

KINGS YOUTH BASKETBALL INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER



Kings Kickoff New Season

The Kings Youth Basketball Institute is a nonprofit organization supporting the Kings Basketball Program. With the support of this organization, the basketball program has expanded the number of teams providing more opportunities for boys in grades 4th-7th to participate in the Des Moines Parks and Recreation Youth Basketball League. This expansion has more than doubled the number of players as well as the coaches in the program. According to the Program Director Dr. Ronald L. Mells, "we hope to develop a basketball program model that will allow players from low-income families to receive quality basketball training. Too often the alternative basketball programs models are beyond the financial reach so many of our families.

Basketball Kick-off Pizza Party

A great way to start the season is to create a gathering for players, coaches, & parents to meet. The Kickoff Pizza Party was such an event. With over 70 plus attendees, participants attending the gathering were given an opportunity learn about the basketball program objectives, parental responsibility and meet their sons' coach.



Our 4th grade Coach Eriq Brown welcoming players and parents to the program during the pizza party.

Introducing Our Coaching Staff

Co-Founder & Director, Kings Youth Basketball Program

With 40+ years of coaching experience from youth leagues to college, Dr. Mells is dedicated to shaping athletes into leaders. Holding advanced degrees from Fort Valley State University, Georgia Southwestern University, and Peabody College of Vanderbilt University, he blends academic insight with a passion for the game. His philosophy is to develop character, foster discipline, and equip players for success both on and off the court.

Coach Mells was 2024 Recipient of the Des Moines Parks & Recreation Volunteer Coach of the Year Award.



Dr. Ronald Mells



Coach Bryan Jones

With 15 years of coaching youth and High School sports, to include football, basketball and soccer, Bryan has coached youth from the recreational level to the competitive level (AAU). Bryan is an Air Force veteran who has a master's degree in business management from the University of Phoenix.

Coaching Philosophy: "I coach youth sports because of my passion for developing youth to become leaders in society, and to excel academically and athletically. I always strive to create an environment that is conducive to learning. Fundamentally, youth sports are not about the number of wins and losses, it's about the lessons you learn from both. By learning how to develop and motivate youth, I've been able to lead my teams to successful seasons."

More of Our Coaching Staff

My passion for sports started early. Football was my first love, but I always made room for track and basketball — and my basketball roots actually began with the original Kings. In high school, I focused on football and earned the chance to continue my athletic journey at Drake University.

Now, I'm right where I'm meant to be: giving back to young athletes and coaching the game that helped shape me. For me, it's bigger than wins or highlights. It's about using sports to build confidence, character, and lifelong lessons that players will carry well beyond the court.



**Coach De' Andre
Calloway**



Coach Eriq Brown

Eriq Brown is a multi-sport coach and former athlete, and is passionate about guiding youth through all stages of development. He began coaching youth basketball as a student at Drake University, where from 2005-2009 he led camps under head coaches Amy Stephens, Keno Davis, and Tom Davis. Eriq coached youth and professional basketball in Beijing, China in 2012-2013, before returning to the U.S. to resume his primary career, as a golf instructor. He has been coaching golf at Roosevelt High School since 2019, and continues to work with people of all ages and skill levels.

More of Our Coaching Staff

Coach Roman grew up in the Kings program, playing as an elementary student and remaining with the program until the 7th grade. He has returned to coach, mentor, and inspire the next generation. His deep connection to the team's values shapes his coaching approach, blending firsthand experience with a genuine commitment to uplifting others. He has been teaching basketball since high school and is passionate about helping every player grow both in their skills on the court and in their character. His goal is simple: make every kid better than they were before.



**Coach Roman
Talbert**

HOW YOU CAN HELP THE KINGS

By supporting the Kings Youth Basketball Institute, you help ensure that more children can participate in KYBI free program. Many families can not afford high-quality basketball instruction. Many student-athletes miss the opportunity to learn basketball fundamentals and experience team dynamics. This program is dedicated to developing student-athletes both on the court, in the classroom and in their personal lives. Your donation is tax deductible. The organization's EIN is 99-1591626.

You can make a contribution to KYBI through GiveButter at <https://givebutter.com/KYBI> or make your check payable to The Kings Basketball Youth Institute(KYBI). See Coach Mellis or mail to 3012 Southern Hills Dr. Des Moines, IA 50321.

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