

FAST BREAK



Official Newsletter of the Masters Basketball Association



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**May Madness
May 2-7, 2016**

**Coral Springs
Gymnasium**

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The January Director's Message



Happy New Year! I hope you, and your families, had a wonderful and enjoyable holiday season.

With the turning of the calendar to 2016 we are starting to crank up preparations for the 2016 MBA National Masters Championships. We already have a number of teams entered in multiple divisions. I want to remind everyone that your early entry locks in your team for this year's tournament and you can take advantage of the discounted early entry fee at \$725. The last day for the discounted early Team Entry is February 29th. Team Entries will be closed on April 2nd.

I will be handling all team entries this year. My staff and I will be following up with you after your entry is received to confirm your spot or for any additional information that might be needed.

As Dave mentioned in our December Newsletter, one of our top priorities this year is a viable 40/45 division. This requires a minimum of four teams. We have one very strong entry and one good suspect, but need two more teams to have this important age division. If anyone has either individual or league contact information in your area that we could reach out to, it would be greatly appreciated. We have a 2016 Event Flyer that I can send to you for distribution to potential teams/individuals.

If you are located in south Florida, Dave and I will be happy to travel to the gym where your league plays to introduce the tournament and speak with potential Team Organizers.

Please don't hesitate to contact me for any questions regarding team entries, suggestions or comments. My email is steve@mastershoops.org or you can call the MBA Office at 888-942-2247 - Dial 1 for my extension.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you in May for another exciting week at the National Masters Basketball Championships.



National Masters Championships
Coral Springs, Florida

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Regards,

Steve Nelson

Tournament Director

PLACES TO STAY... La Quinta Inns and Suites

The Masters Basketball Association is excited to announce that the La Quinta Inn and Suites is once again a hotel partner for 2016. The hotel is conveniently located in the heart of Coral Springs and is an easy five minute drive to the Coral Springs Gymnasium.



A standard double room is \$75. The Deluxe Double or King is \$79 and a Suite is \$105.

To reserve your room call (954) 753-9000 and ask for Group Masters Basketball. Or book online at www.lq.com and use code: #425.



MBA SPOTLIGHT: JAMES PAYNE

James has been playing in the MBA National Masters Championships for 24 years. In 2015, he played in the 65+ Division for Pit Crew and was selected to the All-Tournament Team.



Where did you grow up:

I'm from Los Angeles and graduated from Susan Miller Dorsey High School.

Tell Us About Your College Career:

I didn't play organized basketball until going to college. I attended Southern California College and played center. After my sophomore season I was recruited by UCLA, but stayed at Southern California.

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You 

Did You Play Professional Basketball?

I played in Mexico for two years and then in the Philippine National Basketball Association for five years.

What is Your Most Memorable Basketball Moment?

My most exciting moment was dunking on Bill Walton at UCLA during a pick up game. I remember closing my eyes and jumping from the free throw line knowing Bill was trying to block my shot and the next thing I knew I saw him [Bill] on the floor and I was at the rim.

Who were your basketball idols growing up?

Jerry West and Elgin Baylor. Growing up we didn't have a TV in the house, so I used to listen to the Lakers games on the radio. I always wanted to watch a pro game, so one night I took a dollar out of my moms purse, snuck out my bedroom window and ran three miles to the LA Sports Arena to watch Elgin Baylor and Jerry West of the Lakers play the Philadelphia 76ers with Wilt Chamberlain. When the game was over I ran back to get there before my dad got home at 11 p.m.

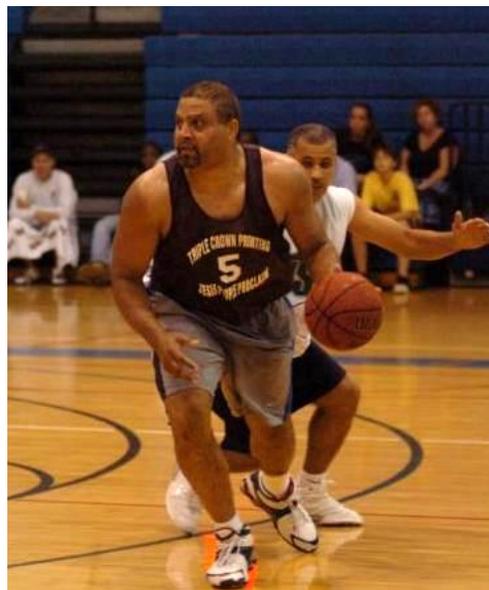
What do you do while your down here for the Tournament?

I came down here for the tournament in 1991 and fell in love with it. Actually, I like to be in the gym all day to watch everyone play. I enjoy making new friends and also love going down to South Beach.

MBA THROWBACK PHOTO

CORY BLACKWELL

Keynote Speaker at the 2007 Welcome Banquet



SEND US YOUR PHOTOS

We want to see your throwback photos!

Please share with us photos from your early playing days - high school, college, pro & past MBA tournaments.

SHARE CHALLENGE - HELP US GROW

We are looking to continue to grow our tournament and we want to ask for your help. We'd like to challenge each of you to forward our newsletter to at least two people you know who could participate in this year's event or would just be interested in receiving our newsletters. On the bottom left of this email is a ***Forward Email*** link that you can click on and add emails addresses. You can also simply use your email to forward the newsletter.

To be added to our email distribution, please send your name and email to info@mastershoops.org.