

TEAM BLAZE BASKETBALL PROGRAM, INC.

**Derrick Cross, Program Director**

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# Team Blaze Basketball Program

## Directed by Derrick Cross

**B**loomington, Indiana, as you know, contains one of the most traditional and richest histories in basketball. It is this tradition and personal passion, within this community, that provides me with an opportunity to develop basketball athletes to their potential in this new era of basketball and competition. I have designed a basketball program with a great staff specifically dedicated to special training and coaching kids who are committed to basketball development. Not only do we provide individual training aimed at conditioning, learning the fundamentals, improving on skill development, and having a high basketball I.Q., but we have formed over 10 teams, both boys and girls, grades 3<sup>rd</sup> – High School in the 2007-08 season.

The program's mission is to provide an optimum opportunity to learn and improve one's basketball skills. Whether beginner or veteran, a player will learn from the experience of Derrick Cross and his assistants during fantastic customized basketball sessions and constructive coaching being a teammate on a Blaze team. The focus of the customized workout sessions depends on each individual's skill level, their particular position, as well as their strengths and weaknesses. In addition, the sessions will be fun and provide highly effective training techniques to enhance the performance level of targeted skill area(s). Along with the individual training we feel it is of utmost importance to form competitive teams to assure that these student-athletes gain game experience which is needed in making decisions during game situations. We will strongly focus on: (1) work ethic, learning to work hard during practice and games, (2) good sportsmanship, meaning maintaining a positive attitude

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### THE PROGRAM

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To Teach

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To Train

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To Transform

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on and off the court, and (3) learning to be committed to a team and team members. All these components of the program; along with the fact that the longer they work together as teammates, the stronger the team will become and will establish a strong basketball program for success in years to come. When these student-athletes begin to feed into their corresponding high schools, they will be further along in becoming mature student-athletes that not only understand the

**Coach Herb Sendek**, Current Head Coach of Arizona St. and former Miami of Ohio Head Coach had great things to say about Derrick Cross. Derrick, a Jr. from Bloomington, Indiana, scored a career high of 32 points, including 4 treys and 14-for-14 free throws, while playing all except but 10 seconds of MU's 99-93 double overtime win at Dayton. "It was reminiscent of Phil Ford at North Carolina, Sendek Said. With Ford at the free throw line and the game on the line, it was over."

game, but are skillful, and understand the commitment it takes to play competitive basketball.

This program's goal is to produce competitive student-athletes in their corresponding age group through instruction and coaching. We work with developmental and elite basketball players and teams from Bloomington and surrounding areas, and we provide student-athletes with an optimal opportunity to develop at the rate and level of other first class athletes nationwide.

## Who is Derrick Cross?



Coach Tom McKinney was a 25-year head coach, with a record of 415-168. The last 17 of those head-coaching years were at Bloomington North HS where he coached Derrick Cross from 1988-91. He described Derrick as the Best (Pound for Pound) Player He Ever Coached. Derrick moved to Bloomington as a child and immediately immersed himself into basketball. Growing up he played in various local programs, school teams, travel teams, but his high school years were very memorable to the Bloomington community.

- ❖ Varsity Point Guard for Bloomington North Cougars 1988-91
  - ❖ Senior year average 20 pts, 7 assists, 6 rebounds
  - ❖ Team Captain Junior & Senior Years
  - ❖ Holds Record Assists In Program History
  - ❖ Received Team MVP 1989-90, 1990-91
  - ❖ Led voting for First Team All-Area and Conference
  - ❖ Received All-State Accolades
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Derrick graduated with a B.S. in Sport Management and Health Appraisal, and a Minor in Coaching in May 1995 from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio. He was a team favorite at Miami of Ohio from 1991-95. He truly enjoyed his time as a Redhawk basketball player and was showered with many awards due to his hard work on the court. While his commitment in the classroom allowed him to graduate in only 4 years.

- ❖ Mid-American Conference Champions, 1992, 1993 & 1995
- ❖ Team Most Valuable Player, 1993-94 & 1994-95
- ❖ Second Team All-Conference, 1993-94 & 1994-95
- ❖ Best Defensive Player, 1992-93, 1993-94 & 1994-95
- ❖ Team Assist Leader, 1992-93, 1993-94 & 1994-95
- ❖ Outstanding Freshmen Award, 1991-92

Shortly after graduating he began his professional career playing in the European Basketball League. He was a starting point guard for a Croatian team, *Slavonski Brod*, in Croatia, team *Lugano* in Lugano, Switzerland, and played on a USA team that toured in Italy. After playing overseas for several seasons he returned to the states and continued to play in various developmental leagues through 1999, such as the IBL (Rochester Skeeters) and the CBA (Fort Wayne Fury).

Sendek's after game comments after a win at Ohio University. MU Jr. point guard, Derrick Cross, playing with a deep thigh bruise, mustard 15 points. "Without Derrick we wouldn't know where to start, Sendek said." "He has a heart as big as this building."

Derrick enrolled into the M.S. program at Indiana University-Bloomington, in Recreational Sports Management during his program in 2001 he took an Internship with the IU Men's Basketball Team, under the direction of Head Coach Mike Davis, focusing on sports administration & coaching. A couple years later, in 2003, he began a personal basketball skill training program for all ages and levels and began coaching youth boy's basketball locally. He also began conducting mini-camps at the Bloomington SportsPlex.

Team Blaze Basketball Program, Inc. was then developed by Derrick and since then has been dedicated to his time and expertise to his client list and boy's basketball teams, 3<sup>rd</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> graders. His extensive knowledge of the game, intense workouts, and not only quality but positive instruction has

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made his service unique and rewarding. He takes pride in his teams and loves to see his individual clients improve and become better ball players as long as they are committed to hard work and putting forth 100% effort during training and games.

## **Training Program Design**

The training program is designed with four stages (preseason, regular season, tournament season, and summer training) which, simulates a higher level basketball program, for example, programs similar to those established at the high school and collegiate level. Becoming familiar with this type of system and integrating a higher level of competition at an early age is considered to be highly effective in enhancing the performance level of any athlete and the development of mental toughness. Throughout the season the staff will focus on implementing a system (offensive and defense), technical instruction, positive motivation, and provide useful evaluation for continued improvement in learning the game, functional movement, and overall athletic ability. In addition, the season will be fun and will provide a great motivating experience for the kids.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Season Schedule</b>
8/30/2008	Coaches Meeting
9/10/2008	Preseason Conditioning Starts (All players)
10/15/2008	13U & 14U Preseason Ends
10/25/2008	3 <sup>rd</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> grade Regular School-ball Season Starts
12/14/2008	3 <sup>rd</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> grade Regular School-ball Season Ends
12/18/2009	Coaches Meeting for AAU season
12/19 – 01/03	Holiday Break
1/7/2009	9U-12U AAU Practice Starts
1/26/2009	9U-12U AAU Tourney Season Starts
2/3/2009	13U & 14U Practice Starts Back Up
3/01/2009	13U, 14U, & 15U AAU Tourney Season Starts
6/02/2009	14U & 15U AAU Season Breaks for HS team ball

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7/01/2009 15U AAU Tourney Season Picks back up  
7/01-8/15 Summer Training Sessions  
7/31/2009 AAU Tourney Season Ends with National Tourney

### **The Program Stages:**

- 1. Preseason & Individual Workouts:** during this phase the teams will be focused on physical conditioning for the upcoming basketball season. Also individuals will begin their weekly training session which will be conducted by Derrick and his assistant trainers for the remaining of the 2008-09 season. Sessions will be a three person group determined by position and skill level.
  - 2. Regular Season:** Only the 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders will compete in the corresponding league that the program selects, where it be local, in Indianapolis, or Bedford. The AAU squads will play in their corresponding school league.
  - 3. Tournament Season:** during this phase of the program AAU select players and teams will begin an intense tournament schedule, approximately two to three tournaments per month. The level of competition will be more intense and sanctioned by various leagues: MYT, USSSA, AAU, and the NCAA during exposure camps. The high level of tournament competition is designed for our players to emulate amateur athletes for future preparation both mentally and physically to continue to compete throughout their development as players. We will compete with the best teams throughout the Midwest and athletes throughout the country. Our teams will be attempting to qualify and win State Championship titles and National titles to put Bloomington and surrounding areas on the map.
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**4. Summer Training Season:** The focus of our summer training program is to work intensely and consistently on particular areas that need improvement that the majority of all players typically face, such as but not limited to: ball handling, shooting, passing, rebounding, building confidence, becoming an offensive threat (whether a perimeter or post player), playing effective defense, getting in shape, improving quickness and agility.

### Budget & Sponsorship Levels

Team Blaze Basketball Program, Inc. would like to introduce its budget for the upcoming 2008-2009 basketball season. There will be at least 100 kids participating in the program, 20 girls and 80 boys. During the fall season 5 plus teams will be formed, each with a 10 person roster. There will be six-ten coaches including myself, three full time trainers (including myself), two part time assistants, and numerous volunteers. The entire staff has extensive experience in basketball coaching, all played high school basketball, some collegiate basketball and all have experience coaching at some level.

<b>Summary for School-ball teams Individual Cost for a 4 month season</b>		<b>Summary for AAU teams Individual Cost for 6.5 month Season</b>	
Uniform	\$100.00	Uniform	\$100.00
Customized WO (1/wk)	\$200.00	Customized WO (1/wk)	\$560.00
Practice Fees	\$160.00	Practice Fees	\$250.00
Regular Season Fees	\$300.00	Tourney Fee	\$500.00
<b>Total Fees</b>	<b>\$760.00</b>	Coaching Fees	\$465.00
		<b>Total Fees</b>	<b>\$1875.00</b>

This upcoming season we are increasing our sponsorship efforts to solidify a couple major program sponsors both private and corporate/business sponsorship. We are accepting major sponsorship in order to help establish this program (Official, Supporting, Team or Individual Sponsor) as well as having all of our families work to establishing personal scholarships to help make their child's dream come true

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through the JR Hoosier Booster Club. Considering what this program offers to our local kids and surrounding areas, how it will affect the development and growth of our basketball community; and finally the future of Bloomington HS basketball, we encourage you to consider becoming a sponsor at any level.

Although the majority of parents are willing to invest into their child's interest and most are financially stable to endure the majority of this cost (refer to the summary table above). Every year there are on average three to four kids per team that need a 50% - 100% scholarship, yet have a lot of potential and are strong athletes, but again are in need of full sponsorships in order to participate in an opportunity like this. Similarly, there are also a couple other families on each team which opt for partial financial assistance for their child to fully participate in our program for travel expenses and such, and having a scholarship opportunity for these individuals would be ideal. Again, I invite you to consider becoming a major sponsor as either an: Individual, Team, Supporting, or Official Sponsor of this program. Or consider donating a smaller amount to our Jr. Hoosier Booster Club. We will be visible, not only within the basketball community but throughout Bloomington, its surrounding areas, the State, and with elite teams, the country. Please review our package details listed below for our different sponsorship levels, Official, Supporting, Team, or Individual.

Thanks for you consideration and continued support.

Sincerely,

Derrick Cross  
Program Director

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## **Official Program Sponsor: \$40,000 or more**

We will accept only one official sponsor for this program

### **Exclusive Benefits**

- ❖ Sponsor logo with corporate name on all of the ten teams entire uniform attire which includes but not limited too: jersey and shorts, shooting shirt, warm ups, socks, and bag
- ❖ Sponsor logo with corporate name on all of the coaches' and assistant coaches' jackets, polo/t-shirts, pants, and bags
- ❖ Sponsor logo with corporate name will be featured in all of our programs printed materials (i.e., schedules, stationary, forms)
- ❖ Sponsor logo with corporate name will be featured on our weekly emails

### **Special Benefits**

- ❖ Sponsor logo with corporate name on all promotional material related to the team and program (brochures, banners, newsletters, advertisements, fliers, and any other print media used in promotion)
- ❖ Listed as the Official Sponsor (sponsor logo with corporate name) on our website with a link to company's webpage
- ❖ Receive monthly "update" newsletter with competition results, photographs, copies of media releases, etc.

### **Annual Awards Banquet (AAB) Benefits**

- ❖ Banner with sponsor logo with corporate name will be displayed at our AAB
  - ❖ Sponsor logo with corporate name will be featured on table signage at the AAB
  - ❖ Personal introductions of company representative and the presentation of a "Thank you" plaque along with team pictures of all ten teams will be presented at the AAB
  - ❖ A representative of your company will have an opportunity to speak or introduce our guest speaker during the AAB
  - ❖ A representative from your company will be asked to sit on our Awards Selection Committee for awards to be presented during the AAB
  - ❖ Corporate/Business Ads will be placed in program booklet
  - ❖ 16 tickets (2 tables) to our AAB
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## **Supporting Program Sponsor: \$25,000**

We will only accept one supporting sponsor for this program

### **Exclusive Benefits**

- ❖ Sponsor logo with corporate name on all program apparel that team players parents' and team supporter's will be able to purchase to wear to games and tournaments, i.e. tee-shirts, sweatshirts, jackets, hats, etc.

### **Special Benefits**

- ❖ Sponsor logo with corporate name will be featured in all of our promotional material related to the teams and program (banners, newsletters, advertisements, fliers, and any other print media used in promotion)
- ❖ Listed as a Supporting Sponsor (sponsor logo with corporate name) on our website with a link to company webpage
- ❖ Receive monthly "update" newsletter with competition results, photographs, copies of media releases, etc.

### **Annual Awards Banquet (AAB) Benefits**

- ❖ Banner with sponsor logo with corporate name will be displayed at our AAB
  - ❖ Sponsor logo with corporate name will be featured on table signage at the AAB
  - ❖ Personal introductions of company representative and the presentation of a "Thank you" plaque along with team pictures of all ten teams will be presented at the AAB
  - ❖ A representative of your company will have an opportunity to speak during the AAB
  - ❖ A representative from your company will be asked to sit on our Awards Selection Committee for awards to be presented during the AAB
  - ❖ Corporate/Business Ads will be placed in program booklet
  - ❖ 8 tickets (1 table) to our AAB
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**Team Sponsor: \$10,000 - \$15,000**

We will be accepting ten team sponsors for this program

**Exclusive Benefits**

- ❖ Sponsor logo with corporate name will be on the official Programs Training Tee-shirt, each player on all teams, trainers, coaches will receive two tee shirts and will be required to wear them during individual weekly training sessions (Teach, Train & Transform on the front)

**Special Benefits**

- ❖ Sponsor logo with corporate name will be featured in all of our promotional material related to the team (banners, newsletters, advertisements, fliers, and any other print media used in promotion)
- ❖ Listed as a Team Sponsor (sponsor logo with corporate name) on our website with a link to company webpage
- ❖ Receive monthly “update” newsletter with competition results, photographs, copies of media releases, etc.

**Annual Awards Banquet (AAB)Benefits**

- ❖ Banner with sponsor logo with corporate name will be displayed at our Annual Awards Banquet
  - ❖ Personal introductions of company representative and the presentation of a “Thank you” plaque along with team pictures of all ten teams will be presented at the AAB
  - ❖ A representative from your company will be asked to sit on our Awards Selection Committee for awards to be presented during the AAB
  - ❖ Corporate/Business Ads will be placed in program booklet
  - ❖ 4 tickets to our Annual Awards Banquet
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## **Individual Sponsor: \$5,000**

### **Special Benefits**

- ❖ Listed as a Individual Sponsor (name and or sponsor logo with corporate name) on our website with a link to company or individual webpage
- ❖ Receive monthly “update” newsletter with competition results, photographs, copies of media releases, etc.

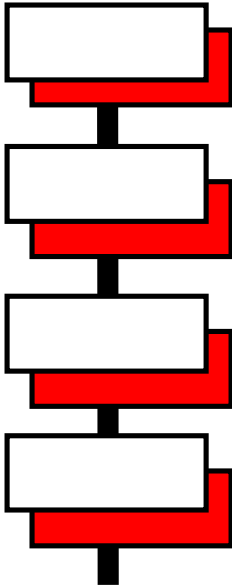
### **Annual Awards Banquet Benefits**

- ❖ Banner with sponsor logo with corporate name or personal name will be displayed at our Annual Awards Banquet
  - ❖ Personal introductions and the presentation of a “Thank you” plaque along with team pictures of all ten teams will be presented at the AAB
  - ❖ Personal acknowledgement will be placed in program booklet
  - ❖ 4 tickets to our Annual Awards Banquet
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TO TEACH, TRAIN & TRANSFORM

## B-TOWN BLAZE PROGRAM SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Choose Level of Sponsorship



### Official Sponsor

**\$40,000**

Only accepting 1 Official Sponsor: *Exclusive and Special Benefits*

### Supporting Sponsor

**\$25,000**

Only Accepting 1 Supporting Sponsor: *Exclusive and Special Benefits*

### Team Sponsor

**\$15,000**

Accepting 10 Team Sponsors: *Exclusive and Special Benefits*

### Individual Sponsor

**\$5,000**

Open Acceptance for Individual Sponsors: *Special Benefits*

Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Choose the teams you want to benefit from your donation (check which apply):**

Boys or Girls or 3<sup>rd</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 4<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 5<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 6<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 7<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 8<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ HS \_\_\_\_\_ or Most In Need \_\_\_\_\_

Choose payment method:  Bill Me Annually  Bill Me Semi-Annually

Please Charge the Credit Card Below: (A PayPal invoice will be sent via email, card # will be filed)

Circle:      Visa              MasterCard              American Express              Discover

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address if different from above \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Team Blaze Basketball Program, Inc.

Basketball Season 08-09, 1457 W. Allen St., Bloomington, IN 47403

Phone: (812)369.0747 Email: blazeteams@yahoo.com

***Thank you for your generous support!***