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# The Dribbler

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## Phoenix Tournament - Number One!

The Guelph Phoenix rose from the snow not the flames in the First Annual Guelph Phoenix Basketball Tournament. It was run on March 7-9 in one of the worst snow storms of the season. And while other tournaments were cancelled in the region the Phoenix Tournament carried on. And by all accounts it was a great success. Even with all the snow on the ground, the tournament went on with 48 teams in 6 age groups. There were 7 Phoenix teams entered.

The following Phoenix teams finished in the medals:

Novice Boys – Bronze Medal

Atom Boys – Bronze Medal

Major Atom Boys #2 – 4<sup>th</sup> place Medal

Bantam Boys #2 – 4<sup>th</sup> place Medal

Major Bantam Boys – Bronze Medal

Bantam Girls – Silver Medal

There was some great basketball played that weekend and despite the weather everyone had fun and had a good time. Steve Baker, GYBA Tournament Chairman was pleased with the result. "It has been a lot of work, but when you see the players having fun it is all worth it. It really is about the kids", he said. When asked about next year, there was no hesitation, "We will continue

**It took a lot of work by a lot of people, but it paid off.**

to build on our success from this year. We are going to plan farther ahead, get more people on board and really make this tour-

nament the best anywhere around bar none."

The tournament raised \$12,000 for the club and gave the Phoenix teams that entered an extra tournament to play in this season. It also got some local media coverage. So it was a real win both on and off the court and something GYBA can continue to grow and improve.

It took a lot of work by a lot of people, but it paid off. Steve remarked, "I personally want to thank all the volunteers, the Guelph Referee Board, especially Jack Massey, the Upper Grand District School Board, especially their custodial staff and the entire tournament committee for their hard work".

Plans are underway for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Tournament next year!!

## New Website - Latest Improvement

The Guelph Basketball website is but the latest improvement the club has created lately. It has a lot more functionality and it will be much easier to keep up to date.

The old one served its purpose, but was created even before the

club was officially started.

There is a special flash picture show at the beginning and a fresh, new look for both Phoenix and Hustle. There will be a photo gallery in which action and team pictures of players will be displayed.

The plan is to have areas dedicated to each division and team. There is a very large coaching section populated with some of the latest and greatest resources from all over the internet.

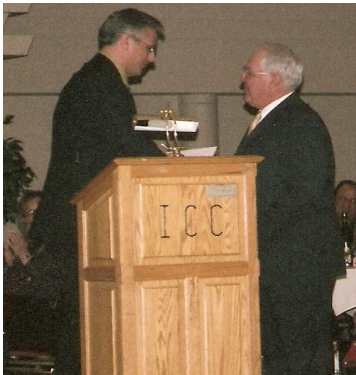
It is designed to be a 'one stop

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# Nothing but Net - Swish for Wish

Last March 2007 as I was sitting listening to presenters at the annual Guelph Wish Fund for Children charity fund raiser and I pondered the idea of how we could help this most worthy cause. We are Guelph Youth Basketball Association (GYBA) of course. It was at that moment that I asked myself "what if" and possibilities began to come to mind. There is an expression:

"All great things have two creations, first is the idea or the mental creation and then the second creation making it happen."



It was then that I thought of "Swish for the Wish" our basketball community of approximately 900 players in a combined Hustle and Phoenix program making a difference in our community. The Guelph Wish

Fund for children grants wishes to children 19 years of age and younger who are terminally ill, severely challenged or handicapped. This idea would have our children coming to the aid of other children in our community who are not so fortunate to know the fun and excitement of playing the great game of basketball. Other benefits began to spring to mind as well, such as teaching our players that community and citizenship are not spectator sports, you need to get up and get involved if we are to make a

**Marc presenting GYBA cheque to Ron Asselstine**

difference. For all of those players who did participate you did make a difference in the lives of those other children.

As you may also recall we too are a not for profit organization and the monies raised from this event is a 50/50 split between the Guelph Wish Fund and our own Capital fund that will be used to reinvest back into our organization and subsequently back into the community.

It was a little rushed in getting the pieces in place to run the event and

like most first time activities we learned from it and will take those learnings to improve the process for next year. With that being said this in our first ever "Swish for the Wish" fundraiser I am pleased to announce that with your combined efforts we raised \$12,600.00 of which half of those monies were presented to Ron Asselstine, President of the Guelph wish Fund for children at this years charity dance. For all of those in attendance when I presented Ron his cheque it was received with great awe that your Guelph Youth Basketball Association was so generous. As I say to my children, any act of kindness never goes unnoticed and your combined acts and contributions were noticed.

Congratulations to all of you who participated this year, I look forward to doing it again next season.

Marc Marleau

Head Coach, Major Atom Boys #2  
Assistant Coach, Major Midget Boys #1

*"...with your combined efforts we raised \$12,600..."*

# Hustle Has Great Season with Nash

Steve Nash came to Hustle Basketball this season and it was great.

Over 470 players joined the Hustle Division this season, both girls and boys. All donned the new Steve Nash jerseys and went out and had a great time.

As is the custom of Hustle, it was instructive, inclusive and lots of fun. There was a fantastic group of

coaches and conveners this year. Whether they new the game well or had a passion for helping kids and organizing fun, it all worked.

New this year was also the "hand balls" provided to each player. Like

the jersey, each player got to take them home when the season was done.

We are all looking forward to another great season this fall.



**GUELPH BASKETBALL**



# Coaching Development is Top Priority

Great coaching has been one of the top priorities since GYBA was formed. The emphasis has been to give players of all ages and in both Hustle and Phoenix a great basketball experience and this can only be done when there are great coaches involved.



Fortunately GYBA has benefitted from some outstanding coaches coming from many different clubs and backgrounds. Their dedication has been great.

GYBA continues to build on this foundation and is providing coaching clinics on a regular basis. The first two this season were done in September and October. Jerry Auger taught the National Coaching Certifica-

tion Courses Level 1 and Level 2.

The third clinic/player camp was held in January and was put on by Rick Torbett, one of the top coaching clinicians in the world. GYBA is grateful to the Coaching Association of Canada and the Investors Group for their generous support of our coaching development efforts in the form of a \$900 grant that GYBA applied for and received. Rick was the key note speaker at the NCAA championships for the top college coaches in

(continued on page 4)

## New Website (con't. from page 1)

shop for information about the association. It will have location for gyms, schedules for leagues and teams, try-out times and locations, coaching links, contact information for GYBA officials, Tournament information, general basketball information, newsletters, board meeting minutes and many other things.

GYBA is working to make the organization as accessible and transparent as possible.

The association would also like submissions from parents, players and coaches. Great basketball links, action photos, team write-ups are all welcome as the site gets better and better.

It would also be wonderful to have

someone who is interested in this sort of communication and medium help out in the updating and editing. Volunteers with specific skill sets are very much welcome.

Thanks to Jerry Auger for spearheading the efforts to date. His focus and determination has been a real asset to this project in particular.

*“...a ‘one stop shop’ for information about the association.”*

## Summer Camps

This summer there are two great basketball camps that GYBA is supporting.

Royal City Basketball Camp has been on the scene for a number of years and is getting better each year. This year the camp runs from July 7 - 18, with 3 age categories for players from 7 to 16 years of age. For more information check out the website:

[www.royalcitybasketball.com](http://www.royalcitybasketball.com)

And back by popular demand and this time for two weeks is Ganon Baker. Ganon ran one of GYBA's first coaching clinics to rave reviews and last summer he came back with his team to run an outstanding one week camp. This summer he is back for two weeks!



The dates for Ganon's camp are Aug 18-22 and Aug 25-29. To register and for more information please contact Pam Baker (no relation (smile))

519-763-0138

[pam.baker@sympatico.ca](mailto:pam.baker@sympatico.ca)

**GUELPH BASKETBALL**



# Coaching Development is Top Priority (con't. from page 3)

the U.S. last year.

The fourth clinic in June was put on by Jerry who presented the Dribble Drive Motion Offense, recently featured in Sports Illustrated. Mike MacKay, Technical Director for Canada Basketball also participated and worked on the individual skills required for the Dribble Drive Motion Offense and Kyle Julius presented the basic skills

## Kids at the Torbett Player's Clinic

and fundamentals that he has been working on with some of our play-



ers in a separate initiative this season.

Hustle will be doing some coach development this coming season, building on the Steve Nash program this year. The challenge is logistics which the club is working on.

GYBA thinks that this effort to develop great coaches is worth the work, effort and investment. With dedicated coaching staff and such great support and leadership, the future looks bright!!

## Volunteers Welcome and Wanted!

GYBA is very fortunate to have some fantastic volunteers. Some of these people spend hours and hours on behalf of the players to make this club function.

Pam Baker is the Volunteer Coordinator for GYBA and this woman leads by example. She is quick to lend a hand in almost any situation, whether it be a Phoenix tournament, Hustle registration or working with the executive each month

at the board meetings. Our collective thanks to Pam and people like her!

GYBA would like to encourage others to step up and help out. Whether you have one hour a month or 5 hours a week, your help is needed.

Would you like to coach, manage a team, help out with registration, work at a tournament? Are you

good with kids? Can you organize people with a smile? Do you know how to put together a newsletter????!! If you are willing, GYBA can probably find a role that you'd be comfortable with. As the saying goes, "many hands make light the work". GYBA would love a hand.

If you have some time this season, contact Pam Baker. [volunteer@guelphbasketball.com](mailto:volunteer@guelphbasketball.com)

*"GYBA would like to encourage others to step up and help out."*

## Come Coach and Convene with Hustle

Hustle is looking to strengthen its already wonderful coaching and convener staff.

Historically Hustle has had parents

and others jump in, often at the last minute, to help coach and convene the Hustle teams. It has worked well, but it can be even better.

Hustle would like to work with coaches on a longer term basis and build on their skills and confidence so the players get a better and better experience.

We love coaches that are involved

in Phoenix, but we can't rely on them all season. It can make it difficult for everyone. So, Hustle is out to get even more people willing to help out and commit to some development this season. If you have an interest, please contact Ian Cornett at:

Communication@[guelphbasketball.com](mailto:guelphbasketball.com)





# GUELPH BASKETBALL



## Guelph Youth Basketball Association

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## Mark Your Calendar

Phoenix Coaches Meeting	Wednesday September 10th	College Heights S.S. Cafeteria
Hustle Registration	Saturday September 13th, 20th, 27th	East Side Mario's
Phoenix Tryouts Midget and Up - Girls	Sunday September 14th, 21st, 28th	College Heights S.S.
Phoenix Tryouts Remaining Teams	Fri., Sat. and Sun. September 19-21 Fri., Sat. and Sun. September 26-28	John F. Ross C.V.I.
Hustle Season Begins	Saturday October 18th	T.B.D.
Phoenix Player/Parent/Coaches Meeting	Saturday October 18th	Centennial C.V.I. Cafeteria
Level Two Coaching Certification	Sunday October 19th, 8:30 - 5:00 pm Sunday October 28th, 9:00 - 4:30 pm	College Heights S.S.

Check the Website for other upcoming dates: [www.guelphbasketball.com](http://www.guelphbasketball.com)