

# FAST BREAK



Official Newsletter of the Masters Basketball Association



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**May Madness  
May 8-13, 2017**

**Coral Springs  
Gymnasium**

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## MESSAGE FROM OUR TOURNAMENT CHAIRMAN



On behalf of the Board of the Directors, thank you to our past participants, partners and followers of the Masters Basketball Association (MBA).

We are proud to report that we received very positive feedback from our 2016 survey respondents. Thank you to board member Lisa Reinhard, who personally reached out to each participant wishing to provide additional comments.

The Board of Directors has been engaged this summer doing a comprehensive review of our tournament to ensure the long-term viability of the MBA.

An important area we have focused on is our operational budget. In the past the MBA has relied on a handful of individuals, such as Founder Kevin McNamara and other board members who annually make personal contributions to allow us to meet expenses. While our corporate support is evolving, we need to identify and secure additional partners and individual donors to enable us to be around for you and our next generation of players.

In an effort to help us reach our immediate and long-term goals, the Board of Directors wishes to add 2 to 4 new members.

If you would like to nominate a person for consideration to be on the Board of Directors and / or if you can help us in growing our income with new sponsors or individual support, please contact me at [bwatterson@wccak.com](mailto:bwatterson@wccak.com).

Regards,  
**Bill Watterson**

Chairman on the Board  
[bwatterson@wccak.com](mailto:bwatterson@wccak.com)



National Masters Championships  
Coral Springs, Florida

**Founder**

Kevin J. McNamara

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Pete Battaglia  
*Supervisor of Officials*

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**FAST BREAK UPDATES FOR 2016-17**

Based on feedback from our *Fast Break* readers we are adding new sections. Here's a preview of what to look forward to reading.

**Off the Court**

In this section you'll read about what our participants do during tournament week when they're not at the gym. There's so much our locale offers and we want to let you know of many of these options.

**Tips from Team Organizers**

MBA team organizers will share tips on what it takes to be a team organizer. While being a team organizer does require time, these tips may inspire you to become a team organizer for this year's tournament!

**Free Agents**

Over the past six months the number of individuals contacting us to join a team has been overwhelming. We will be providing monthly updates on *Free Agents*. We feel this section can assist Team Organizers fill out their rosters as well as help new team organizers develop a new team.

**Partner Profiles**

As we continue grow our partnerships we will periodically be devoting a section in our newsletter to highlighting these organizations, their leaders and special offers available to our MBA family.

*We want thank our readers who continue to share with us your news and photos that we can include in future newsletters.*

**MBA SPOTLIGHT:  
EMERY ATKINSON**

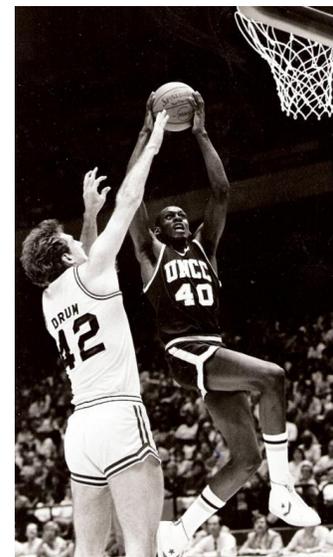
*Emery has played on South Florida Elite for a number of years and in last year's tournament he averaged 19.0 ppg and earned all-tournament honors. He currently resides in Opa Locka, FL where he is a high school science teacher.*

**High School:** North Miami Beach Senior High (Class of 1980)

**College:** Miami Dade-North CC & UNC Charlotte

**What's your best basketball playing memory?**

When I was playing in Junior College we made a run for the National Championship. We lost in the Championship Game in Double OT to Spud Webb's Midland Community College team in a controversial final.



**Who had the most influence on you as a player?**

I believe my parents. They were always supportive and there for me in the early years. Also, all the coaches along the way. They taught me a lot about the game.

**Who was basketball idol growing up?**

Dr. J

**How would you describe your style of play?**

I'm a team player. I like the running style, looking for opportunities to score on the break or if help comes dishing off for the an assist. I also enjoy defending the opponent's tough forward (especially when I'm not injured, lol).

**How often do you play now?**

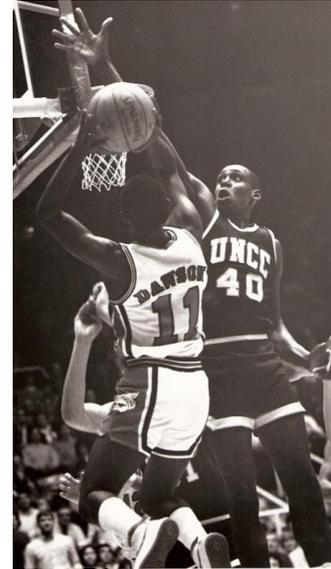
I play about two to three times a week on the short court... lol. I only go to the long court in preparation for a tournament.

**What do you look forward to most about the MBA Tournament?**

I look forward to the competition and the friendship you develop with the other players.

**What is your favorite MBA memory?**

A big dunk above the rim in one of the past finals when I also earned the MVP honor.

**What insider advice would you give to a first-time MBA player?**

Be sure to practice and prepare. The tournament is long week and it takes a toll on the body. The games are serious, the players want to win and are very competitive.

*Photos Courtesy of the UNCC Athletics*

**TIPS FROM TEAM ORGANIZERS*****JD Miller, Our Gang***

*"For me as a team organizer what is most important is that I build a team for life and my players know I will take of the business and all they have to do is show up, play hard, do their best to represent our team, make new friends and have fun!"*

Here are other valuable tips from JD...

*Begin organizing your team around November so that by January your roster can be close to finalized.*

*Keep in touch with your main players and try getting new players if you can. Allow your teammates to help recruit.*

*I make sure I have at least seven players that commit 100% and if necessary I'll try and pick up extra players*

*It's very important to sign up your team early to ensure a spot, as well as make it easy for the MBA to know how many teams they have in a given age group to help them schedule games as quickly as possible.*

***\*\*If you're interested in becoming a team organizer and have questions, please let us know.***

**OFF THE COURT...**



When **Dave Ankrum (Athletics Unlimited)** isn't shooting jumps shots, he spends his time at **Hillsboro Beach**, only 20 minutes away from the Coral Springs Gym.



**Paul Grady (South Florida Elite)** likes to take in the many local area free outdoor concerts during his down time between games.

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## FREE AGENTS

Over the summer, the MBA received numerous emails from masters players looking to be picked up by a team for the 2017 tournament. While many players are from the US, we've also received inquiries from players abroad including Venezuela, Ukraine and India.

If you are a Free Agent, in addition to contacting us to list your information, please also keep an eye on this section of the newsletter and our website where we list *Players Looking for a Team* as it's also possible that one of you could be a Team Organizer and put your team together from our list of Free Agents.

### **August Featured Free Agent ... Armand Rappaport**

Armand is looking to join a 75+ division team.

He's 5-9, 160 lbs. He currently plays pick-up games at Patch Reef Park (Boca Raton, FL) and says he has an "excellent outside shot". Please contact us if you are interested in recruiting Armand for your team.

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## ALUMNI NEWS



Congratulations to MBA alum and former NBA/ABA player **Wali Jones** for his recognition by the National Basketball Retired Players Association as Legend of the Year.

Wali was recently interviewed by Sports Inside and Out: Legends in Sports. [Click here](#) to listen.

To be added to our email distribution, please send your name and email to [mbapr@mastershoops.org](mailto:mbapr@mastershoops.org).