

# 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 DIRECTOR



Fall is upon us and before we know it so will 2017, which means it's time to start cranking it up in prep for our 2017 Men's Masters National Basketball Tournament.

Since the completion of the 2016 tournament, our Board of Directors, led by Chairman Bill Watterson, has been reviewing different aspects of the tournament to try and keep improving on what we feel is the best run masters tournament in the country. As Bill

stated in our August Newsletter, we are looking for additional Board Members and corporate sponsors to help preserve the MBA tournament for many years to come. This forward thinking by the Board is what is needed so all us of can continue to enjoy our "week in the sun" playing basketball. If you have any suggestions or contacts please send them to me at [steve@mastershoops.org](mailto:steve@mastershoops.org).

The foundation for the 2017 tournament is already in place and we are working our way to start team sign ups beginning November 1. Updates to our website will be coming shortly to provide you with the most updated information. If you have any specific questions about the 2017 tournament that are not answered on the website, please [contact me](#) and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

We are very excited about the 2017 tournament and are looking to field teams in all age groups: 40+, 45+, 50+, 55+, 60+, 65+, 70+ and 75+. We are even going to see if we can start a 30+ Women's Division this year.

Fall leagues are starting up, so please pass the word about our tournament to your fellow players.

Enjoy your fall season!

*Regards,*

**Steve Nelson**

Tournament Director



National Masters Championships  
Coral Springs, Florida

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**MBA SPOTLIGHT:  
TODD TROTTER**

**2016 Team:** Bedford 50

**Occupation:** Attorney at Kaiser Permanente

**High School:** Lincoln High School

**College:** University of the Pacific

**Hometown:** Sacramento, CA



**What is your basketball background?**

I never played basketball in high school. I was a state champion wrestler and never made it out to basketball tryouts. The coach would always ask me to come out, but at that time, I enjoyed wrestling and didn't want to give it up for basketball. During my time in the military I played for the Army team. We traveled quite a bit playing in different countries and universities. It was quite an eye-opening experience.

**How would you describe your experience playing in the MBA National Championship?**

My MBA experience has been nothing short of FUN! The MBA tournament is one of the things I look forward to during the year. I really enjoy the camaraderie, fellowship and competition. I've met so many new people from around the world. It's almost like being back in the military where you meet people from everywhere. I travel quite a bit with work and with my new friendships, I stop in different cities and look up the other masters players. This has allowed me to meet up and play basketball with them and other players in their city who may not play in the masters tournament.

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

I like to play in a manner that fits the needs of the team. I've been on teams where I need to score and others where they need me to play good defense and distribute the ball. I enjoy filling the gaps on whatever our team needs.

**What basketball player, past or present, has influenced the way you play?**

I've picked up a lot from different players along the way. If you study the game enough there is so much to learn from others. I stole Steve Nash's one-foot floater even though I'm still trying to master it. I've learned how to use the glass more frequently from Jerry Gilbert (a masters living legend) and I've learned patience from Rob Samuels (another masters living legend).

### How often do you play ball during the year?

I play on average three times a week. There is a group of guys out of Sacramento who I've been playing with on a weekly basis for over 20 years. Percy Wilkes (another frequent masters player) has a gym in Sacramento that many of us who play in the MBA tournament use. Uylous Ingram, Jerry Gilbert, Paul Curtis, Daniel Golden, George Golden, Carl Collins, Mike Bradley and Rick Frizzel are all MBA players who have been playing at this gym for years.

### Are you involved in any community work or foundations?

I was recently appointed to the California Veterans Board by Governor Jerry Brown. I currently chair the appeals committee. When a veteran feels like they've been wrongfully denied a benefit by the CalVet, it comes to the board and we hold hearings to determine the appropriate outcome. I also sit on the board for the Greater Sacramento Urban League and the California Hospital Association.

### Do you have any special interests or facts to share with us?

I am a war veteran who was deployed during Operation Desert Shield. It was truly a life changing experience that allowed me to grow as a person.

My wife and I really enjoyed going to Prince concerts. I've attended over 20 of them prior to his passing. I've been married for over 20 years and I have the best wife in the world "for me."

My brother [Jim Trotter](#) is an NFL reporter for ESPN.

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## TOP TIPS FROM TEAM ORGANIZERS

By: **Roger Larson, Victory (60+ Division)**

*My message for those considering being Team Organizers is...*

***Do it. All your hard work will be worth the effort!***

*The annual MBA tournament is the premier men's toumey of the year. It's highly organized with the best referees you'll see. Everything from the facilities, tournament staff, medical assistance, and more, will make you feel like a pro.*

*Communicate with your players. Make sure they remember to purchase their airline tickets and reserved their hotel room.*

*Many MBA teams find a sponsor. The sponsors can fund the team's entry fee, player registration fee and uniform costs. But...It's not unusual for a player to cover his own registration fee.*

*Play the players you bring. Nobody wants to travel to Florida to watch other teammates play the whole game. Not only does rotating players help prevent injuries and boost team moral, it helps you win by having your team rested for the semifinal game and ready for the championship game.*

*Build up your target player list. You may need an extra player on short notice. Your roster can change at the last minute due to players getting injured, family issues, job requirements, or they just plain*



Roger Larson



Roger Larson & Earl Monroe

decided at the last moment not to go.

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

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## OFF THE COURT...



**Harry Carothers (Clearwater Aces)** enjoys dinner with friend, Margit, at Marino's Italian restaurant.

We are interested in learning more about what our players do during our tournament when they are *Off the Court*. We encourage you to [contact us](#) with your stories and photos.

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## FEATURED FREE AGENT SEAN KELLY

Age Division: 40+  
DOB: 8/31/76  
Ht: 6'5"  
Wt: 205-210  
Playing experience:  
College - BYU and Western Oregon.  
Professional - IBL

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.



**Sean Kelly**

## DID YOU KNOW?

Here is a list of top college representation from the 2016 tournament.

**Brigham Young University, 3**  
David Steadman, Ron Linford and Paul Warner

**Sacramento State, 3**

Robert Ferguson, Rick Patterson and Uylous Ingram

**Sheridan College, 3**

Glen Wolstenholme, Richard Hasfal and Leroy Cassanova

**Stanford University, 3**

Stan Dowson, Karl Wustrack and Rod Young

**University of Miami, 3**

Kevin Heller, Mike Noblet and Keith Levine

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**FOLLOW US ONLINE FOR UPDATES**

Please follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#) for frequent updates on the MBA and other information we feel is valuable to share with you.

Additionally, the Masters Basketball Association [website](#) is a terrific resource filled with details on our tournament.

*We encourage you to share our updates with your family and friends!*



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