

# KINGS YOUTH BASKETBALL INSTITUTE

## NEWSLETTER



### **New Kings Logo!!**

## **Kings Season Kickoff: Trials & Triumphs**

### **AND WE ARE OFF**

Practices began for all teams on a very positive note. The players showed great excitement and enthusiasm to be part of our program. With only a limited amount of time available to prepare for the 12-week regular season schedule, our coaching staff immediately got to work. They focused on giving players meaningful opportunities to grow their basketball skills while introducing them to offensive and defensive schemes that would be used during games.

This process proved to be particularly challenging for many of the players, especially those in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades. Many of these younger athletes had little experience playing basketball in a structured program, and the physical demands of the sport quickly became overwhelming for some. As a result, a few players decided to leave the program early on.

### **WEATHER CHALLENGES AND SCHEDULING SETBACKS**

Beyond the usual ups and downs of the season, weather played a significant role in shaping the teams's ability to prepare for games. Several consecutive week of subzero temperatures forced the cancellation of multiple practices and games. These disruptions were especially hard on the 5<sup>th</sup> grade team. Due to a scheduled bye and two cancelled games at the end of the regular season, their first game following this extended break did not occur until the 12<sup>th</sup> week of the season.

## Kings 4th-Grade Basketball Team



*From LT to RT: Coach Roman Talbert, Isaac Siefkas (Downtown School), Sebastian Simpson (Walnut Street Elementary), Gabriel Sebben (Downtown School), Linkin Cole (Morris Elementary), Aiden Williams (Perkins Elementary), Kai Perkins (Morris Elementary), Mayom Mayom (St. Theresa Catholic), Everson Gunn (Downtown School), Coach Eriq Brown.*

## Season Overview for Kings 4th-Grade Team

### TEAM CHARACTER AND PERFORMANCE

The 4th-grade basketball team can best be described as a scrappy and determined group of players. During the regular season, they achieved a record of 3 wins and 4 losses, finishing fourth out of eight teams. While this placement may not reflect their competitive drive, it is clear that their will to win stands out as a defining feature of the team.

### PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

On an individual level, the players are at a stage where developing fundamental basketball skills is essential. This growth will depend on their willingness to put in hard work and demonstrate a strong commitment to the game. The dedication required will serve as the foundation for their improvement and future success.

### OUTLOOK FOR NEXT SEASON

The coaching staff is enthusiastic about the potential of this group and looks forward to their return next season. With continued effort and focus, the 4th-grade team has the opportunity to become one of the best teams in the Kings program.

## Kings 5th-Grade Basketball Team



*From LT to RT: Coach Roman Talbert, Gino Giovanni (Carver Community School), Kayden Edwards (Westridge Elementary), Braydon Perrigo (Homeschooled), Liam Bekish (Carver Elementary) Kesean Amerison (Morris Elementary.)*

## Season Overview for Kings 5th-Grade Team

### SEASON FINALE

The 5<sup>th</sup>-grade team concluded their season with a hard-fought victory, edging out the Lakers by a score of 30 to 27. This win was especially noteworthy given the challenging circumstances the team faced throughout the season.

### SEASON CHALLENGES

**Despite their final win, the team finished 8<sup>th</sup> in an eleven-team division. One of the main difficulties was the inability to maintain a consistent roster. Various factors contributed to this instability, as many players struggled to attend practices and, in some cases, games. This lack of participation had significant consequences.**

### IMPACT ON THE PROGRAM

For the first time in the history of the Kings Basketball Program, the team was forced to forfeit a game against the Rockets due to insufficient player attendance. This unprecedented event underscored the importance of commitment from both players and their families.

### LOOKING AHEAD

As the group prepares to advance to the 6th grade, the coaching staff recognizes the need to identify players and families who understand and are willing to commit to the program. This focus on dedication will be critical to the team's growth and future success.

## Kings 6th-Grade Basketball Team



**Back Row:** Zander Matejski (J.W. Reed Christian Academy), Ricky Dunigan (Harding Middle School), Milo Anderson (Hubbell Elementary), Jimmy Fry (Brody Middle School), Cullen Hendrickson (Brody Middle School), Coach Ron Mells.  
**Front Row:** Coach De'Andre Calloway, Carter Dubose (Woodland Hills), Eric Hargis (Hiatt Middle School), Roscoe Thye (Brody Middle School), Evan Garcia (Brody Middle School), Coach Bryan Jones.

## Season Overview for Kings 6th-Grade Team

### IMPRESSIVE THIRD-PLACE ACHIEVEMENT

Achieving third place in a league comprised of nine teams is a significant accomplishment for this group of 6<sup>th</sup> Graders. Their resilience and dedication have set them apart in a competitive field.

### CHALLENGING WEATHER CONDITIONS

Like their peers across the league, the team faced persistent subzero weather throughout the season. These extreme conditions disrupted both practice sessions and scheduled games, making it difficult for the players to participate consistently.

### IMPACT ON PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

Due to the harsh weather, the team experienced a notable lack of participation. The interruptions in practice and gameplay have hindered player development, as consistent engagement is crucial for skill improvement and team cohesion.

### CONCERNS AND OUTLOOK FOR TOURNAMENT PLAY

As the team heads into tournament play, they are coping with the challenge of having missed three consecutive weeks of competition. This extended period without games is a major concern for the coaching staff, who are focused on keeping the players engaged and prepared. Nevertheless, the team's ability to maintain their third-place standing in the league reflects their determination and potential as they begin the tournament.

## Kings 7th-Grade Basketball Team



**Back Row:** Kamryn Blake (Southeast Polk), Jesus Fierro-Price (Southeast Polk), Giatano Lee (Southeast Polk), Michael Browner (McCombs Middle School), Karson Hochmuth (Southeast Polk), Malachi Conner (Goodrell Middle School), Coach Ron Mells.

**Front Row:** Coach De'Andre Calloway, Braydan Jones (Summit Middle School), Charles Dubose (Timberline Middle School), J'Ceon Watkins (Goodrell Middle School), Isaac Jensen (Summit Middle School), Uriah Jackson (Harding Middle School), Coach Bryan Jones.

## Season Overview for Kings 7th-Grade Team

### CONSISTENCY AND TEAM BACKGROUND

The 6 wins/2 losses 7th grade team stands out as the most consistently performing group in the program. This success is rooted in a small core of players who have returned from previous championship teams, providing valuable experience and stability. Over the course of four years, these athletes have helped set a high standard for excellence and teamwork within the program.

### CHAMPIONSHIP ASPIRATIONS

Building on their history of success, the team is poised to fulfill their goal of securing a fourth consecutive championship. Their ongoing commitment and proven track record make them strong contenders as they enter the tournament season.

### CURRENT STANDING AND RECENT CHALLENGES

Currently, the team holds second place in their division. However, their confidence was recently tested when they suffered a decisive loss to the top-seeded Nuggets. The 43 to 21 defeat served as a wake-up call for both players and coaches, highlighting the level of competition they will face against exceptionally strong opponents in the upcoming tournament.

## 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.

Questions? Call/text Coach Mellis at 515-208-6100 or email at [ronmellis@earthlink.net](mailto:ronmellis@earthlink.net)

## Announcements

The Kings have a fresh, stylish logo & website designed by Omega Psi Phi Brother Chris McMurray. Check out all the latest news at [kybhoops.org](http://kybhoops.org).



- Previous King logo



- **New Kings Logo!!**

Stay tuned for updates regarding the results of the tournament and the future activities of the Kings Youth Basketball Program.

## Tournament Results

The outcomes from the recent tournament will be announced soon. Please check back for detailed information on how the Kings Youth Basketball Program performed.

## Future Endeavors

We will also provide updates about upcoming events and plans for the Kings Youth Basketball Program. Keep an eye out for news on future opportunities and activities.

## Major Corporate Contributors

### Lowery Family Foundation

Donated  
\$5,000



**Bro. Fred Lowery  
Omega Psi Phi**



### Louis Slaughter State Farm Insurance

Donated  
\$1,000