

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



As you're getting ready for the holiday season, we're working to make sure to have our website ready for the start of Early Bird Registration on Dec.1.

I'm sure many of our Team Organizers have started contacting players and putting together their teams. It's not too late to get started now. I've been receiving a number of emails from individuals in multiple age divisions looking to hook up with a team for this year's tournament . If you're looking for players to fill out your

roster, please review our [Players Looking for a Team](#) tab on our website. We will have it populated soon with all the players who have contacted us.

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

I also encourage new and returning Team Organizers to read the Team Organizer Handbook section of our website. ([CLICK HERE](#))

Remember, the early entry team fee is only \$725 (\$800 for entries after March 4, 2017). Additionally, by registering your team early you lock in a spot in your division and avoid the risk of being on a waiting list.

One last bit of information to share with you is that the Tampa Bay Masters Tournament (that's replacing the Jacksonville Masters Tournament this year) has started taking team registrations. The three-day tournament will be held January 27- 29 for age groups 35+ in Clearwater, Fla. For information about this tournament please [click here](#).

And to close...I want to wish everyone in our MBA family from the USA a Happy Thanksgiving!

Regards,

Steve Nelson

Tournament Director

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**2017 TEAM ENTRY BEGINS
DEC.1**

**MBA SPOTLIGHT:
ROB SAMUELS**

2016 Team: Bedford 50

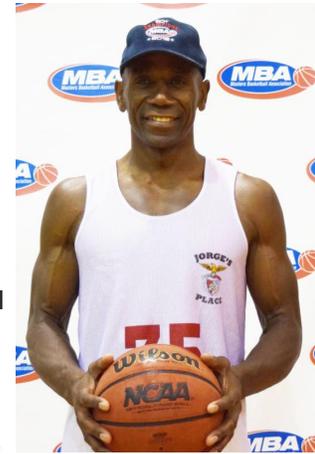
High School: W.F. Herman High School

College: St. Bonaventure University

Hometown: Toronto, Canada

What is your basketball resume?

Growing up in Jamaica, I played cricket and soccer and never heard of basketball. At the age of 11, I moved to Canada and learned to play basketball at the age of 13. I played four years at St. Bonaventure University in New York, where I graduated with a BA in Psychology. As a freshman I was named to the Atlantic 10 Conference All Rookie Team. In my senior year I led my team in scoring and was selected All-Atlantic 10 Conference. From 1982-1989 I was a member of Canada's National Basketball team representing my country at various international competitions including Mexico, Brazil, Cuba, Netherlands, and England. After college, I played one year in the Irish Pro Basketball League in Belfast, Ireland.



What position(s) do you play and how would you describe your style of play?

I play the 2,3, or 4 position on the court depending on the needs of my team. I would describe my style of play as a "jack-of-all-trades". I am known for scoring, but I do a little of everything depending on what my team needs to win.

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

I have always been a big fan of DR. J (Julius Erving). He was known for scoring, but I think he was the type of player who did a bit of everything on the court to help his team win.

How often do you play during the year?

I try to play 2-3 times a week and play in 3-5 Masters tournaments per year.

How would you describe your MBA experience from last year?

From the first time I played in the MBA (about 20 years ago) to now, I am still impressed how organized, professional, and competitive the event and players are. This event has been my incentive to maintain a high-level of fitness.

What do you do for a living?

I am a Police Officer with the Toronto Police Service, where I am currently in my 30th and final year of service. I am also an NBA Security Representative assigned to the Toronto Raptors 905 D League team.

Are you involved in any charities or foundations?

I currently volunteer with a charity in Toronto which raises funds to help students and improve a local school in Jamaica.

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OFF THE COURT... with JEROME BRIDGES
2016 Team, Indy All Stars



Off the court... Jerome enjoys spending time at the beach with his wife Debbie, followed by lunch at Aruba Beach Cafe in Ft. Lauderdale.



COMING NEXT MONTH ...
2017 MBA PARTNER
HOTEL INFORMATION

FEATURED FREE AGENT
MIKE PALMER

Age Division: 60+

Position: Shooting Guard
Ht: 6'0
Wt: 190
Hometown: Princeton, New Jersey
High School: Cathedral High School
College: Norwich University

Mike played overseas in Italy for seven years on the Island of Sardinia and then in Rome. Following his pro playing career he returned to the United States to complete his medical education and residency. While living in New York he played in the both the Rucker Park League and the 33rd St. League. For the last 20 years, he's competed in the Princeton Summer League.

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. If you have questions on how to become a Team Organizer, please contact [Steve Nelson](#).

DID YOU KNOW?

Over the past two tournaments, five different players scored 40 or more points in a game.

49, Dexter Gardiner, Kings, 50+ (2016)
44, Marty Wolf, Vitas 55+ (2015)
43, Emery Atkinson, South Florida Elite, 50+ (2015)
43, Maurice Brighthaupt, USA South, 40+ (2016)
42, Julio Davila, White Brothers, 60+ (2015)
40, Dexter Gardiner, Kings, 50+ (2016)

JANUARY 27-29, 2017
BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT
1st ANNUAL


TAMPA BAY
MASTERS
CLEARWATER FLORIDA

AGE DIVISIONS FROM 35 TO 70
ONLY 4 TEAMS PER DIVISION
MORE INFO AND REGISTRATION @

TampaBayMasters.com

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mbapr@mastershoops.org.