

# 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 hard to believe that it's already mid-February and we are less than 90 days out from our *May Madness*. We're rolling along with team registrations in all divisions and I'm continuing to receive a steady stream of contact from players looking to join teams.

I'd like to share a story with you about a person who for the past few years was among the players contacting us to join a team. Joe Pantaleo had been among the couple dozen players who were listed on the *Free Agent* website page the past two years. Unfortunately, he never got the call to join a team. Joe was determined to play in our event so this year he decided to become a Team Organizer. I recently received the entry for his team, The Red Birds, in the 55+ division. His team looks like it should be very competitive in this division. Among the players on his roster is a high-profile Division 1 head coach. The team name may give you a hint who this player is. You may have also been watching a game on ESPN earlier this month when the announcers talked about him playing in our tournament this May.

Individuals who step up to be Team Organizers are invaluable to our tournament. I want to thank those Team Organizers who continue to bring teams to our event and I want to encourage those of you who are "Free Agents" and those who have played in the past, to consider becoming Team Organizers. Even if you can only pull together 3 to 5 players, I may be able to help fill in the roster from all the people I speak with weekly. Being a team organizer is not only a way to guarantee that you'll have a team to play on, but it's also a chance for you to call on players you may have had on your high school and college teams. You never know who will say yes to being on your team until you ask - if you don't believe me, ask Joe!

I look forward to seeing you in May ... and for those of you playing this year, we hope you've made your reservations at one of our Preferred Hotels!

**Steve Nelson**

Tournament Director





National Masters Championships  
Coral Springs, Florida

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*Official Preferred Beach Resort*

**MBA SPOTLIGHT:**

**Joe Vierra**

**2016 Team:** Athletics Unlimited (55+)  
**High School:** James Logan HS (Union City, CA)  
**College:** Saint Mary's College  
**Hometown:** Hayward, CA  
**Occupation:** Chief Technical Officer at IfOnly.com.

**What is your basketball background?**

I am a lifetime basketball junkie. My dad built a hoop in the backyard that had great lights, so I started playing very young and spent endless hours shooting. My neighbor and I played hundreds of backyard games of one-on-one and I never beat him. (But If I could play my older neighbor now, I'm pretty sure I could beat him since being six years older at our age is now a disadvantage). I played high school and some college ball and I never thought I would still be playing at a high-level of basketball at my age, but I've been lucky to avoid major injuries and I'm not tired of playing yet. There's always another move you can learn and there's nothing else I can do that is both great fun and keeps me in great shape.

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

I am fundamentally sound. I can play any position offensively or defensively, and can shoot the ball. I rarely lose in a game of 21.

**How would you describe your MBA experience?**

The MBA tournament is the best; very well run, well organized, good facilities, and even the referees are very good. It's always fun playing very competitive high level basketball and seeing old friends. You can't beat the location with the warm weather and beautiful beaches. Seeing the 'ultra' master players still playing provides me inspiration to keep playing.

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

I've learned from many, many players at all different levels. Lately I've been working on some Steph and Klay long range shots with a quick release.

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

I try to play at least twice a week, sometimes three times. I still play at 24 Hour Fitness against the less experienced players. The more experienced I get the harder it is to get into shape, so the easiest approach is to just stay in shape all year round. One of the reasons

basketball is such a great game: skill and smarts can make up for dwindling athleticism.

**Do you have any interesting facts about you to share (on and off the court)?**

I'm pretty nerdy about technology, green energy, supplements and nutrition.

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Every life deserves world class care.

**OFF THE COURT ... with Peter Wheatley**

Peter, from Simcoe, ONT, Canada, is a veteran MBA participant who was on The Ward (60+) last season. He and his wife Beth say the tournament is a great change from the cooler Canadian winter.

*"While we are here my wife enjoys swimming in the ocean over watching 'slow breaks' at the gym. To me they are fast breaks. We enjoy some of the sights in Fort Lauderdale and often we meet teams from the tournament at local pubs and pizza parlors. I have even enjoyed the company of the irascible Mike Campbell. He is a great competitor as well as a great dinner companion. He doesn't push and argue as much in a restaurant as he does on the court.*

*We like to eat at Houston's on Atlantic Ave. Our favorite Mexican restaurant is Eduardo De San Angel on East Commercial Blvd. For Italian food we like Zuckerello's which is also on Commercial Blvd."*

**HOST HOTELS**

Now's the time to make your hotel arrangements for the 2017 MBA National Championship at one of our partner properties. We've negotiated **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:



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

**Special MBA Rate**  
Double - \$79  
King - \$89  
Suite - \$99

Group number when calling for

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

reservations this year is  
Group #1127

[Click Here](#)  
to make a reservation

\*Plus you earn Marriott Points\*

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to make a reservation online

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## FEATURED FREE AGENT

### Rich Ash

Age Division: 50+  
Position: Guard  
Ht: 6"0 Wt:180

Hometown: Corvallis, Oregon  
High School: Crescent Valley  
College: Willamette University

Playing experience: Starting point guard  
in college, I have strong playmaker skills  
and also ability to score. I currently play  
competitive recreational ball with much  
younger players. I'm very interested to  
play with others in Masters that share my passion for the game.



Rich Ash taking the jumper  
from his college days

*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.*

**[CLICK HERE TO SEE A LIST OF CURRENT FREE  
AGENTS](#)**



**2017 National Championship**  
Discount Early Entry Deadline - March 4, 2017  
Entry Deadline - April 1, 2017  
**[Click Here to Enter Your Team](#)**

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## FUN FACT

**80 is the new \_\_\_\_\_**

We recently received the Chicago "Windy City" team entry for the 75+  
Division. Team representatives Dennis O'Brien and Dick Hughes  
submitted a nine player roster and seven of the players are 80+. Last  
year the tournament had only six players total in our tournament over  
80+.

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## KEY DATES

### **Team Entry Registration**

Early Entry Discount ends on March 4.

Team Entry Deadline is April 1.

### **Schedules**

Game schedules will be created shortly after the team entry deadline and once complete will be sent out to the Team Organizers.

### **EVENT WEEK**

#### **Player Registration**

Starts at Noon on May 8 at the Coral Springs Gymnasium.

#### **Welcome Banquet**

Monday, May 8, 7:00 p.m. at the La Quinta Inn & Suites.

#### **Mandatory Coaches Meeting**

Tuesday, May 9, 10 a.m., Coral Springs Gymnasium.

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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).