

# 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



It's just a little over seven months until the start of the 2017 Masters National Basketball Tournament which means it's time to start preparing for this year's tournament (May 8-13).

Our website will be ready for the start of Early Bird Registration on Dec.1. The early entry team fee is only \$725 (\$800 for entries after March 4, 2017).

Team Organizers are important individuals to any tournament, no matter what sport. October/November is the time for all past Team Organizers and any individual who is looking to be a Team Organizer to start putting together their team. If any Team Organizers, especially those of you who will be first-timers, have any questions or need assistance, please contact me at [steve@mastershoops.org](mailto:steve@mastershoops.org).

I want to also ask each of you to please start talking up our 2017 Tournament in leagues that you're playing in. We are looking to field a full complement of competitive teams in all age groups, and for this to happen, word of mouth is still the best way to get the word out about our tournament. Please point individuals who have not come to South Florida before to see our website [mastersbasketballassociations.org](http://mastersbasketballassociations.org) for information.

One last bit of information for you is that the Jacksonville Masters Tournament is not going to happen this year. Instead, two of our Board members (Mike Phelps and Stan White), are putting together a Tampa Bay Masters tournament to be played in its place for 2017. It will be a three-day tournament held January 27- 29 for age groups 30-70+ in Clearwater, Fla. Additional information about this tournament will be posted on our website very soon.

Enjoy the fall season and the upcoming holidays with your families and friends. I look forward to seeing all of you in Coral Springs in May.

*Regards,*

**Steve Nelson**

Tournament Director



National Masters Championships  
Coral Springs, Florida

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**Contact Us**

[Info@MastersHoops.org](mailto:Info@MastersHoops.org)  
Tel: 1-888-942-2247

**Public Relations**

Jack Heilig  
Trifecta Team PR  
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## MBA SPOTLIGHT: DEXTER GARDINER

**2016 Team:** Kings  
**High School:** South Bronx HS  
**College:** Canton Junior College  
**Hometown:** Bronx, New York



**What is your basketball background?**

I started playing basketball when I was 16 years old with my twin brother. I played high school ball and then went on to college & played two years at Canton JC, where I led the nation in scoring two years in a row. I played in all the major tournaments in NY; Rucker, Dykeman, Gunhill and West 4th. Also in the 90's and 2000's, my brother Derrick and I, made a name for ourselves as streetball legends. (Derrick passed away in a car accident in 2006, on his way to a basketball game.)

**How would you describe your MBA experience from this past year?**

I never knew about this league until a couple of years ago. My experience has been great. I love the competition, the different level of skills that come out to play. I definitely like the challenges it brings to my game and the fact that we get to travel with other good players is just awesome. I feel like traveling with the team creates such cohesiveness and unity that helps to be applied to the game.

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

I consider myself a great offensive scorer who knows how to bring it home at crunch time. I'm aggressive on the court, but also understand how the team dynamics can make a win possible.

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

Bernard King and George Garvin, aka, "The Ice Man." I chose these two because they are great scorers.

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

I play all year around, at least four days week.

**What do you do for a living?**

Currently I work with my foundation, the Gardiner Foundation, which I started in 2006 in memory of my eight family members who passed away that year. I work in the community, with families who have also suffered a tragic loss of loved ones, as well as and mentor young adults and kids in the community through the game of basketball and through a peer group called "Tru Talk."

For more information on the [Gardiner Foundation](#) visit

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COMING NEXT MONTH ...  
**2017 MBA PARTNER  
HOTEL INFORMATION**

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**OFF THE COURT... with ROBERT GOLD**  
**2016 Team, American Eagles**

*When not in the gym playing, practicing, schmoozing or watching, I always visit the Coral Springs Art Museum. I eat many meals at the Coral Springs Diner; hang out with my son (Max) and my granddaughter (Maxine) who have been traveling down to Coral Springs to see me play for the past seven years. When we're all together we always have one meal at an all you can eat sushi restaurant.*



Robert Gold and his granddaughter Maxine enjoying family time together in Coral Springs.

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**FEATURED FREE AGENTS**  
**SCOTT PHILLIPS**

Age Division: 50+  
Position(s): Fwd - Small & Power  
Ht: 6'3"  
Wt: 245  
Hometown: Clarksville, Maryland  
High School: Wheaton HS  
College: St.Mary's College of Md.  
(1984-88)  
College Playing Highlights:  
Finished college career as his school's all-time leading scorer.

Was selected MVP his freshman and senior seasons.

*More background from Scott:*

I currently play at least three times per week. We have a very competitive game at the Columbia (Md.) Gym. We have one former NBA player (Ennis Whatley - who is a regular) and several former college players in addition to non-college players who are still tough as nails as they also play regularly. I also play in a 50 and over league in Washington DC with Ennis. It was a great honor to be invited by an ex NBA player to play on his team.



**Scott Phillips (on right) with former Wheaton HS teammate Tommy Adison**

*Attention Free Agents...in addition to contacting us to list your information, please consider becoming a Team Organizer. We can help you get started and you can hopefully recruit players you know and fill your roster with other "Free Agents" that have also contacted us.*

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## DID YOU KNOW?

The players in the 2016 National Masters Championship came from more than 100 different cities across the US and Canada. Only four cities had four or more players in the tournament.

- 9 - Coral Springs, Fla.
- 8 - Indianapolis, Ind.
- 6 - Boca Raton, Fla.
- 4 - Sacramento, Calif.

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## FOLLOW AND SHARE

Please remember to follow us on Facebook and Twitter. If you have news to share, we encourage you to post updates to our [Facebook](#) page and to send us a Tweet (@MastersHoops).

## CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEWSLETTER

We are always looking to see what MBA players are doing in the offseason. We want to see your throwback photos and your "Off the Court" pictures from tournament week! Please share with us photos and we will post them on our Facebook page and in our monthly *Fast Break* newsletters.

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