

PUTNAM BASKETBALL



2021-2022 MEN'S BASKETBALL MEDIA PROGRAM

www.putnamscienceacademy.org

GO MUSTANGS!!!



A Quality Aggregate Producer

*Serving Connecticut,
Massachusetts, Rhode Island
& New York for 75 years*

Plant Locations:

Plant #1 & #2 | Putnam, CT
Plant #3 | Canterbury, CT
Plant #4 & #5 | Plainfield, CT
Plant #6 | Thompson, CT
Plant #7 | Westerly, RI
Plant #8 | Bradford, RI

**SAND | STONE | GRAVEL | LOAM
STONE DUST | FILL/SILT | & MORE!**

**58 Pomfret Street, Suite 4101
Putnam, CT 06260**

TEL: (860)963.6584

FAX: (860)963.7063

www.rawsonmaterials.com





PSA Information

Location.....Putnam, CT
 Founded.....2002
 President.....Tieqiang Ding
 Athl. Director.....Tom Espinosa
 Head of School.....Sarah Healey
 Conference.....Great Atlantic
 Nickname.....Mustangs
 Colors.....Red & Black

Team Information

2020-2021 overall record.....18-3
 2019-2020 conference record
 Power 5.....0-0
 National Championships.....
 2018, 2020
 Starters returning/lost.....1/4

Coaching Staff

Head Coach.....Tom Espinosa
 Assoc. Head Coach.....Josh Scraba
 Asst. CoachKevin Donovan
 Asst. CoachDana Valentine
 Coach John Cavaliere
 CoachNick Schmidt
 CoachShawn Martel
 Manager..... Bryan Sailor
 Manager..... Justin Stockhaus
 Dir. of Health Services
 Leah Belanger
 Athletic Trainer.....Patrick Wyman
 Sports Psychologist.....Ken Chauvin



PSA Alumnus Tyson Etienne 2018-2019



A Look Ahead 2021-2022 Preview

The final score was South Kent 84, Putnam Science Academy 64, a 20 point loss this past March that Associate Head Coach Josh Scraba called the worst the team had suffered in 10 years. However, while Mustangs head coach Tom Espinosa has never been a believer in good losses, something positive did actually come out of it.

"We went down there that night and got our (butts) kicked," Espinosa said. "However, we played them again the next day, and the coaching staff was just like, "we're going to be in their face, don't let them run anything, total ball pressure everywhere. Ultimately, we did it and we kicked their (butts). And we loved it. We loved how we played like that. So now, we're going to do it again."

As opposed to funneling opponents into the lane, where big men and shot blockers like Osun Osunniyi or Josh Gray once patrolled, Espinosa instead plans to have his Mustangs apply constant, intense ball pressure. He will stress playing all of the passing lanes, relying on a smaller and more athletic group in this upcoming 2021-22 season than most Mustang Teams of years past. Last year's team was guard-heavy as well, but the commitment to this new style will be from Game 1. This year's team really only has two prototypical post players on the current roster as opposed to having the traditional abundant size that Espinosa loves to deploy. None the less, like last year, Espinosa is OK with that. "Early on, when we were really getting good as a program, we didn't have a lot of bigs, and our guards really carried us," he said. "So we've been here before and we know how to win with a smaller team, we're excited for the change with how we're going to play anyway. I think it's going to really help us not having these big bigs out there. It'll be high quality, being small and more athletic. Our style that we're looking for and that we recruited, we've got everyone."



The backcourt is loaded with a mix of talent in terms of both age and experience.

Darryl Simmons is in his fifth year at the school, third with the prep team (second as a starter), and has proven to everyone that he can run a team at this level after averaging 12.1 points, 4.4 assists, and 1.7 steals while guiding the Mustangs to an 18-3 record last season. A natural leader to whom teammates gravitate, Simmons is hyper-focused on delivering a national championship. He'll be aided mightily by the ultra-smooth and wildly talented Desmond Claude, a 6-foot-5 transfer from St. Thomas More whose stock skyrocketed over the summer and is being mentioned in some circles as a future pro. Arturo Dean is undersized at 6-feet, but compensates with a nonstop motor and relentless toughness that infects the rest of the team. Dashon (DayDay) Gittens, who spent last year at Woodstock Academy, is long and athletic and only scratching the surface of how good he can be.

A Look Ahead 2021-2022 Preview

Miles Rose is back after spending the second half of the last season at PSA. He has great size and terrific skill, not to mention the mindset to put his struggles of last year behind him and regain the confidence that could make him one of the team's most unsuspecting threats. Lee Hubbard III is expected to provide valuable minutes off the bench with his work ethic and toughness. Taiga Jones, PSA's first student-athlete from Japan, has delivered on his scouting report as a solid player who can shoot it and defend. He has been a revelation in the preseason as has Sotirios Nafpliotis, PSA's first student-athlete from Greece, whose ability to knock down 3's in bunches from anywhere was too much to keep off the roster. At 16 years of age, Duane Thompson is one of the youngest players on the roster. However, the big guard's game has fit right in, as he has exhibited the ability to shoot and push the ball at any time. Travis Upchurch is even younger, but has the coaching staff just as excited about his future. The cousin of former Mustangs' point guard Danny Upchurch, Travis will benefit from the experience of being on the prep team and learning the system and culture now.

PSA's wings are two highly talented and versatile players who will have a major impact on this season. Mouhamed Dioubate struggled after joining the team last year during the second semester but has come back a different player. He is looking to build off a huge summer and can absolutely dominate a game on the offensive glass. Barry Evans Jr., the recent St. Bonaventure commit, has gotten everyone's attention in the preseason after showing he can do just about everything well on the court.

The frontcourt is filled out by Josh Rivera, who has a college-ready body and has battled an injury since the summer, but could provide major minutes when he's ready; Mouhamdou Cisse, a 7-footer who can control the paint on defense and has a functional post game on offense; and Muazibini Adamu, another young and raw talent who is expected to use this season as a learning experience ahead of a bright future.

"Darryl, is the perfect guy for how we want to play," Espinosa said. "Arturo is perfect for that. Day Day is perfect for that. Barry on the wing... Plus, we play half or more than half our games in our gym this season and that makes it even tougher for opponents to run their stuff."

PSA is also joining a new league this year, the New England Basketball League, which, as the name suggests, features the top teams from the region. The Mustangs will play in the South Division along with Cushing Academy, St. Thomas More, South Kent and Woodstock Academy; Brewster Academy, Bridgton Academy, New Hampton, Northfield Mount Hermon, and Vermont Academy will make up the North Division.

The endgame, as always, is to be the last team standing in March. The Mustangs won their first national championship in 2018, their second in 2020, and they believe this is a team that can capture a third.

"Overall, we're really excited about this team," Espinosa said. "We're going to be a little different, but I think we've got some leadership, a mixture of some young guys and experienced guys, but young guys who are ready. Also, I think with our style it's going to be a lot of fun."

2021-2022 PSA Men's Prep



MoMo Cissé

2022 | F | 7'1" | 210
Dakar, Senegal



Desmond Claude

2022 | G | 6'5" | 215
New Haven, CT



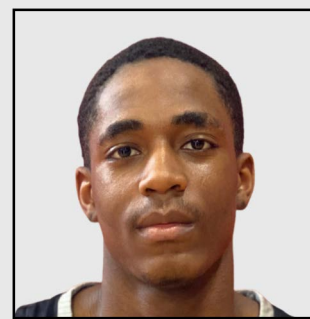
Mauzibini Adamu

2023 | F | 6'10" | 165
Cape Coast, Ghana



Lee Hubbard III

2022 | G | 6'1" | 185
San Francisco, CA



DayDay Gittens

2022 | G | 6'4" | 180
Hartford, CT



Darryl Simmons

2023 | G | 5'9" | 140
Norwich, CT



Duane Thompson

2024 | G | 6'8" | 200
Holbrook, MA



Travis Upchurch

2025 | G | 6'0" | 150
Bridgeport, CT



Taiga Jones

2022 | G | 6'2" | 190
Kawaguchi Japan



Joshua Rivera

2022 | F | 6'7" | 220
Old Bridge, NJ



Arturo Dean

2022 | G | 6'0" | 165
Miami, FL



Miles Rose

2023 | G | 6'4" | 185
Rochester, NY



Barry Evans, Jr.

2022 | F | 6'8" | 185
Columbia, MD



Mouhamed Dioubate

2023 | F | 6'7" | 210
Queens, NY



Sotirios Nafpliotis

2022 | G | 6'4" | 175
Ekali, Greece





THE
MANSION
AT BALD HILL



FINE DINING
RESTAURANT



BED & BREAKFAST



BANQUET CENTER

HERE TO MAKE YOUR EXPERIENCE
simply memorable

29 Plaine Hill Rd. Woodstock, CT 06281
info@mansionatbaldhill.com • 860.974.3456 • mansionatbaldhill.com

MUSTANGS



COACHING STAFF

Tom Espinosa

HEAD COACH

16th year at PSA



The goal was simple. To get better every year and if that happened, Tom Espinosa really believed that he could build something very special at Putnam Science Academy. Now entering his 16th season as head coach at the small prep school in Northeastern Connecticut, it is fair to say that goal has been met and exceeded!

Espinosa has built the school's prep basketball program into a national power house, one that coaches and players unilaterally hold in the highest regard. Under the watchful eye of the 43 year-old Putnam native, the Mustangs have gone 374-82 dating back to the inaugural 2006-07 season.

In the last 10 years, PSA has gone 301-57, won two national championships and sent more than 100 players into men's college programs - including more than 50 into Division I alone. Espinosa is proud of the process he followed to get to this point. "When I started the first varsity program in 2006-07, I wanted to build this thing and I feel like we did it the right way," he said. "We didn't just bring in 12 high-major recruits and just be nasty in our first year. We incorporated the other kids who were already here. That first year, I brought in one recruit and built everything around him. And then two years later, we brought in three or four recruits, but still having the other kids be part of the team and playing big roles. Every year, we just grew and got better. We were in low leagues, stayed independent, played better competition, and now we've built ourselves a real good reputation and a powerhouse schedule. I feel like we did it the right way. It took us a little while to get going, but we've done pretty well."

Espinosa - who, along with his wife Trish, resides in Putnam with their three children, sons T.J. and Bryce, and daughter Teagan - credits the school's administration for allowing him to follow his vision. He said that building a national program was, and continues to be possible because of their support starting with the original ownership company and continuing today with the current owner, Dr. Tieqiang Ding.

A tremendous game coach and evaluator of talent, Espinosa has gained a reputation for having some of the most well-prepared and hardest-working teams in the country, while also stressing and developing strong fundamentals in each of his players. That comes at a bit of a cost for Espinosa. "During their time here, players don't have the best relationships with Espo because he doesn't want it that way," said associate head coach Josh Scraba, who has worked alongside Espinosa since the 2008-09 season. "Some of them despise him when they're here. Because they don't realize what he's trying to do and the full message of what he is trying to do. He's always got an end plan for this though. Five years down the road or whenever it clicks for these kids, they look back and realize they wouldn't be here without him."

What he is trying to do is prepare them for the next level. Espinosa firmly believes that a college freshman who spends a post grad year at PSA will be far ahead of one who went straight from high school. Freshman ups and downs - like living on your own, balancing school and basketball, working hard all the time - are experienced first at PSA instead. The Mustangs do not just send players on to college, they get them ready to compete and have success on and off the court. "That's the mentality we stress," Espinosa said. "If you want it, you have to go get it. Because we've got too much talent here to wait around. You can be great for two months and then all of a sudden you fall off a bit. Whatever it is, you don't want to get out of bed, you're allergic to the weight room, you don't do your work in class... we've got 10, 11 DI players to choose from. We'll just take the next guy. Nothing is given to them. Everything is earned. And that's how college athletics is. Everything is earned the entire time. Nothing is going to be given to you. You have to bring it everyday. The kids know it, it's not a secret. We stress it when they come on a visit. From Day One of meetings, they know it. I've never promised a kid he'll start, he'll play, any of that. Everything is earned."



That piece of Espinosa's personality was solidified by some of his coaches, Tony Falzarano and Dave Vitale at Putnam High School, where he finished third on the all-time scoring list, and Dave Lindberg at Worcester State University in Massachusetts, where he was a three-year starter and team captain as a junior and senior.

"It's a long season for these kids," Espinosa said. "It's five, six months, 40-something games. Everyone goes through it. It happens every year. Guys are up, then they go down. As a consequence, that's when we find someone else who is ready."

Espinosa cited the 2019-20 national championship team as a perfect example. Mekhi Gray started off strong, tailed off, but bounced back toward the end of the season and was instrumental in winning the title. D'Maurian Williams faced those same struggles, but PSA wouldn't have won without him. Also, the greatest example of all, Espinosa said, was Johnnie Williams IV. He was the last man on the bench, essentially serving as a practice player for the first 25 or so games before earning his way into the starting lineup and becoming the team's second leading scorer over the final 10 games. As a result of all these instances in the past, Espinosa and Scraba don't necessarily have to recruit as hard as they once did - not because they expect players to just reach out to them or just show up - but because they want to rely on former players to tell the story of PSA. Espinosa and Scraba will often put recruits and their families in touch with former PSA players - and their families - who previously played for him.

"We are very confident in what they will say." Espinosa said.

The first big recruit to help PSA on its way was Dayshon "Scoochie" Smith for the 2011-12 season. He came from the Bronx, N.Y., and brought a lot of hype with him over his two years at Putnam.



"When we got Scoochie, we had camera crews here for him and got a lot of publicity through that. We started getting invited to national-level tournaments and events," Espinosa said. "Scoochie definitely put us on to that next level. Then Hamidou Diallo and Mamadou Diarra and that era of 2014-15 brought us to the next level where we can get anybody in here and can beat anybody. They gave us that mentality and confidence that there was no stopping us now. We had high major players and pro prospects. That era, 2015-16, is when we hit that level of the sky is the limit here. Kids know they're on the national stage now. Before, it was kind of like 'oh boy, we really had to sell this place, get the gym all cleaned up and looking perfect.' We lost a lot of kids because of our facilities then. However, the success we've had and the great kids we've had who bought into what we do here.... that's why I say they're our best recruiters."

"It's been a long road to get to this point. It came with plenty of challenges and bumps in the road," Espinosa said. When Scraba joined the staff, winning a national title was part of the discussion. "I wouldn't say we had our doubts, but we knew it wouldn't be easy. We still talk about it.. our biggest goal for the longest time was to win a national championship and we almost couldn't believe that we did it. We had that vision to become a national program, and to actually have done it, it is something special."



Josh Scraba

ASSOCIATE HEAD COACH
13th year at PSA



Josh Scraba has more than 3,200 contacts in his phone, 3,246 (at last check) to be exact. And he estimates that probably 3,000 of them are basketball related.

Such is the life for the Putnam Science Academy Men's Prep Basketball Associate Head Coach. To know him is to know that at any minute he might have to pause your face-to-face conversation to take this phone call from a coach, a parent, an agent, a current player or a former player. "If I don't use my phone on a Saturday, it'll be 20-30 calls that I would have to make on that Sunday," said Scraba, who is entering his 13th season with the Mustangs. "I've really fallen in love with the recruiting process and getting to know the players and families. I love finding the talent. I like the networking part of it, building connections, getting to know people and kids."

The 34-year-old Scraba is genuine in his relationships and makes people around him feel comfortable. He is a self-described talker, which really is perfect for his role as the lead recruiter for a basketball program that has sent more than 100 players into men's college basketball programs since 2010 - including more than 50 into Division I. "At first, it was about basketball," said C.J. Anthony, a member of last year's prep team. "But the more we talked, it wasn't just about basketball. He just wanted the best for me. I really believe that. A lot of people don't want that, they just want what's best for themselves. Talking to Coach Scraba, he was all about me and getting me to the right spot and the right school. It was an instant connection for me right there. His networking is incredible. For me to be able to work under him and help me get into the right situation for college, that's an opportunity you can't pass up."

Scraba doesn't just help bring in the talent though; he helps develop it too, and Putnam Science Academy has won two national prep championships in the last three years with Scraba in such a prominent position. "I just kept giving him more and more responsibility because I saw the passion and work ethic, and he earned my trust," Mustangs Head Coach Tom Espinosa said. "We've been doing it for 13 years. I trust him, he trusts me. He has just nailed it. Getting players is the key and his biggest strength is recruiting kids and building relationships. I don't think there is anyone better, I really don't. I've been so lucky to have him. We have a great relationship, and this is an intense situation with a lot of pressure. It's kind of the perfect relationship because the things I enjoy, he doesn't as much, and the things he enjoys, I don't as much."



Scraba, a native of Putnam, came to Putnam Science Academy for the 2009-10 season, the year his younger brother Travis did a post grad season at the school. That was a few years before the Mustangs became a nationally known program. "I followed PSA a little bit because my brother hung out a lot off the court with Rundell Mauge, when he was at PSA," Scraba said. "Espo had asked me in passing a few times about coming over here, but it really wasn't until my brother came that it was the right time for me too. At that point, we weren't thinking about winning a national championship. That was our goal, but I guess the first motivation was to get a Division I basketball player in here. We were just hoping to get a couple of guys who could play. I looked at it like we were trying to give kids a chance to be seen and kind of be that school for kids in Connecticut who maybe another school wouldn't take."

Slowly but surely, Putnam Science Academy started getting those higher-level players, starting with Scoochie Smith (who went on to play at the University of Dayton) in 2011-12. The following season's team, which had four Division I commits, was the breakthrough team that catapulted Putnam Science Academy.

"I think it switched for us in 2013," Scraba said. "We went on an incredible run where we just beat everyone, everywhere. St. Thomas More at St. Thomas More, which never happened. We beat Northfield Mount Hermon in Boston. We kind of forced our way into the tournament that year by just winning. It was a really tough group of kids that probably wasn't even supposed to be there, and I think that changed everything for us. Finally, it became a reality that we could be a Top 10 team in the country."



Scraba said the recruiting piece of his job came about organically, that it wasn't even a thought when he came aboard. Everywhere he went, he would meet people and talk to them and started building his network. His advice to young and aspiring coaches is to help people who owe them nothing in return. So if Scraba happens to see a player one night who he thinks would be a good fit at the University of New Haven, he digs into that contact list and calls his guy there.

"I really started liking connecting with players and coaches," he said. "I like helping the coaches and helping the kids. It was just help anyone you can - player, coach, whoever. That's how the networking all started and then it's been sort of endless from there. I'll get a name of a player, and keep in mind, there's hundreds of kids we don't end up with in the end, but that one player turns into two relationships with a couple of coaches and a new college coach who isn't in your network and they give you the names of three players and an AAU coach. You're building six contacts off of one kid."

All of his success in this role has changed his career aspirations. Though he once wanted to be a head coach somewhere, Scraba now says he is quite at home right where he is, in the second chair, and with his phone, always ready to go.



PUTNAM SCIENCE ACADEMY
NATIONAL

CHAMPIONS
 2018 MEN'S BASKETBALL 2020

Kevin Donovan

ASSISTANT COACH

6th year at PSA



Some superheroes are the products of tragedy, others originate by seizing an opportunity, and some superheroes find their origins in the pure, random luck of a chance encounter.

Kevin Donovan was in his first year as an assistant coach with Putnam Science Academy's men's prep basketball team, and word of his excitable nature in the gym had spread. Before one fateful game, he crossed paths in the bathroom with the Vermont Academy head coach. As Donovan recalls, "(The coach) said, 'So I hear you're the hype man.' And I was like, 'Yeah, I am The Hype Man.' And from then on, I've been The Hype Man."

So who - and what - exactly is The Hype Man?

"He's the loudest guy in the gym," said PSA head coach Tom Espinosa. "Jumping in the piles, chest-bumping the kids."

"He's the one screaming 'ON HIS HEAD!' when one of our guys dunks on somebody," said associate head coach Josh Scraba.

"He brings that vibe and energy every day. You don't know how he's going to show up and what he's going to do," said player C.J. Anthony.

"He's the guy who, if the energy goes down for even a second, he's quick and just screaming 'LET'S GOOOO' and getting us back up," said Nic Louis-Jacques, who was with the team in the first semester.

Also, like all superheroes, The Hype Man does have his own distinct look.

"He always comes with some heat. You've got to look at his feet every single day. He has something different on his feet every day," Louis-Jacques said. "Sometimes he's got some crazy pants or shirt on."

Added Anthony: "He comes with the fits, the clothes, like the 90s M.C. Hammer pants or the pink hoodie and the blue Carolina sneakers. He's motivation for me to get my drip up."

This is not some made up persona for the 32-year-old Donovan. Before joining the PSA staff at the outset of the 2016-17 season, he was coaching nearby at his high school alma mater, Norwich Free Academy. It was one of the better basketball programs in the league. However, he was coaching 6-foot-3 centers and 5-foot-3 point guards. Eventually, he walked into PSA's gym for his first day of practice and saw the 6-foot-9 Isaac Kante and 6-foot-10 Alexis Yenta and 6-foot-11 Malik Ondingo.

"That first day, I was so excited to be a part of it, I just showed my emotions," Donovan said. "That's kind of how The Hype Man developed. It just came out. Basically, I just get really excited to be part of this program and to be part of very high-level basketball. This is something that I love. I have a passion for high-level basketball!"

Donovan's alter-ego - calm, quiet, patient, level-headed - serves him well at the school, where he has worked his way from math teacher to Dean of Students in his six years, and as a father, to son Quincy. He readily acknowledges the different personalities that his different roles require, and neither of them are forced. In both places, he is who he is.

"He's laid back, always happy, and wants to say yes to everybody for everything. He never stirs anything up, he's not loud," said Scraba, a close friend who knows him as well as anyone. "Then he walks in the gym and he's immediately yelling "BOOM" when someone hits a 3-pointer."

But to be clear, Donovan isn't just some cartoon character. The energy he brings to the sideline is just as important, and he has a terrific basketball mind.

"He's one of those guys that the players really, really relate to and he's great at building relationships with the guys," Espinosa said. "He's really good with sets, and X's and O's, especially offensively. He's kind of our guy with quick hitters... side out of bounds, two seconds left, that kind of thing. He's really good with that."



That's a strength developed over countless hours of coaching, watching, and studying the game. After graduating from Eastern Connecticut State University, he wasn't even sure coaching was in his future, so he went back to NFA to work with his good friend Garvin McAllister, who was coaching the freshman team there. Donovan kept working his way up, and when he started coaching at the AAU level, he got the exposure to that high-level game and studying high level players.

"One thing that I really like to do is analyze X's and O's," he said. "I think that analyzing the game, being able to read defenses and what they're going to do as well as game planning from there is something I have a strength in. I like analyzing players and looking at their tendencies and breaking down every part of it. I really think that is one of my strengths."



Donovan is very detail-oriented, and he jokes about some of his early scouting reports. "My first scout was like seven pages long and had pictures and everything. Then I see Scraba has like a napkin with some scribbles that he just throws out there, and I'm like 'OK, I can tone it down a little bit.'"

Rest assured though that he will not tone it down on the sidelines. The Hype Man said he "doesn't like to be in a quiet gym."



Dana Valentine

ASSISTANT COACH

4th year at PSA



By late summer 2018, Dana Valentine had been working his full-time job at the Governor's Office in Massachusetts as part of Charlie Baker's staff for nearly a year. However, he knew months earlier that it wasn't really for him.

He worked in Constituent Services, which is a fancy way of saying he took "phone calls from people all over the state complaining that there's a pothole here, there are protesters there, or people having problems with Governor Baker's comments about whatever topic they had problems with. Anything and everything that people would complain about." Valentine said.

"Adults are a lot harder to deal with than children. That, and wearing a shirt and tie every day quickly made me realize that wasn't my lane. Governor Baker is a real down-to-earth guy, we had some good conversations about a lot of different things. However, it wasn't my thing."

Coaching basketball, however, was. Valentine played football in high school and college, but he understood basketball at a deeper level. He had coached some AAU programs and he helped out at Notre Dame Prep before it relocated out of nearby Fitchburg, Mass. He was ready to take a leap of faith without any real plan and get serious about it, leaving his stable job for a chance to coach.

It wasn't long before he got a call from PSA Athletic Director Tom Espinosa, who needed a coach for the school's Varsity team. Valentine jumped at the opportunity that basically started the next day, and he finds himself now in his fourth season with the Mustangs, entrenched as an integral piece of the program's success. "He's done a great job," Espinosa said. "He does a great job with all the teams and it's not easy, because you're dealing with a lot of kids who think they should be on the prep team and he's got to handle all that plus coach them on the floor. The kids really like him and really respect him. He's been a great addition to our program."

Valentine is now an assistant coach on PSA's Prep team. The 29-year-old also has close interaction with the Elite and Varsity teams, as he is a regular at practice and assists with individual player workouts throughout the day. Being able to turn on pretty much any college basketball game on any given night and seeing someone he has coached or has coached against on the floor is a big perk of the job for him. There is so much more to it.

Valentine grew up in Roxbury, MA., which is inner city Boston, but was part of the METCO program (Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity) - a school integration program that enrolls Boston students of color in high-performing, predominately white public schools in the suburbs - from first grade through high school graduation.

"That definitely opened my eyes that there was a lot more out there for me and for the people back at home," Valentine said. "I just think that there is so much talent in the inner cities, and not just in terms of athletics. Talent in guys and girls who don't have the same opportunities and resources available. The people I am friends with in Roxbury don't have a computer lab in their school or all the textbooks that we had at Cohasset High School. To see the things that people were able to accomplish without having the same opportunities as me, it motivates me to help people in those situations get those resources and to have opportunities to get in touch with those resources."

"I just want guys who might be in a similar situation that I was in to have the same opportunities to change their lives and their families' lives. That's not to say they are the only people who need the help or opportunities, but I feel that there is such an abundance of talent in different areas who need those opportunities. As I got down the line and finished school, I thought that I could help younger guys do the same thing. The fact that you can impact these guys and send someone to the NBA or send a guy to these high-level schools where they don't have to pay for college, that was one of the big attractions."

When it is time for basketball, Valentine sets a standard and holds his players accountable for their actions. He is an intense and demanding coach.

"Life isn't all about basketball, but in between those lines, a different switch goes off," he said. "We ratchet it up to a different level of intensity and attention to detail that you need to bring. As their coach, I have to set a standard and hold them accountable for those things. Accountability is one of the biggest things that I am about."

Says Darryl Simmons: "He loves to win and hates losing, so he wants everyone to play hard, dive for loose balls, communicate. He's demanding."



That coaching style works for Valentine and his players because of the off-court relationships that he builds.

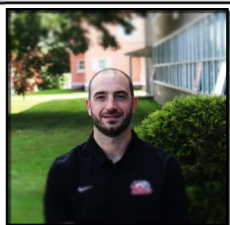
"Coach Dana is someone you want to be around," Simmons said. "He's a leader. He always tells us that it's bigger than basketball and to control what you can control. You have to have the mindset that he can be hard on you, but it's because he cares, and that it's going to be better for you in the long run."

Said Valentine, "A lot of our kids come from underprivileged situations. The kids are mostly African-American kids from different cities around the country," Valentine said. "To have someone who comes from where they come from and looks how they look and knows the language, I just think it's important for those guys to feel a sense of comfort and home. I think I can give some guys that level of comfort in addition to the basketball piece. I can provide a different perspective and be a person to bounce things off of. It's more for the students and athletes."



John Cavaliere

Assistant Coach
Elite Head Coach



John Cavaliere enters his first season at PSA as the Head Coach of the men's Elite Varisty Team.

He is a major addition to the Mustang program, as he has eight years of college coaching experience, including the last three years as the head coach of Division II Concordia College. The 33-year-old Cavaliere demands energy, toughness, and core ideas. "We're not backing away. No matter who you are, we're coming at you. We're bringing the fight to you," he said. "If you're able to run your stuff against us, we're not playing our style of basketball." Cavaliere started his coaching career at Concordia after graduating college, then worked his way up to the top spot through an unparalleled dedication to the team. Cavaliere has PSA connections, as he recruited (and landed) former Mustangs Dan Porcic and Luc Brittian to the Clippers. "To have a former DII head coach join our school is just huge," Tom Espinosa said of Cavaliere, a 2012 graduate of St. John's University. "I'm really excited for the kids to be coached by and to learn from him, to tap into his perspective of a college coach."

Nick Schmidt

Assistant Coach
Varsity Head Coach



Nick Schmidt enters his first season at PSA as the Head Coach of the men's Varsity Team.

After graduating from Alfred University, where he was a four-year member of the basketball team. Schmidt served as a graduate assistant coach for two years under his father at St. Bonaventure. There he worked closely with former PSA stars Kyle Lofton and Osun Osunniyi. He was an assistant coach at Division III Catholic University last year, and was prepared to go back when he was offered the job with the Mustangs. This will be his first head coaching job. "Being a coach, my biggest philosopy, is having relationships with my players," he said. "No matter what you do on the court, it's about how you treat the kids and what they think of you. I think that's the biggest thing, having a positive impact on their lives." Said Tom Espinosa: "Nick reminds me so much of Shane Doyle and Al Paul, coaches we've had in the program that have moved on to the DI level. He's a young, bright, up-and-coming coach. I believe he has a very bright future because it is in his blood."

Bryan Sailor

Head Manager



Bryan enters his sixth year as the Mustangs' Team Manager. A long time fan who wanted to start helping the team in a volunteer manner, Sailor handles bench duties and provides team support. "He's at every game, he supports our program and he supports our kids," Espinosa said. "He's one of the nicest guys you will ever meet. We're lucky to have him."

Justin Stockhaus

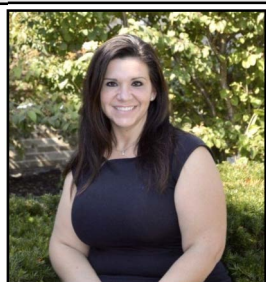
Assistant Team
Manager



Justin enters his third year as PSA's Assistant manager. A 2018 graduate of Barlett (MA.) High School, where he was the team manager for basketball and football, Stockhaus helps out with the bench duties and team support. "Justin is one of our biggest fans and supporters," Tom Espinosa said. "He loves PSA. And our guys love having him around and on the bench."

Leah Belanger

Dir. of Health Services



Leah is in her seventh year at Putnam Science Academy, where she is the Director of Health Services.

In this role, she oversees the mental and physical well-being of all PSA students and staff, and ensures that all health policies and procedures are in place and followed. Nurse Leah, as she is affectionately known by our students, was honored in 2017 as the Central Massachusetts EMS Nurse of the Year. She is also a nursing supervisor at a local hospital and is Trauma Certified. A mother of two, she approaches her work at PSA by treating the students as she would expect someone to treat her children.

Patrick Wyman

Head Athletic Trainer

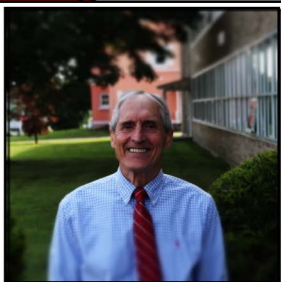


Patrick is now entering his second year as Westview Sports Medicine Head Athletic Trainer at PSA. He oversees the physical health and well-being of the student athletes as well as the treatment and recovery of various injuries. Wyman worked as the Head Athletic Trainer at Suffield High School prior to joining PSA.

Wyman earned his B.S. degree in Athletic Training at Colby-Sawyer College in New London, NH. As an undergrad, he had clinical rotations with Dartmouth College, Colby-Sawyer College, Proctor Academy and Stevens High School.

Ken Chauvin

School/Sports Psychologist



Ken Chauvin enters his seventh year at PSA, where he serves as the school's psychologist. He also works with the student-athletes, both individually and as part of their respective teams, as PSA's sports psychologist. Chauvin has worked with high school students and athletes for over 35 years. Much of his work focuses on mental preparedness and the impact of negative emotions, but also on the importance of maintaining sound physical health habits. "Kenny is a really important part of what we do here and the success we have had," Tom Espinosa said. "He is really devoted to these kids and helping them succeed on and off the court."

Shawn Martel

Volunteer Assistant Coach



Shawn Martel, 37, enters his seventh year as a volunteer assistant coach for the Mustangs. Martel, a native of Dayville, CT, is mainly responsible for recording and keeping track of the team and individual stats. However, Tom Espinosa views him as a jack-of-all-trades who also has 10 years experience in coaching from his time at Marianapolis Prep. "Whatever we need him to do - whatever it is - he does it. He takes a lot of pressure off of us with things we don't have to worry about."

pinkergreen

PINKERGREEN.COM



147 Kennedy Dr.,
Putnam, CT 06260
(860) 928-4222

Putnam Science Academy Athletics Support Staff



Sarah Healey
Head of School



Alissa Lynch
Asst. Head of School for
Residential Life



Heather Stewart
Associate Director of
Admissions - Dean of
Marketing



Vaso Brodeur
Assoc. Dir. of
Admissions



Steve Nalbandian
Sports Information Director



Jim Weagle
I.T. Director



Giant Pizza - Danielson
43 Westcott Road
Danielson, CT 06239
(860) 774-0058



Giant Pizza - Putnam
64 Providence Pike
Putnam, CT 06260
(860) 928-0060

Best of luck
PSA Mustangs!!

Quality and Service at a Great Price



Terri's Embroidery & More

Embroidery - Direct to Garment
Print - Screen Print - Custom
Rhinestones - Personalized Gifts -
Laser Engraving

Over 23
THOUSAND art
designs or create
your own design

Over 73 THOUSAND
embroidery designs to
choose from!

No
minimum
on in-house
jobs!!



Business Apparel, Work Wear,
Sports Wear and More

96 Front Street | Suite A | Putnam, CT 06260 | (860) 928-0552

Like us on Facebook at Terri's Embroidery

terriembroidery@att.net



GO MUSTANGS!!



2021-22



Putnam Science Academy

Men's PREP Basketball Roster



No:	Name:	Yr.	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/Last School
1	Desmond Claude	'22	G	6'5"	215	New Haven, CT/St. Thomas More
2	Arturo Dean	'22	G	6'0"	165	Miami, FL/Calusa Prep
3	DayDay Gittens	'22	G	6'4"	180	Hartford, CT/Woodstock Academy
4	Mouhamed Dioubate	'23	F	6'7"	215	Queens, NY/John Bowne
5	Barry Evans Jr.	'22	F	6'8"	185	Columbia, MD/Poly
10	Darryl Simmons	'23	G	5'10"	140	Norwich, CT/Kelly Middle
11	Lee Hubbard III	'22	G	6'1"	185	San Francisco, CA/Riordan
15	Joshua Rivera	'22	F	6'7"	220	Old Bridge, NJ/St. Thomas Aquinas
23	Duane Thompson	'24	G	6'8"	200	Holbrook, MA/Holbrook HS
24	Travis Upchurch	'25	G	6'0"	150	Bridgeport, CT/Fairfield Country Day
25	Miles Rose	'23	G	6'4"	185	Rochester, NY/Vermont Academy
33	Sotirios Nafpliotis	'22	G	6'4"	175	Ekali, Greece
34	Taiga Jones	'22	G	6'2"	190	Kawaguchi, Japan/Kaishi Kokusai
35	MoMo Cisse	'22	F	7'1"	210	Dakar, Senegal/Hillcrest
50	Muazibini Adamu	'23	F	6'9"	225	Cape Coast, Ghana/First Love

COACHING STAFF

Head Coach : Tom Espinosa | 16th season at PSA

Assoc. Head Coach: Josh Scraba | 13th season at PSA

Asst. Coach: Kevin Donovan | 6th season at PSA

Asst. Coach: Dana Valentine | 4th season at PSA

Asst. Coach: John Cavaliere | 1st season at PSA

Asst. Coach: Nick Schmidt | 1st season at PSA

Vol. Coach: Shawn Martel | 7th season at PSA

School Nutritionist/Psychologist: Ken Chauvin | 7th season at PSA

NATIONAL PREP CHAMPIONS: 2018 | 2020

Desmond Claude

#1

Guard

6'5" | 165

New Haven, CT



Member of the Class of 2022... This is his first year at Putnam Science Academy... Played last year on St. Thomas More's top team... Will have a major impact on the Mustangs' success... Great size is what separates him from some of PSA's past top guards... Blew up on the recruiting charts this summer with huge performances for Expressions Elite... Holds nearly two dozen offers... Legit three-level scorer who creates for himself and his teammates... Extremely tough finisher in the paint... Prides himself on being able to do a little bit of everything, particularly rebounding... Great feel for the game, high basketball IQ... Josh Rivera on Desmond Claude: "He's a strong guard with good control while getting to the hoop. He can shoot very well, whether off the dribble or catch. His handle allows him to create a lot of space. He also has great vision and can get the ball through tight spaces."

Fun Facts:

Favorite Movie: Jumanji

Favorite sport besides basketball: Football

Arturo Dean

#2

Guard

6'0" | 165

Miami, FL



Member of the Class of 2022... This is his first year at Putnam Science Academy... The perfect fit, the perfect example of the type of player PSA wants... Plays with a chip on his shoulder and with something to prove... Fluid and uber-athletic... Plays only one way - as hard as he can, all the time... Natural leader with a team-first mentality... Recipient of teams first Horse Collar Award this season, which recognizes the toughest player in the gym for the week... His focus was a revelation in the preseason, as coach Tom Espinosa said, "He is here for a reason"... His favorite basketball memory is his first in-game dunk... Darryl Simmons on Arturo Dean: "He's a real dog. When you're an undersized guard, you have to do a lot of things to show coaches that you can play at a high level. Arturo does all that. He brings so much energy and he's such a hard worker, he sets the tone for us, he brings it everyday."

Fun Facts:

Favorite NBA Player: Steph Curry

Favorite basketball memory: His first in-game dunk

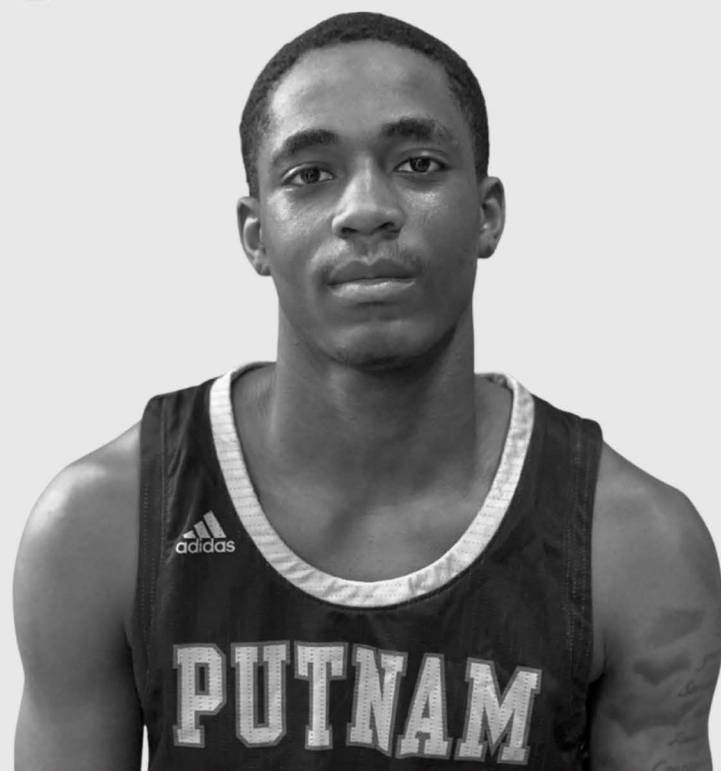
Dashon "DayDay" Gittens

#3

Guard

6'4" | 180

Hartford, CT



Member of the Class of 2022... This is his first year at Putnam Science Academy... Was at Woodstock Academy last year... Has committed to play at Florida International University next year... Long and wildly athletic, reminds the coaching staff of Kyle Lofton... Has all the tools and is just scratching the surface of how good he can be... If his jumpshot falls consistently, look out... Even if not, he will fit the Mustangs defensive style perfectly with his intensity and athleticism... Once scored 56 points in a high school game... Lee Hubbard III on Day Day Gittens: "He's a freak of nature. He's so athletic, he can do so many things. He's just a freak of nature. That's all there is to say about him."

Fun Facts:

Favorite movies: Rush Hour and Fast & Furious Franchise

Favorite sport besides basketball: Football

Mouhamed Dioubate

#4

Forward

6'7" | 215

Queens, NY



Member of the Class of 2023... This is his second year at Putnam Science Academy... Joined the Mustangs midway through last season... Played a limited role last year but figures to be a major factor this time around... Understands the system and what it takes to succeed at the prep level much better than last year... Great body, size, and strength... Can be a dominant offensive rebounder... Gained a lot of attention with a fantastic summer for the PSA Cardinals on the EYBL circuit... Loves to compete, won't back down from a challenge... Barry Evans Jr. on Mouhamed Dioubate: "I think he's gotten better since we started. He's a key player for us... he can finish at the rim, dunk it and block shots. Great rebounder, that's where he can really make a big impact for us."

Fun Facts:

Favorite movie: The Karate Kid

Favorite basketball player is: Kobe Bryant

Barry Evans Jr.

#5

Forward

6'8" | 185

Columbia, MD



Member of the Class of 2022... This is his first year at Putnam Science Academy... Has committed to play at St. Bonaventure... Lanky lefthander with great bounce who is one of the most versatile players PSA has had in a while... Can handle the ball and bring it up the floor, knock down 3's, get to the basket and finish, defend multiple positions, rebound and block shots... Had a strong summer with Team Melo on the EYBL circuit... Loves basketball because of the opportunities it can create for his family... Considered one of the funniest guys on the team... Taiga Jones on Barry Evans Jr.: "Barry is so athletic. He is tall, so it is really hard to defend his jump shot. He can push the ball well and is hard to defend on his fast break. He is also good on defense, and he can guard any position."

Fun Facts:

Favorite NBA Player: Kevin Durant

Favorite movie: Friday

Darryl Simmons

#10

Guard

5'10" | 140

Norwich, CT



Member of the Class of 2023... This is his fifth season at Putnam Science Academy... Enjoyed a breakout season last year as the team's starting point guard... Led the Mustangs to an 18-3 record, averaging 12.1 points, 4.4 assists, and 1.7 steals per game... Shot 50.4% overall from the floor, including 46.9% from 3... High basketball IQ, can run the offense under pressure, teammates love playing with him. As tough and as confident as they come... Hard worker who loves the grind of getting better and learning new ways to do so... Added muscle in the off-season to become a tougher defender... Desmond Claude on Darryl Simmons II: "He's a small, shifty point guard who can handle pressure really well. He can shoot too. And he makes good decisions either to score it himself or passing it to teammates."

Fun Facts:

Favorite Inspirational Books: Chop Wood and Carry Water

Favorite NBA player: Kyrie Irving

Lee Hubbard III

#11

Guard

6'1" | 185

San Francisco, CA



Member of the Class of 2022... This is his first year at Putnam Science Academy... A pass-first point guard was one of the top players in northern California as a senior... Doesn't look to shoot too often but has shown that he can knock it down for 3-point range... Has good size and strength... Willing defender from baseline to baseline... Possesses strong basketball IQ and feel for the game... If he continues to defend and work hard, will be a solid rotation player... Day Day Gittens on Lee Hubbard III: "I think he can be a great point guard. He's just got to keep working, take more shots, and be more confident in what he does because he does a lot of things well."

Fun Facts:

Favorite book: The Hate U Give

Favorite NBA Players: Gary Payton and Stephon Marbury

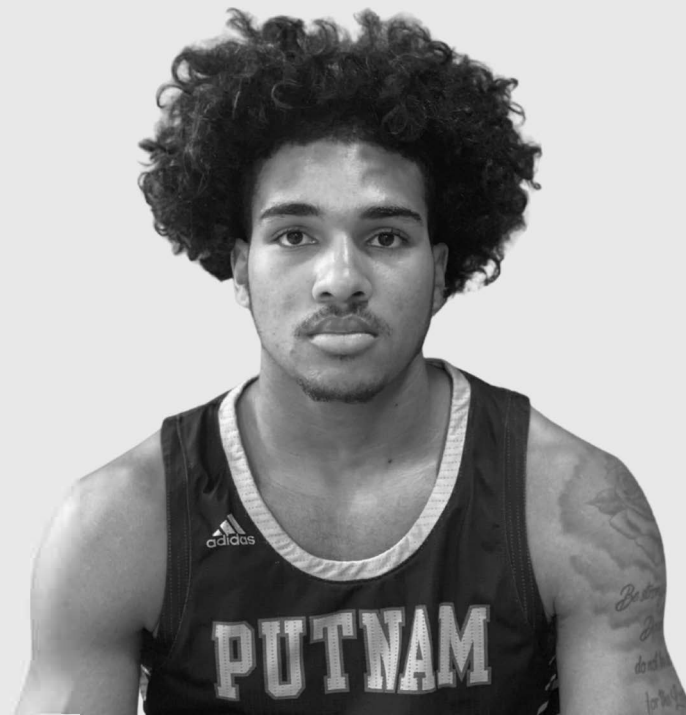
Joshua Rivera

#15

Forward

6'7" | 220

Old Bridge, NJ



Member of the Class of 2022... This is his first year at Putnam Science Academy... Previously attended St. Thomas Aquinas in New Jersey, where he averaged 15.5 points and 9.3 rebounds as a senior... Played for NY Jayhawks on the AAU circuit... Missed time in the preseason following surgery late in the summer... Expected to have a major impact with combination of size and shooting... Built like an NFL linebacker or defensive end... Bulldog rebounder and defender... His favorite basketball memory is playing at the Barclays Center, home to NBA's Brooklyn Nets... Duane Thompson on Joshua Rivera: "He's a real good teammate who brings a lot of energy. I am looking forward to seeing what he can do when he's at full strength."

Fun Facts:

Favorite sport besides basketball: Football

Favorite NBA Players: Giannis Antetokounmpo

Duane Thompson

#23

Forward

6'8" | 190

Roxbury, MA



Member of the Class of 2024... This is his first year at Putnam Science Academy... At 16 years of age, is one of the youngest members of the Mustangs... Is a high-motor player who is still growing into his body... Averaged 21.7 points as a freshmen at Holbrook High School, leading his team to a berth in the Massachusetts State Playoffs. He then played at Bridgewater Raynham last year... Can shoot it and take it to the baskets... Had an impressive preseason, more than holding his own against older, more experienced players... Does not lack for confidence and has potential through the roof... Plays for Team New England in the AAU circuit... Loves to compete, it's what draws him to the game... Day Day Gittens on Duane Thompson: "He's a tough player. He does everything on the court. He can play 1, 2, 3, whatever you need him to play. He's a good defensive player. He can create shots and get open look

Fun Facts:

Favorite NBA Player: LeBron James

Favorite Food: "Anything that my mom cooks."

Travis Upchurch

#24

Guard

6'0" | 150

Bridgeport, CT



Member of the Class of 2025... This is his first year at Putnam Science Academy... Just turned 16 years of age, making him the youngest member of the Mustangs... This will be a big learning-curve year but could see minutes with how PSA plans to play... Played well in the preseason, showing he wouldn't back down from older, more experienced players... Coach Tom Espinosa loves his toughness... Fastest player on the team... Cousin of Danny Upchurch, who played a huge role on the Mustangs 2013-14 team and was one of the toughest point guards ever to suit up for PSA... Miles Rose on Travis Upchurch: "He's tough, quick, and can get to the rim. He's a good point guard who gets everyone involved."

Fun Facts:

Favorite Book: To Kill a Mockingbird

Favorite All-time NBA player: Michael Jordan

Miles Rose

#25

Guard

6'4" | 185

Rochester, NY



Member of the Class of 2023... This is his second year at Putnam Science Academy... Joined the Mustangs midway through last season, an experience that is expected to help his development this year... Still young, as he turned 17 in early October... Struggled with his confidence last season, averaging just 3.6 points per game, but looked like a different player in the summer (including at Peach Jam) and preseason... A big, strong, and hard working guard who can get to the rim... If he maintains confidence in his shooting, he will have a major role on this team... Miles is also a former football player... Mouhamed Dioubate on Miles Rose: "Miles is a good dude. Smart, hard working. He's one of my closest friends here at PSA. He just has energy everytime he's around, on and off the court."

Fun Facts:

Favorite movie: Creed

Favorite book: To Kill a Mockingbird

Sotirios Nafpliotis

#33

Guard

6'4" | 175

Ekali, Greece



Member of the Class of 2022... This is his first year at Putnam Science Academy... His shooting ability makes him an extremely dangerous weapon, particularly when spotting up... Good size and can score the ball, but he is a shooter first, second and third... Arguably the best shooter on the team, is a threat from anywhere on the floor... Possesses a high basketball IQ as well... Is in tremendous physical condition, as evidenced by his winning the Mustang Mile in an event-record time of 5:14... Darryl Simmons on Sotirios Nafpliotis: "He's a team player and can shoot it at a high level from 3. He's a bit quiet, but coming from a different type of atmosphere for basketball, he's been coming along with the level of play that we have on an everyday basis."

Fun Facts:

Favorite NBA player: Kobe Bryant

Dream job: To be a basketball coach

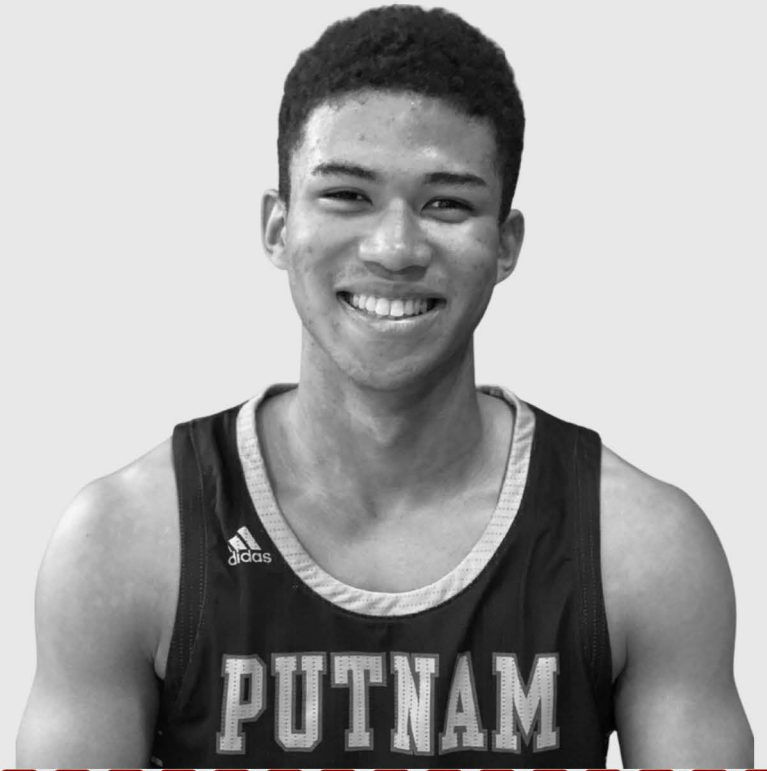
Taiga Jones

#34

Guard

6'2" | 190

Kawaguchi, Japan



Member of the Class of 2022... This is his first year at Putnam Science Academy... Is PSA's first student from Japan... One of the most fundamentally sound players on the roster, always seems to be in the right place at the right time to make the right play... Lethal shooter who can get hot quickly... Plays under control... Good size and strength... Continues to show daily improvement as he gets more comfortable in his surroundings... Poised to have a major impact on this team... Arturo Dean on Taiga Jones: "I love Taiga, He's going to play defense. He's not going to complain. He doesn't say anything. He's a great shooter. He's very strong, plays defense. He's just really good at doing what he does. I love him on this team."

Fun Facts:

Favorite NBA Players: Chris Paul and Steph Curry

Favorite sports besides basketball: Table Tennis

MoMo Cisse

#35

Forward

7'1" | 210

Dakar, Senegal



Member of the Class of 2022... This is his first year at Putnam Science Academy... One of just two legitimate bigs on the roster... Played last year at Hillcrest Prep... Has the potential to be one of the best big men in PSA history... All of the 7 feet he is listed at... Solid shot blocker at one end, good hands on the other... Plays really hard and has a good feel for the game... Patterns his game after LA Lakers star Anthony Davis... His first memories of basketball include watching Penny Hardaway and Tracy McGrady with his older brother... His favorite sport besides basketball is soccer... Off the court, he is shy but also says he's a "fun guy"... Muazibini Adamu on MoMo Cisse: "He always goes hard. He runs the floor like a deer. He's a good defender, especially when he's hedging or trapping on the ball. And he can post up and be a very good finisher."

Fun Facts:

Favorite Movie: Viking

Favorite Book: Qur'an

Muazibini Adamu

#50

Forward

6'9" | 200

Cape Coast, Ghana



Member of the Class of 2023... This is his first year at Putnam Science Academy... Played last year at First Love Christian Academy... Still very raw and learning the game, but shows improvement everyday... Role is expected to be limited this year with an eye toward the future, but as one of just two bigs on the roster, he could see some key minutes... Developing solid footwork and good hands as he continues to get in basketball shape... Most meaningful quote "if there is no enemy within, the enemy outside can do no harm."... Loves basketball because it's a great way to have fun, learn valuable life lessons, and meet great people... Mouhamdou Cisse on Muazibini Adamu: "He is a very good teammate. He can rebound, block shots, and he can shoot. He is getting better every day."

Fun Facts:

Favorite NBA Player: Kevin Durant

Favorite sports besides basketball: Soccer and Volleyball

www.PolarisMG.com

POLARIS MORTGAGE GROUP, LLC

IMAGINE OWNING A HOME

- SPECIAL 1ST TIME BUYER PROGRAMS!
- NO DOWN PAYMENT REQUIRED!
- ALWAYS FREE TO QUALIFY



LOCAL / HONEST / UPFRONT

Jonathan W. Tremblay, ML04677
Mortgage Planner/Owner


LEADING THE WAY



Thompson, CT

860-928-6600

jwtremblay@polarismg.com

Licensed Mortgage Broker does not lock or approve loans.

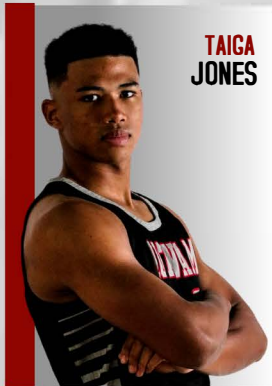
MA Broker Lic. MB3814 • CT Broker Lic. 15859 • NMLS #2981



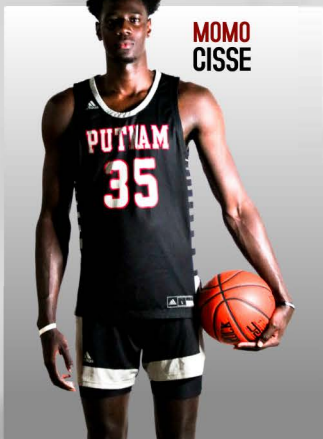
MUSTANG MEDIA DAY

2021-2022





TAIGA JONES



MOMO CISSE



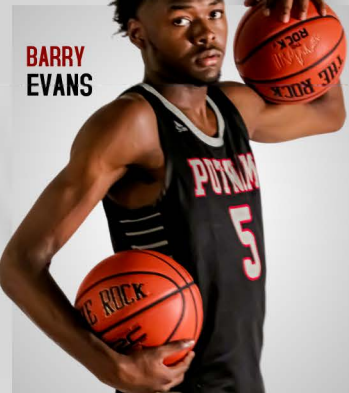
DESMOND CLAUDE



LEE HUBBARD III



ARTURO DEAN



BARRY EVANS



DARRYL SIMMONS



DUANE THOMPSON



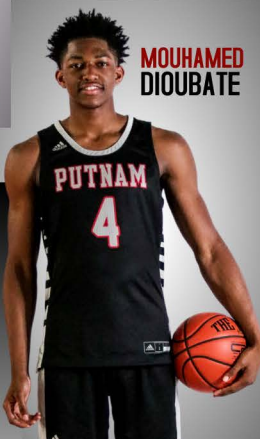
DAYDAY GITTENS



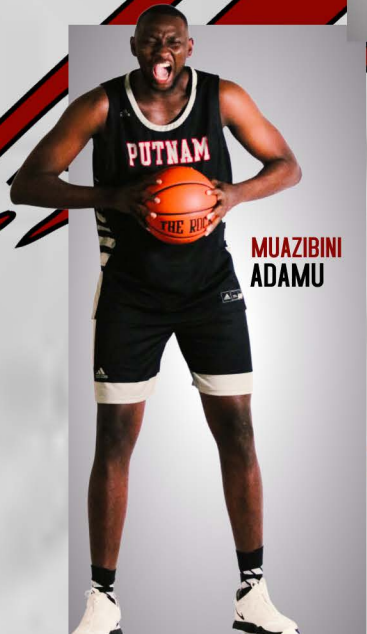
SOTIRIOS NAFPLIOTIS



MILES ROSE



MOUHAMED DIOUBATE



MUAZIBINI ADAMU



JOSH RIVERA



TRAVIS UPCHURCH

MUSTANGS BASKETBALL



2021-22 MEDIA DAY

CentrevilleBank[®]

depend on us.

GOOD LUCK
MUSTANGS!!

CB

Banking the way you want.

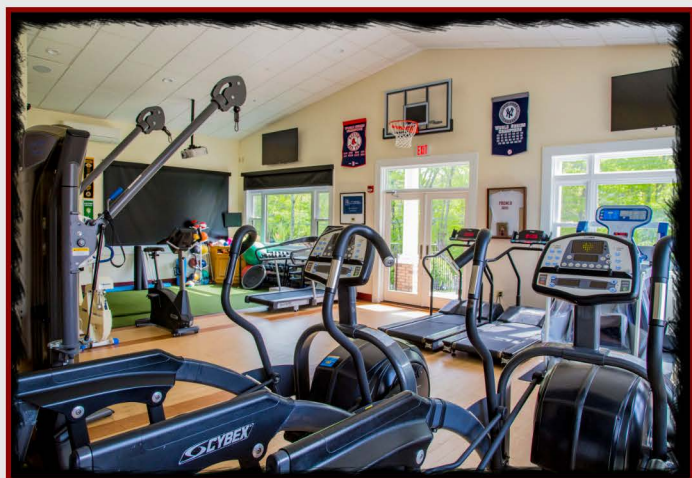
www.centrevillebank.com



Putnam Science Academy relies on tough, hard-working, talented players to stay at or near the top of the prep sports world every day. Additionally, those tough, hard-working, talented players rely on the best athletic training/sports medicine programs the state has to offer.



In what is now the eighth year together, PSA has partnered with Westview Sports Medicine, located conveniently in nearby Killingly, Connecticut to give our student athletes "comprehensive health care services that include a very integrated and holistic approach to injury prevention, injury recognition and assessment, treatment, and reconditioning," as stated on their website.



Headed by Alex Williams, who also created the sports medicine program in 2013, Westview uses its state-of-the-art outpatient facilities to provide the highest quality health care possible and help maintain the safety and welfare of all who participate in athletics. Among the equipment at the facility are anti-gravity treadmills, a Biodex Balance System, a multi-sport virtual simulator, and upper body and bicycle ergometers.



Patrick Wyman, in his third year, is Putnam Science Academy's on-site athletic trainer.

"I think we are very fortunate to be able to work with Westview and have them handle all of our sports medicine services and training program," PSA head coach Tom Espinosa said. "Those guys - Alex, Patrick, and all of the other trainers at Westview who help our students out - they do such a good job of caring for the student-athlete first and foremost. Whether it's injury prevention or rehabbing something, our kids get the best treatment and are able to do what they love to do, whether it's basketball, soccer or whatever."



Hamidou Diallo: "I would say Putnam has molded me into the man that I am today. They helped me understand what it takes to face adversity. What it takes to be a successful man in today's society. Just starting those 6 a.m.'s every morning before school. That's just discipline. Being able to wake up and hold yourself accountable and being able to attend those workouts was really big. I had never worked out like that hard in my life. Me going there, it just made me see everything differently. Without them I wouldn't be where I am today."

Kyle Lofton: "Going to PSA, that's one of the biggest moments of my life. I developed my game there, I had access to the gym and the weight room. Being at PSA, that got me from being nobody to people knowing my name because I was around a lot of really good players and we won."

Johnnie Williams IV: "PSA has helped me not only on the court but off it. I became not only a better player, but a better student and a better man in life. I thank PSA dearly with all of my heart and PSA will always have a place in my heart."

Bryce Harris: "Putnam Science is known throughout all coaching staffs. Any time I ask a coach about Putnam Science, they know exactly what we're talking about."

Terrell Ard, Jr.: "PSA has really helped me grow as a player and a man. Coach Espinosa, Coach Scraba, they just taught me how to better myself and fight through everything and how to keep grinding. And I've got a real good family out there in Putnam. I've built long-term relationships with people from the US and from other countries. I've got friends in France and Russia now. It's been real cool to meet different people and build relationships with different people. It helps you grow and learn to be thankful for what you've got."

Tyson Etienne: "My time there is invaluable. I'll always be grateful for my time there, and for the people that I met. My time at Putnam was divine because I needed to learn to be by myself and take care of myself on my own. When I went to Putnam Science, I had to really learn what I had to do to take care of myself as a man. Plus, just being with a bunch of players who were so talented. I was able to learn how to lead a bunch of different personalities. Putnam Science will always be home for me. I'm thrilled that I was able to be a part of the lineage because there are so many great players that have gone through there."

Eric Ayala: "Coming from my high school in Delaware, it was a big transition, and just being around other guys that were as talented as me. And, you know, it definitely prepared me for college. A lot of things that we worked on there in Connecticut, in terms of lifting weights, working out two, three times a day, helped me for when I got to college and just put me in a rhythm, understanding what I had to do to get better and compete at a higher level every day."

Hassan Diarra: "PSA means everything to me. It's more than just basketball. The relationships I made there will last forever and that attests as to why we were so successful on the court. Coming to PSA changed my life. I had to grow and find a way to develop as an individual and as a player. I'm thankful for the leadership of the staff and coaches helping me achieve my goal of going to a college institution for free. I am truly grateful for how much PSA has impacted my life."

Andrew Robinson: "When I originally decided to play for Putnam Science, I thought it would be just an 8-month endeavor. However, it turned out that I would be linked to this place forever, and I would form relationships that would last me a lifetime. Not only did I get to play at the highest level there is in prep basketball in the entire country, but I also gained a new family that would help shape my future going forward. Going to PSA was one of the best decisions I ever made, and I am thankful each and every day for the opportunity provided to me by Coach Espo, Coach Scraba, and the rest of the PSA family."

Aaron Robinson: "Putnam Science Academy truly changed my life forever. I was able to create bonds that will last a lifetime and I was able to earn a DI scholarship alongside my twin brother, something that we had dreamed about for our entire lives. Coach Espinosa, Coach Scraba, and the rest of the PSA staff are some of the most genuine people that I have come across and they genuinely care about the development of their players not only just as basketball players, but as young men! Though I was only at Putnam for one year, the experiences that I had there will stay with me for the rest of my life."





Family owned & operated since 2012

Short & Long Term Stay, Respite & Palliative Care, IV Therapy, TPN, Wound Care, Pain Management, Cardiac & Pulmonary Care

16 Windsor Avenue, Plainfield, CT

P: (860) 564-4081

www.colonialhr.com



Follow us on Facebook at Colonial Health & Rehab Center of Plainfield, LLC

Deluxe Private & Semi Private Accomodations:

- * 32" Flat Panel TV
- * Multi-Position Electric Bed
- * 24 hr on call nurse
- * Free Wi-Fi internet access
- * Garden Club
- * Happy Hour & Weekly Entertainment

 Medicaid	
	
Self Payment	

Two-Time National Prep Champions



"Just another day in Putnam." Those were the joyous, boisterous words of D'Maurian Williams as he walked off to join his teammates in celebration of another national championship, this one in March 2020, the second such title for the Putnam Science Academy men's prep team.

It is what coaches Tom Espinosa and Josh Scraba had in mind when they started building the program so many years ago, and what drives them and every player who puts on a Mustangs' uniform then and now and going forward.

"That's the goal, every year," said Darryl Simmons, who was a little-used reserve on the 2020 team, but is now the face of the program as their starting point guard. "We put everything else aside, we focus on winning games, and winning another championship. Everything else will take care of itself. Hassan Diarra is the only one with two rings. I've got one. I want three."

Diarra was one of 11 Division I scholarship players on that team (that includes Simmons, who already holds about a dozen offers). He was the team's leading scorer and left as the program's all-time leading scorer. The day of the national prep final was to be held was the day that Covid ripped through the sports world and put everything on hold. The NCAA cancelled its conference tournaments and the national tournament that day, the NBA, Major League Baseball, and the NHL shut down.



The National Prep Tournament's title game was also called off, and Putnam Science Academy was crowned co-champions along with Brewster Academy, the other semi-finalist.

The run to the first championship, just two years earlier in 2018, had been building. The Mustangs reached the Final Four three years in a row before breaking through and finally winning it all.

The Mustangs' went 36-4 that year, but it was never as easy as it looked. Espinosa called that group one of the most challenging he's ever had, with both individual and team ups and downs, on and off the court.

"But the bottom line was, guys fought through it and everyone came together," he said. "It was very symbolic of what we try to do here. We tell the kids all the time that it's going to take everyone."

"That was the dream when we started the Varsity program in 2007," Espinosa said. "It was an unbelievable feeling. It was surreal. That was the top of the mountain." That further fueled the program. "As a staff, we wanted that feeling again," he said. "Dealing with so many new kids year after year, a lot of them have never experienced a championship before. Darryl is the only player on the team that has been through it with us. You want them all to experience it, so that's part of the drive. I think too, that sometimes when people win something, they lose motivation. Fortunately that's not our case. We got another taste of 2020 and we are still hungry as ever. The first one put an X on our backs, so there's no relaxing for us."





PSA Alumni Division I Players



2008

Rundell Mauge | University of The Pacific

2012

Shaun Lawton | University of Maine

2013

Joel Angus III | Southeast Missouri State University

Mairega Clarke | University of Texas-Arlington

Ugar Hortum | Grambling State University

Scoochie Smith | University of Dayton

2014

Jordan Butler | Norfolk State University

Chaise Daniels | Quinnipiac University

Anthony Durham | Rider University

Vincent Eze | University of Maine

Danny Upchurch | Charleston Southern University

2015

Dalique Mingo | Howard University

Kealen Ives | Rider University

Dondre Rhoden | Fairleigh Dickinson University

Aaron Robinson | Quinnipiac University

Andrew Robinson | Quinnipiac University

Josh Wallace | Jacksonville University

2016

Darnell Brodie | Seton Hall University

Hamidou Diallo | University of Kentucky

Mamadou Diarra | University of Connecticut

Ajiri Johnson | Rider University

Tyere Marshall | Rider University

Chuba Ohams | Fordham University

Saul Phiri | LaSalle University

2017

Eric Ayala | University of Maryland

Malik Curry | Old Dominion University

KeAndre Fair | Coppin State University

Kentrevious Jones | Oklahoma State University

Isaac Kante | University of Georgia

LaPri McCray-Pace | Morgan State University

Malik Ondigo | Texas Tech University

Alexis Yetna | University of South Florida

2018

Akok Akok | University of Connecticut

Jaheam Cornwall | Gardner-Webb University

Kyle Lofton | St. Bonaventure University

Josh Mballa | Texas Tech University

Gabe McGlothan | Southeast Missouri State University

Osun Osunniyi | St. Bonaventure University

Jose Perez | Gardner-Webb University

Cameron Gooden | Dixie State University

2019

John Buggs | University of Massachusetts

Tyson Etienne | Wichita State University

Charles Pride | Bryant University

Nate Stokes | Bryant University

Kareem Reid | Gardner-Webb University

Russel Tchewa | Texas Tech University

Justin Winston | St. Bonaventure University

2020

Terrell Ard Jr. | University of Alabama-Birmingham

Hassan Diarra | Texas A&M University

Julian Dozier Jr. | Fordham University

Melvyn Ebonkoli | Missouri State University

Vladislav Goldin | Texas Tech University

Johnnie Williams IV | University of Louisiana-Monroe

Josh Gray | Louisiana State University

Mekhi Gray | New Jersey Institute of Technology

Marty Silvera | St. Peter's University

D'Maurian Williams | Gardner-Webb University

2021

C.J. Anthony | University of Cincinnati

Joshua Bascoe | Bucknell University

Sean Durugordon | University of Missouri

Bryce Harris | Howard University

Zay Folkes | University of North Carolina - Charlotte

Elijah Hutchins-Everett | Austin Peay State University

Bensley Joseph | University of Miami

Nic Louis-Jacques | Colgate University

Nana Owusu-Anane | Brown University

Alexis Reyes | East Carolina University

Mohamed Sanogo | Florida International University

Leon Williams | Gardner-Webb University

TEAM RECORDS

Victories:	38	2017-2018 & 2018-2019
Best Overall Record:	38-2	2018-2019
Best Regular-Season Record:	35-1	2018-2019
Winning Streak:	49	01/12/18 - 01/28/19
Losing Streak:	2	2007, 2008, 2015 and 2020

GAME RECORDS

Points Scored:	139	-vs- Shaywynigan College 2/15/19
Points Allowed (in Regulation):	113	-vs- Our Savior Lutheran 12/13/17
Margin of Victory:	93	-vs- Capitol Prep Harbor 1/24/18
Margin of Defeat:	41	-vs- St. Thomas More 1/18/12

CAREER RECORDS

Games Played:	122	Hassan Diarra - 2020
Points:	1469	Hassan Diarra - 2020
Three Point FG's	140	Hassan Diarra - 2020
Rebounds:	647	Mamadou Diarra - 2016
Assists:	463	Hassan Diarra - 2020
Steals:	205	Dayshon Smith - 2013
Blocks:	187	Rundell Mauge - 2008

SINGLE SEASON RECORDS

Points:	651	Hamidou Diallo - 2016
Three Point FG's:	112	Andrew Robinson - 2015
Scoring Average:	26.6	TaQuan Zimmerman - 2010
Rebounds:	408	Rundell Mauge - 2008
Assists:	268	Kealen Ives - 2015
Steals:	103	Dayshon Smith - 2012
Blocks:	187	Rundell Mauge - 2008

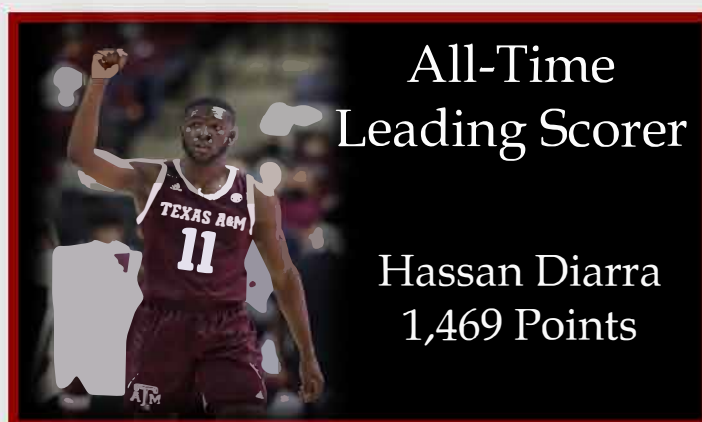
INDIVIDUAL GAME RECORDS

Points:	Rundell Mauge	44 -vs- Ocean Tide - 2/6/08
Three Point FG's:	TaQuan Zimmerman	9 -vs- St. Andrews - 1/22/10
	Jaheam Cornwall	9 -vs- Rise Academy - 3/4/16
Free Throws:	Hamidou Diallo	17 -vs- Coastal Academy - 2/24/16
Rebounds:	Rundell Mauge	26 -vs- Ocean Tide - 2/6/08
Assists:	Kealen Ives	14 -vs- Commonwealth - 1/21/15
	Danny Upchurch	14 -vs- Notre Dame - 12/4/13
Steals:	Gul Cakmak	14 -vs- St. Andrews - 12/11/13
	Kyle Lofton	7 -vs- Block Island - 1/29/08
	Dayshon Smith	7 -vs- Our Savior Lutheran - 1/25/18
		7 -vs- Masters - 12/12/11
		Notre Dame Prep - 1/23/12
		Hebron Academy - 2/18/12
Blocks:	Rundell Mauge	15 - vs- Ocean Tide - 12/12/07, NECA - 11/28/07

Putnam Science Academy

Top 50 All-Time Scoring List

1. Hassan Diarra	1469	26. Isaac Kante	433
2. Hamidou Diallo	1415	27. Kareen Reid	429
3. Dayshon Smith	1010	27. Anthony Henry	429
4. Eric Ayala	959	29. Kyle Lofton	417
5. Mamadou Diarra	953	30. Jemal Mosley	406
6. Jaheam Cornwall	783	31. Jordan Butler	405
7. Akok Akok	644	31. Elijah Everett-Hutchins	405
8. Jose Perez	628	33. Alexis Yetna	391
9. Demarr Langford Jr.	597	33. Dalique Mingo	391
10. TaQuan Zimmerman	585	35. Osun Osunniyi	388
11. Enes Ulukaya	580	36. D'Maurian Williams	386
12. Tyson Etienne	566	37. Michael Gittens	379
13. Desmond Williams	541	38. Josh Gray	374
14. Anthony Durham	529	39. Josh Mballa	360
15. Andrew Robinson	506	40. Oscar Assie	352
16. Rundell Mauge	503	41. Abou Ousmane	345
17. Marty Silvera	502	42. Kyle Menard	334
18. Kealen Ives	498	43. Jeremi Johnson	333
19. Josh Wallace	484	44. Vlad Goldin	329
20. Saul Phiri	474	44. Dan Porcic	329
21. Danny Upchurch	466	46. Malik Ondigo	316
22. Tyree Robinson	456	47. Terrell Ard Jr.	304
23. Halid Gul	451	47. Alvin Durrett	304
24. Shawn Lawton	442	49. Jonte Ruty	301
25. Russell Tchewa	436	50. Chaise Daniels	299





FRI. 11/5 | LEE ACADEMY | 7:00 | HOME
 SAT. 11/6 | HOOSAC | 6:30 | HOME
 TUES. 11/9 | NOTRE DAME - W. HAVEN | 6:00 | HOME
 THURS. 11/11 | ROCKTOP | 7:30 | HOME
 SAT. 11/13 | LINCOLN PREP - POWER 5 TIPOFF | 2:00 | HOME
 SUN. 11/14 | REDEMPTION CHRISTIAN - POWER 5 TIPOFF | 5:00 | WOODSTOCK ACADEMY
 MON. 11/15 | PRISE ACADEMY (MO) | 7:00 | HOME
 FRI. 11/19 | WESTERN RESERVE ACAD. - NATIONAL PREP SHOWCASE | 12:00 | ALBERTUS MAGNUS
 SAT. 11/20 | HARGRAVE MILITARY ACAD. - NATIONAL PREP SHOWCASE | 10:30 | ALBERTUS MAGNUS
 WED. 12/1 | COMMONWEALTH ACADEMY | 7:00 | HOME
 FRI. 12/3 | BRADFORD CHRISTIAN - ZG PREP CLASSIC | 4:00 | DANA BARROS
 SUN. 12/5 | SOUTH KENT | 3:00 | HOME
 TUES. 12/7 | WE BELIEVE ACADEMY | 6:30 | HOME
 MON. 1/10 | WE BELIEVE ACADEMY | 7:00 | HOME
 TUES. 1/11 | BRIDGEPORT PREP | 6:00 | HOME
 FRI. 1/14 | ST. THOMAS MORE | 6:00 | AWAY
 SUN. 1/16 | NORTHFIELD MOUNT HERMON - HOOPALL PREP SHOWCASE | TBA | SPRINGFIELD, MA
 WED. 1/19 | COMMONWEALTH ACADEMY | TBA | AWAY
 SAT. 1/22 | NEW HAMPTON - NEBL | TBA | NORTHFIELD MOUNT HERMAN
 SUN. 1/23 | BREWSTER ACADEMY - NEBL | TBA | NORTHFIELD MOUNT HERMAN
 WED. 1/26 | CANTERBURY | 4:00 | HOME
 FRI. 1/28 | WOODSTOCK ACADEMY | 7:00 | HOME
 SUN. 1/30 | SOUTH KENT SCHOOL | 2:00 | AWAY
 TUES. 2/1 | OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN | TBA | HOME
 THURS. 2/3 | MOUNT ZION - NATIONAL PREP SCHOOL INVIT. | 4:45 | RIC
 SAT. 2/5 | UPPER ROOM - POWER 5 SHOWCASE | 6:00 | NOTRE DAME WEST HAVEN
 SUN. 2/6 | BRIDGEPORT PREP - POWER 5 SHOWCASE | 3:45 | NOTRE DAME WEST HAVEN
 WED. 2/9 | CANTERBURY | 4:00 | AWAY
 SAT. 2/12 | VERMONT ACADEMY - NEBL | TBA | BREWSTER ACADEMY
 SUN. 2/13 | BRIDGTON ACADEMY - NEBL | TBA | BREWSTER ACADEMY
 WED. 2/16 | NOTRE DAME WEST HAVEN | 6:00 | AWAY
 THURS. 2/17 | WOODSTOCK ACADEMY | 7:00 | AWAY
 SAT. 2/19 | NEBL | TBA | AWAY
 SUN. 2/20 | NEBL | TBA | AWAY
 THURS. 2/24 | WE BELIEVE PREP | 6:00 | HOME
 SAT. 2/26 | OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN | TBA | AWAY

 FRI., SAT., SUN., MARCH 4-5-6 2022 | POWER 5 TOURNAMENT | TBA | TBA

 TUES., WED., MARCH 8-9, 2022 | NATIONAL PREP CHAMPIONSHIPS | TBA | CONNECTICUT COLLEGE





Men's Basketball Social Media

Instagram

Men's Basketball - putnamsciencehoops
School Page - putnamscienceacademynews

Twitter

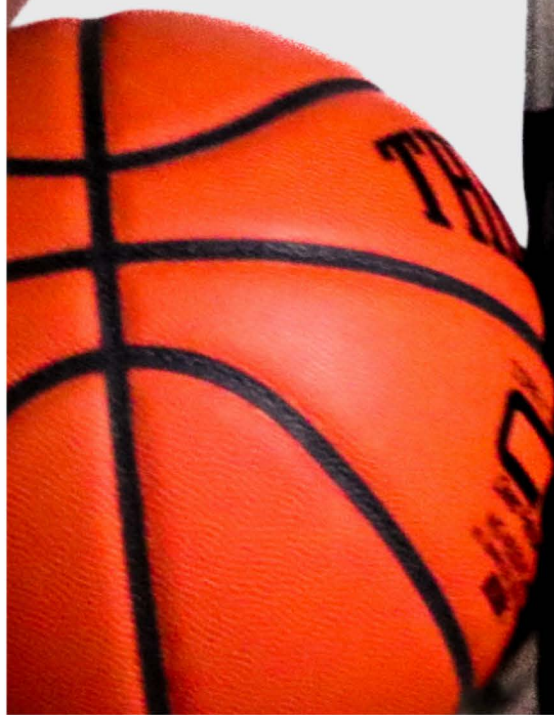
Men's Basketball - @PSAhoops
School Page - @PSA_Mustangs
PSA Athletics - @PSA_Athletics

Facebook

PutnamScienceAcademyNews

PUTNAM

25



**APPLIANCE
TELEVISION
AUDIO
VIDEO
STEREO**

Steve Bousquet's Appliance & TV

774 N. Main Street., Danielson, CT 06239

(860) 774-5821 PAY MORE? WHAT FOR?

www.bousquetsappliance.com

BOUSQUET'S APPLIANCE WANTS TO SAVE YOU MONEY!!



**Choose from our large
selection of New and
Preowned Appliances**

**Washers, Dryers, TV's, Refridgerators, AC's, Ovens/Ranges, Home
Theaters and SO MUCH MORE**

BEST OF LUCK MUSTANGS!!!!