

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



I hope that all of you are enjoying the holiday season with family and friends. Team registration opened on Dec 1 and we have had an active month in regards to team entries, inquiries and we formalized an exciting new partnership with the **Fort Lauderdale Marriott Pompano Beach Resort & Spa** that will be the ideal "beachfront home" for many of you during our tournament week.

I want to thank our Team Organizers, who are the backbone of our tournament. Team entries started coming in since day one. While many teams have played in past MBA National Championships, we have also seen the addition and interest from new teams. There has also been a very noticeable increase from players looking for a team in most of our age groups. We have been featuring a new "free agent" in our monthly newsletters and we expect to have all Players Looking for a Team up to date on the web site by the first of the year. If you are one of the players looking for a team and would like to put together your own team, the Players Looking for a Team list is a great place to start. If you need assistance in becoming a Team Organizer, I am here to help you. You can contact me at steve@mastershoops.org.

Please remember that as teams register, I assign a number to the entry, and to the Team Organizer. A team is fully entered when a team roster of at least eight (8) players is submitted, the team fee and the uniform deposit is paid. My advice is the sooner you register your team, the better your odds are to lock in your spot for the tournament. Early registration is \$725 per team until March 4th. After March 4, the team registration increases to \$800. Team registration closes on April 1.

Each year we look into ways to enhance our tournament. This year one of our biggest upgrades is our new "**Preferred Beachfront Hotel**" partner, the **Ft. Lauderdale Marriott Pompano Beach Resort & Spa**. This resort offers a fantastic beachfront location, great amenities for those traveling alone or with spouses and children, at a great MBA special rate. In addition to the multiple pool areas, they offer a state-of-the-art fitness center with inspiring ocean views, a full service spa, a recreation area with games and of course beach amenities. Details on the discount rates and how to reserve your room are listed below in this newsletter.

By supporting our partners, you support our tournament, and this in turn helps us maintain the high levels you have come to expect from the Masters Basketball Association.

Happy New Year!

Steve Nelson

Tournament Director



National Masters Championships
Coral Springs, Florida

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Welcome Our Newest MBA Partner



Preferred Beach Resort



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MBA SPOTLIGHT: TOM CHESTNUT

2016 Team: Oakland's Finest
High School: Linton High School
College: Princeton
Hometown: Buffalo, NY



What is your basketball resume?

I grew up in Schenectady, NY, and played at Linton High School, which has a great basketball history including Barry Kramer (All-American at NYU) and Pat Riley (Kentucky and NBA). I played college ball at Princeton. In my senior year, I finally became a starter, and our team was undefeated in the Ivy League and went to the NCAA tournament. After college I played four years in Europe, including two years for the Fiat Stars, in Amsterdam, and one year for Nice PTT, in France. Each summer during my time in Europe, I played on the McGregor All-Star team in a series of tournaments in Italy and throughout Europe, where we competed against the national teams of many countries.

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

I generally play small forward on offense, and either power forward or center on defense, depending on what my team needs. I try to play very aggressively, and focus most of my energy on rebounding, defense, and passing the ball to our shooters.

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

My first basketball hero was Elgin Baylor, who as I like to say, was the "first player to fly." He was followed as a favorite by Julius Erving, who I once had the privilege of playing against in an All-Star game, Michael Jordan, who I once played a short game of one-on-one with (guess who won) and more recently, LeBron James.

How often do you play ball during the year?

I try to play basketball two or three times a week, all year round. Buffalo, where I live, has a lot of very good over fifty players, so I've been able to find several good leagues and regular pick-up games. I also play tennis two or three times a week, so I'm able to stay in pretty good shape as long as I can avoid injury.

Tell us about your off-the-court past?

I retired a few years ago after serving seven years as President and CEO of AAA Western & Central New York. Earlier in my career, I had the privilege of serving as president and COO of the Cleveland Cavaliers in the NBA, which needless to say, was a dream job. The Cavs had great teams in that era, led by Mark Price, Brad Daugherty, and Larry Nance, but every year we ran up against Michael Jordan and the Bulls in the playoffs, who were just too good.

Are you involved in any foundations/charities?

I currently am on the board of the Buffalo Zoo and the Buffalo Arts Commission.

HOST HOTELS

Now's the time to start making your hotel arrangements for the 2017 MBA tournament at one of our partner properties. We've negotiated special special MBA discount rates that can't be beat! If you have any questions or feedback, please contact us.



[200 North Ocean Boulevard
Pompano Beach, FL](#)

Special MBA Rate

Ocean View King \$150
Ocean View Queen \$150

Rate Includes:

Discounted Overnight Valet Parking
(\$15 - please disregard price on
reservations page),
Complimentary Guestroom Wi-Fi &
No Resort Fee (optional)

.*Plus you earn Marriott Points*

[Click Here](#)

to make a reservation online



**3701 N University Drive
Coral Springs, FL**

Special MBA Rate

Double - \$79
King - \$89
Suite - \$99

Group number when calling for
reservations this year is
Group #1127

[Click Here](#)

to make a reservation

SOUTH FLORIDA BASKETBALL FRATERNITY REUNION

The Masters Basketball Association was proud to be a supporter of the 39th annual South Florida Basketball Fraternity Reunion hosted by our good friends **Stan Diamond** and **David Weissman** on December 14 at The Polo Club at Boca Raton.

The event drew a sold out crowd of more than 500 attendees. The event honoree in 2016 was NBA legend **Billy Cunningham**. Others recognized at the event included longtime MBA supporter **Wali Jones**, former NBA coach and player **Matt Guokas**, former NBA star **Robert Reid**, University of Miami Head Coach **Jim Larranaga** and **Arnie Fielkow**, President & CEO of the National Basketball Retired Players Association.

MBA Board Member Jordan Klemow was joined at the event by Tournament Director Steve Nelson and PR consultant Jack Heilig.



Steve Nelson, Jordan Klemow & Coach Jim Larranaga



Jordan Klemow, Wali Jones, event guest & Billy Cunningham

OFF THE COURT... with JIM MCNULTY



Jim makes his annual trek to Coral Springs with his wife. When they're not at the gym, they like to cruise AIA taking in the numerous mansions along the ocean. For food, they frequent several of the Brew Houses, and also Bonefish Grill.

A world class sports medicine team.
Proud sports medicine sponsor of the Masters Basketball Association.



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 **Cleveland Clinic**
Florida
Every life deserves world class care.

FEATURED FREE AGENT

David Smith
Age Division: 60+

Position: Forward
Ht: 6"7 Wt. 205

Hometown: Chicago, IL
High School: Hinsdale Central High School
College: University of Illinois

A former scholarship player at Illinois, David is a certified personal trainer and he recently trained and finished a half ironman triathlon last August.

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.

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.**