

USADB Youth Report

The Third Annual Boys' Basketball Elite Camp proved to be rewarding to the campers who participated, as well as a successful week at the Indiana School for the Deaf, USA's basketball state. There were 22 top campers in attendance from all over country. Due to unexpected circumstances, several high school coaches could not make it due to prior commitments. The coaching staff was Robert Haney, Pat Robinson, Sekeo White and Rick Ward. The supporting staff was Peter Badavas and Ropp. The camp was self-supported with no financial assistance from USADB because it was not proposed at the House of Delegates meeting in Orlando, Florida. The Fourth Annual Boys' Basketball Elite Camp planning is underway this coming summer pending the location.

The inauguration of the Girls' Basketball Elite Camp was a success at the Minnesota School for the Deaf. Sabrina Overlie was director of the camp. There were 17 top campers in attendance. The camp staff was Nanette Virnig, Steve Humber and Lance Gonzalez. There will be no Girls' Basketball Elite Camp this summer due to the director's other commitments.

The USADB board voted unanimously to have our 3rd East/West All-Stars Game at the 2009 USADB Tournament. Despite the lack of this year's sponsorship and economic woes, we were able to do so. We are very grateful to the Riverside School for the Deaf and Athletic Director, David Hamilton, for providing lodging at no charge for the coaches and players. In particular, I want to thank Vance Rewolinski for coordinating this event for the second consecutive year.

Youth are crucial for the future of USADB. We cannot lose sight of the vision of Deaf Basketball for the next generation to come. Regardless of social stigma and financial strife, we must look adversity in the face and be ambassadors of our Deaf heritage.

Respectfully submitted by Keith Westhoelter, Youth Commissioner