Boys 4th Grade NIT Division

Ballers Basketball Coach De'Edra Dangerfield

The Ballers Basketball Club started in 1995 as a non-profit organization by coaches De'Edra Dangerfield De'Nicea Jacquet and Sandria Moses, impacting the lives of over hundred's of student athletics. The premise of the club is to provide opportunities for children from Kindergarten to 12th Grade to use the sport of basketball as an avenue to receive a college education, thus the team slogan is "Courts to College." The organization's goals are to provide educational opportunities for all participants.

The Ballers has provided community support outreach to students who are most highly impacted by the achievement gap as evident in statistics describing the low completion rate of children in the public school system. The Ballers Basketball Club provides an opportunity and foundation for these students to receive a higher education. The Ballers have graduated from high school, college and some have continued onto achieve advance degrees. Players are required to provide grade reports to their coaches to remain focused on the goal; "Courts to College." Trips are organized not only to play games on the road, but also to visit Colleges, thus sparking the interest for college at an early age.

The Ballers Basketball Club currently has twelve dynamic players on the rooster:

*1. **Thomas Dangerfield III**, otherwise known as "Smack the Board" brings a stop us challenge to the court.*

*2. **Michael Brook Jr**., aka "Mikey", aka "Mad Handles" has made a name for himself as a specialty ball handler.*

*3. **Bryan Eckert** means business and will keep opponents in line as "The Enforcer."*

*4. The player known as Stevie, **Stephen Carter Jr.**, takes to the center and holds his position as the "Shaq" attack.*

*5. When the game needs a closer, "The Finisher," **Cameron Jack** brings the team home to the end.*

*6. **Roman Anderson** will back opponents into a corner as he plays "D" he is known as "Lock Down."*

*7. **Jeremiah Robinson**, aka "The Regulator, is the team leader that calls the plays, bringing his game face.*

*8. **Joshua Baumgartner** brings the 3 pointers and is one of the strongest shooters on the team, hence named "The Raining 3's."*

*9. The player who brings the heat to the team is **Alex Torales Perez** aka "On Fire."*

*10. The Baller who shoots and rebounds with ease therefore gained the name "Mr. Smooth," is **Joshua Caleb**.*

*11. The energy is on the court, when **Larry Martin, III** aka "Mr. Hustle," steals the ball from his opponents.*

*12. **Shaw'Trell White** takes control of the ball and the court earning his name as "The Dominator."*

The idea is to promote their love of basketball as a pathway to a college education. The Ballers are a close family orientated team with parental support, heart, passion and drive. This essay illustrates only a portion of their character, the rest of the story remains on the court during every game.