



# THE HOOP SCOOP

Strengthening Community Through Sport

## Spotlight: Adam Bovenzi

Great Falls Basketball is proud to spotlight Adam Bovenzi, a dedicated coach, parent, and board member whose leadership continues to shape and strengthen the **Great Falls Select Program**.



Adam joined the Great Falls Basketball Board in 2024 to lead the Select Program, bringing both strategic oversight and hands-on experience. On the court, Adam coaches two Select teams close to his heart: his son Frankie's 5th Grade Select team and his son Max's 8th Grade Select team. Coaching across multiple age groups gives Adam a unique perspective on long-term player development—from early fundamentals to advanced team play.

Adam is passionate about building a Select program that balances competitiveness with character. He works closely with coaches to ensure consistency across teams, supports player growth at every level, and helps foster a culture where effort, accountability, and teamwork are non-negotiables. His leadership helps ensure that Great Falls Select remains both competitive and true to the values of GF Hoops.

As GF Hoops' official FCBYL Representative, he actively participates on the FCBYL Council, attending monthly meetings and serving on subcommittees that help guide league policies and direction. His involvement ensures that Great Falls Basketball has a strong voice among the league's 24 clubs.

Whether coaching from the sidelines, collaborating with fellow board members, or advocating for our players at the league level, Adam's leadership plays a vital role in the success of Great Falls Select. We're grateful for his time, dedication, and commitment to our players, families, and community.

## Select Stars & Rising Stars: GF Hoops Athletes to Watch

Over the years, Select has helped players grow into confident leaders—on and off the court. We're proud to spotlight eight Stars and Rising Stars whose journeys reflect what GF Hoops Select is all about.



### Star: Dominic Laws

**Formerly with GF Hoops Select – 9th Grade | Langley High School**

Dominic Laws made an immediate impact at the next level, earning a spot on Langley varsity as a freshman. A three-time All-County / All-League honoree across his basketball career, Dominic's success reflects years of dedication and development. Off the court, he enjoys graphic design and video editing — a great example of creativity and balance beyond basketball.

### Star: Mariah Armah

**Formerly with GF Hoops Select – 10th Grade | Langley High School**

Mariah Armah's journey through GF Hoops Select laid the foundation for an impressive high school career. She made varsity at Langley High School as a freshman and earned All-District First Team and All-Region Second Team honors. Now a sophomore, Mariah serves as one of three varsity captains. At GF Hoops, she was a multiple-time All-League player and a Division 1 champion, consistently raising the bar for herself and her teammates.



**From Mariah's mom, Skyler, "Back when Mariah was in 5th grade, she actually decided to stop playing basketball... She came back in her 7th/8th grade year and that's when things took off! She's been excelling ever since."**

### Rising Star: Payton Rewalt | 8th Grade GF Hoops Select

Payton Rewalt brings intensity, leadership, basketball IQ and versatility wherever she plays. She has earned the title of MVP, being selected as multiple-time All-League selection, and two-time GF Hoops Division 1 champion. Beyond playing basketball, Payton serves as a lead basketball referee and dedicates her time to coaching a 5<sup>th</sup> grade boy's basketball team in the GF Hoops House League, giving back to the program in a big way. She loves to read in her spare time.



### Rising Star: Tyson Armah

#### 8th Grade GF Hoops Select

Tyson Armah is entering his fourth straight season as a starting point guard and team captain for GF Hoops Select. Known for his poise and leadership, Tyson also plays for the Beltway Ballerz during the offseason. He's excited to take the next step next year – looking forward to playing for Langley High School alongside his sister, Mariah — a true family connection to the game.

From Tyson's mom, Skyler, "Some folks may not know that Tyson also played baseball, flag football as well as soccer! And while he was competitive and good at each of them, his true passion always brings him back to the hardwood."



### Rising Star: Dylan Long

#### 6th Grade GF Hoops Select

Dylan Long is a skilled combo guard who competes in both GF Hoops Select and AAU basketball. Known for her versatility, and basketball IQ, Dylan brings focus and energy to every game. When she's not on the court, she loves to bake — especially scones, her favorite specialty.



### Rising Star:

#### Violet Daftari

#### 6th Grade GF Hoops Select

Violet Daftari is a young guard already making an impact while playing up a grade with GF Hoops Select. Confident and competitive, Violet models her game after Natasha Cloud, embracing toughness, leadership, and smart play beyond her years.



### Rising Star: Aras Mehmetoglu

#### 5th Grade GF Hoops Select

Aras Mehmetoglu is a true all-around player, capable of contributing at any position on the court. His versatility and willingness to do whatever the team needs make him a valuable asset. Aras looks up to Anthony Edwards, drawing inspiration from his athleticism and confidence.



### Rising Star: Frankie Bovenzi

#### ("Mudge")

#### 5th Grade GF Hoops Select

Frankie "Mudge" Bovenzi plays as a guard/forward and brings both skill and personality to the court. Frankie is coached by his dad, Adam (GFHoops board), and brother Max (8<sup>th</sup> grade Select), a true family affair. A fan of Gordon Ramsay's Hell's Kitchen, Frankie has his sights set on Beef Wellington as the reward if he makes All-League — motivation comes in many forms!

### Boys' Teams

Great Falls Boys 5th A — Adam Bovenzi  
Great Falls Boys 5th B — Andrew Rediger  
Great Falls Boys 6th A — Tommy Barletta  
Great Falls Boys 7th A — Kevin Chaikin  
Great Falls Boys 7th B — Jason Carey  
Great Falls Boys 8th A — Adam Bovenzi  
Great Falls Boys 8th B — Marcus Femal

## Great Falls Select 2025–26 Season

This season, Great Falls Select proudly fields 11 teams—7 boys and 4 girls — across multiple divisions.

### Girls' Teams

Great Falls Girls 5th A — Greg Marks  
Great Falls Girls 6th A — Nicole Long  
Great Falls Girls 7th A — Cisco Alta  
Great Falls Girls 8th A — Alex Long



### Did you know?

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar still holds the record for most MVP awards. He earned the title six times over a 20-year career.

## K–2 Program Spotlight: Where the Love of the Game Begins

The K–2 program is the foundation of Great Falls Basketball, introducing young players to the game in a fun, encouraging, and developmentally appropriate environment. These early years focus on fundamentals, confidence, teamwork, and—most importantly—enjoying the game.

What truly sets the K–2 program apart is the dedication of the trainers who make it possible.

### Jess Spencer – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade – Boys & Girls



For more than 10 years, Jess has been the heart of the Grade 2 program at Great Falls Basketball. Though she now lives in North Carolina, her commitment to GF Hoops hasn't changed—Jess regularly makes the six-hour drive north to train our second graders on weekends.

Her sessions emphasize confidence-building, fundamentals, and love of the game at a critical age. Jess's dedication is a powerful reminder that the K–2 program isn't just about basketball—it's about showing kids that they matter.

### Barry Uzzell – Boys K/1

Barry has led the Boys K/1 program for over 20 years, bringing unmatched experience, patience, and consistency to our youngest players. Each weekend, Barry makes a three-hour drive from the Philly area to ensure Kindergarten and 1st grade boys get a positive, high-energy introduction to basketball.

Generations of GF Hoops players began their journey with Barry, learning fundamentals, teamwork, and confidence that stay with them long after their first season.



### Evan Ferguson – Girls K/1



Evan leads the Girls K/1 program, now in his second year of coaching, and brings a calm, encouraging presence to the court. His sessions focus on learning through play—introducing dribbling, shooting, and teamwork in a welcoming environment.

Evan's approach helps young players build confidence early, creating a foundation that encourages girls to stay engaged and continue growing within the GF Hoops community.

### Building the Future of GF Hoops

From our youngest K–2 players discovering the joy of the game, to Select athletes competing at a high level, Great Falls Basketball is built on passion, dedication, and community. None of this would be possible without the trainers, coaches, board members, players, and families who make GF Hoops what it is. We're proud of where we are—and excited for what's ahead.



#### Did You Know?

The women's basketball was made smaller in 1985 – The NCAA officially introduced a smaller ball to accommodate hand size and shooting form.

## Community Involvement

### GF Hoops at Celebrate Great Falls' Annual Christmas Tree Lighting at the Village

Board members Theresa Bhatia (and husband Sonny), Jim Fitzmaurice, and Dynne Shi all participated in the Celebrate Great Falls annual lighting of the Christmas tree along with other sponsors and volunteers. GF Hoops gave away 100's of squishy basketballs and ring pops to kids and parents alike. As we fielded many questions about our basketball program, with camps, clinics and leagues for kids from Kindergarten through High School, one reveler stated,

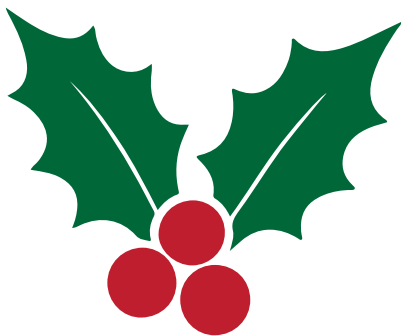
**"It's great to see Great Falls Basketball here within the community"**

**– We agree, it's wonderful to be part of the Great Falls Community**



**HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS**

From our GF Hoops Family to yours, we wish you a wonderful holiday season, full of **tasty sweets & wonderful surprises** – Just like these sweet treats from our annual holiday party and the "Ho Ho Hoops" sweatshirt worn by board member and Director of Boys House Grades 6–8, Ryan West, which he "won" during our white elephant gift exchange, a most sought after gift. Happy Holidays from Great Falls Basketball.



*Enjoy Holiday Shopping*



DICK's offers holiday discounts to all Friends and Families of Great Falls Basketball **until the end of the year.** [CLICK HERE](#) for in-store coupons at the Dulles Town Center store.



### Langley Girls' Basketball

## Youth Night

Please join us on  
Monday, January 5th

Langley vs. Washington-Liberty

7:30 pm – Varsity



Youth girls wearing jerseys get in free!

Prizes & giveaways!

Games at halftime

\*Come support our Freshman (4:30PM) and JV (5:45PM) teams as well! Entry is free for girls with local youth jerseys, but giveaways, prizes, and halftime games will only be during the Varsity game. Concessions will be available, so come hungry!

\*\*Boys' Youth Night will be February 5th

**Fun Fact: The NCAA once had a jump ball after every basket!**