

Spring Ball at Wear Out The Net

As owners of Wear Out The Net Basketball Academy, we pride ourselves on providing a somewhat unique approach to the off-season game. Our focus continues to be on the complete basketball player and our teams not only play in tournaments but are also in our gym practicing the fundamentals of the game weekly, and because we are an academy, many players train with us throughout the year. Forming highly competitive teams and challenging players all while giving them the ability to excel is what all spring teams are asked and aspire to do. But our stand that this venue is meant to enhance one's playing ability so they can be better prepared for next year's high school or college season has not wavered. We are committed to helping all players find opportunities to play at the next level of the game, whatever that may be, but we in no way tell our players they are guaranteed D1 opportunities. Many of our coaches have either played or coached at the D1, D2 and D3 levels of the game and understand the process to get to the next level. We maintain that through high school ball and spring teams, the good and the greats will be found. To meet your off-season goals in an attempt to be the good amongst the sometimes bad and the ugly of spring basketball, we want to be your choice...but make no mistake we are not for everyone.

A one size fits all is not our mantra and in this day and age of the evolution of spring basketball, there are options. Although spring ball has evolved, the game of basketball has basically stayed the same. Here is simply our philosophy. We believe all players, whether our top 17U teams or our first teams just beginning to play the game, should repetitively work on the fundamentals of the game. We will warm up, do two ball dribbling, one step lay ups and shoot at game speed. We have never met a top-level player or coach who has complained of being too skilled or overly fundamental. Ariel McDonald said they spent substantial time on one step lay ups while he played abroad in Europe and the legendary Dean Smith while at UNC made his players run in practice for lay ups missed during warm ups before games. The fine tuning and disciplined little things are important to us because playing the game fundamentally is a learned and refined skill. The focus on individual skill levels often equates better team production. We encourage the up and down fast pace athletic play of spring ball and are awed by the fancy passes, but never underestimate the beauty in the lost art of the sharply executed perfect pass and easy finish.

We think tournaments are highly important not only to gauge where players and teams rank, but to understand the dynamics of a team. Winning is always the goal, but the process of learning how to achieve it is just as important. We know that travel goes hand in hand with tournaments but also realize that Minnesota hosts highly visible, top tier tournaments. Therefore, we will play in Minnesota as well as travel with our older teams. We however do not deem it necessary to fly all over the country to solidify the ability level of our teams. Whether a player is competing at a gym in Vegas or a gym in Bloomington is only valuable in whom they are playing and who is watching. We are confident our players will perform in front of college

coaches in countless venues. Our staff of coaches is visible, connected and willing to be advocates for players. Ultimately, we want kids to be better players for whatever team they play on the following year. We encourage them to work hard in the off-season so they can play this game at their highest level.

We can't promise you that if you play or practice with us, we will make you next year's D1 prospect. If it were that easy, everyone would be doing it. Some kids have extraordinary talents and hone their skills and others sheer ability to work harder and overachieve make opportunities for themselves. But no one beats the system. The resumes of the good and the great players boast the sacrifice and hard work that goes into making the off-season imperfections, next year's assets. We can't promise you that your team will win every tournament. We can tell you that you will have to work your tail off to win tournaments if you are a part of our teams. Your actions matter to our program. We encourage you to attend D1, D2 and D3 games because good basketball and great players are alive and well at all levels. Don't let the game fool you; it might just be the hardest job you love to play.

Have fun playing spring basketball but be careful of what you ask for from such a game. If winning championships is your goal, make sure your team is going to win championships with you being a factor. Sometimes playing on a less stacked team gives you the opportunity to play valuable minutes. If getting a college scholarship is your goal, understand that no club or academy can promise you that. Go to a place that promises to make you work hard and has the integrity to work hard for you. Make sure you find the right fit to make you a stronger, smarter player next year. Surround yourself with kids from other towns and be the best team player you can be. Remember that bettering yourself in all aspects of the game shouldn't make you the premadonna on the floor, it should make you the best team player and in turn the most valuable player. Welcome to Wear Out The Net...we are ready to work hard for you, so get ready to play!