

# 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



Time is flying!! It's just under seven weeks until the Masters Basketball Association National Championship. Slots are filling up quickly in all age groups with just over a week left for team registration.

Over the past six weeks I have spoken to many of you and there are a lot of newcomers to Masters Basketball. This year we have new teams in the 40's, 50's, 55's, 60's, 65's and 70's divisions. We also have five teams registered in the 75+ division. Almost 40% of the players on the submitted rosters were not in our tournament last year. We want to welcome all the new players and we hope this will be the first of many MBA National Championships you participate in and enjoy our hospitality.

Our team entry registration deadline is April 1 and as of when I wrote this column, there is still room for teams and players. I will be continuing to help put teams together for this year's tournament to enable more players to have the experience of our first class competition and also the camaraderie of Masters Basketball. If you are still interested in playing in this year's tournament, please contact me at [steve@mastershoops.org](mailto:steve@mastershoops.org). While team entry closes soon, rosters usually have movement between now and early May so you can still end up on a team.

I look forward to seeing all of you in May!!

**Steve Nelson**

Tournament Director

**2017 National Championship  
Entry Deadline - April 1, 2017**





National Masters Championships  
Coral Springs, Florida

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**Don't wait ... and miss out**  
**[Click Here to Enter Your Team](#)**

*Did You Know . . .  
All it takes is 8 players to enter a team  
&  
You can modify your roster up until the  
coaches meeting on May 9*

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**RICK PITINO TO SPEAK AT WELCOME BANQUET**

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Legendary basketball coach Rick Pitino has been confirmed as the keynote speaker for this year's Welcome Banquet on Monday, May 8 at 7:00 p.m.

Pitino, who will be playing in the 55+ Division for the Red Birds, has been the head coach at Louisville since March 21, 2001. The former guard at UMass (1971-74) is the first coach in NCAA history to win a national championship at two different schools (Louisville 2013, Kentucky 1996) and was the first coach in NCAA history to take three different teams to the NCAA Final Four (Louisville, Kentucky, Providence).

The Welcome Banquet will be held again this year at the La Quinta Inn & Suites (Coral Springs). Email invitations with a link to register online will be sent to team organizers and players listed on team rosters.\*

Once you register, you will receive a confirmation email and be able to print out your ticket.



We were at capacity for last year's banquet, so if you do plan on attending, we encourage you to register when you receive your invite. Once our RSVPs hit capacity, we will close the reservation system and we will start a stand-by list.

*\*All team organizers were recently contacted to confirm rosters and email addresses. If you are a team organizer that hasn't responded to the email, please do so soon so you and your players are not left off the invite list.*

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### **MARRIOTT OFFERS PRE & POST TOURNAMENT RATES**

Based on feedback provided by team organizers and players, the Marriott Pompano Beach Resort has agreed to offer its **special MBA discount rates** for those of you who are planning to arrive a few days prior to the start of our tournament or staying a few days longer.

To take advantage of this special offer from the Marriott Pompano Beach Resort, please contact the hotel's in-house reservations department Monday-Friday between 8am-5pm at **855.954.4683**.

If you have any questions or feedback, please click here to [contact us](#).



**200 North Ocean Boulevard**  
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**3701 N University Drive**  
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**Special MBA Rate**

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

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Group number when calling for  
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 Group #1127

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## MBA SPOTLIGHT: Derek Palm

**2017 Team:** IPS (65+)

**High School:** Mumford

**College:** Mercy College of Detroit/  
 University of Detroit Mercy

**Hometown:** Detroit, Mich.



### What position do you play and describe your game/style?

I play both 2 and 3, but mostly 3. I was a great shooter and I could get my shot off against anybody. I'm deadly from 15-17 feet. I've been told I was the "the best shooter not in the NBA." NBA players that I've played against have said, "you should be playing in the NBA."

### What's your basketball resume?

I first played organized basketball my senior year of high school. I then earned a basketball scholarship at Mercy College of Detroit where I was the team's leading scorer (21 ppg) and was selected the team MVP. I went on to play professional ball in France and averaged 36 ppg. I pride myself on getting these high scoring averages by being very efficient, without taking a lot of shots. I have also played in the ProAm at Detroit's St. Cecilia, I matched several consecutive shots with George Gervin. After the game Gervin coined me "the shooter."

This competitiveness on the court transferred over to my life's work as a Medical Sales Rep/Mgr, where I was always a top performer, winning several awards and trips every year.

### How long have you been playing in the MBA National Championships?

I started in the 35+ division in 1997. I've probably attended 25 of the 30 years. I love the beach area after a long, cold winter in Detroit.

**What are some of your best memories of playing in our tournament?**

I do have a lot of memories after 30 years, but my most memorable one goes back to my first 35 division tournament.

(When I/we were still pretty good) I remember the championship game being a tough, physical game, with nothing coming easy.

The score went back and forth with no team ever leading by more than 2-3 points. Even though it was a tough game, the score did get into the 70's. My team pulled out a 2 point win for the championship.

The next year we met the same team in the finals and the game was an exact duplicate of the game the previous year. Tough, physical, lead changes, never more than 2-3 points, score in the 70's, with my team winning again by 2 points.

I managed to get the MVP, both years.

**What player(s) past or present influenced the way you play basketball?**

Dave Bing and George "Iceman" Gervin.

**How often do you play ball during the year- and where?**

I play twice a week during basketball season. I play in a 60+ league in Detroit. It's a very competitive league with many MBA players participating.

**Tell us about your off-the-court life?**

I'm semi-retired. I was a a Medical Sales Rep/Mgr. for 35 years. I'm still trying to figure out this retirement thing.

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## KEY DATES

### **Booking Return Flights**

Each year we receive questions on when the Saturday games are played so you can book return flights. Our plan is to have the last games on Saturday start no later than 1:00 p.m.

Once the team entry deadline passes we will start to work on the schedules. As soon as the schedules are completed we will put a notification our a Facebook and Twitter pages with a link to the website page.

### **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.

*\*Open to team organizers and players. Invitations to be emailed soon. RSVP required.*

#### **Mandatory Coaches Meeting**

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

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## MARCH MADNESS MASTERS DREAM TEAM PLAYERS

Make sure to follow us on Facebook & Twitter so you don't miss out on our new

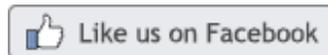
feature - the Masters Basketball NCAA Tournament Dream Team. We'll be highlighting players from past NCAA Championship tournaments who we'd like to see how they would do if they played in the Masters Basketball National Championships.

One player we won't need to highlight is Billy Thompson who has competed in many recent MBA National Championships. The former Louisville Cardinals star reached the Final Four twice and in 1986 he help propel his team to a 72-69 win over Duke to win the NCAA National Championship.



Billy Thompson  
Louisville (1982-86)

Our feature starts in April and we look forward to reading your comments on our posts!



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