explained. "They play baseball together. The families all get along." And that's a good thing because this team plays a lot of games. On average, since 3rd grade, the Trojans have played in 10 tournaments a year, in addition to league play. Last year they even man-

aged to win the very competitive Penn State Basketball Championship, where they faced the best teams from Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Erie and they beat them all!



Front (l to r): Joe Clark, Ashton Wilbur, Owen Stranko, Walker Ashton, Taylor Lincoln. Back: Karson Biel, Emory Moffett, Evan Kuhn, Jake Grygier, Robbie Grygier and Hudson Stranko. Not pictured: Head coach Dave Ashton and assistant Eric Kuhn.

And they can thank their battles in Big Leaf for preparing them for even more success. "Every weekend is a battle for us," Ashton said. For example, last week the Trojans were losing by six in the last two minutes of the game against Hudson Blue in the Big Leaf Marquee Matchup of the Week. Without their top player (Evan Kuhn, who is slated to return this week) Walker Ashton drove hard to the basket time after time and hit six of seven free throws, leading the Trojans to a huge 24-19

win over Hudson Blue. "It was a great team defensive effort with clutch free throws," Ashton said. "It was just another example of how this team is built on strong work ethic and chemistry." It seems like those long drives from PA are definitely paying off!

BIG LEAF PSA!

Respecting the Game Means... Respecting the Officials

For those that are not a part of the administrative side of basketball you may not realize that there is a major shortage of officials in our area and across the game in general. Every Sunday Big Leaf competes with multiple leagues, CYO and just a day off for officials who have been taking a beating working the high school circuit all week long. The main reason there's a shortage is the verbal abuse from the fans. The people who choose to ref do it because they love the game and understand their importance. Big Leaf is now dealing with the shortage for the first time in the last couple weeks and we ask our fans and coaches to please give a little more respect for the least respected part of the game.





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:
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REGISTER TODAY: TNBABasketball.com/TNBAOhio