

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS HOWARD COUNTY BASKETBALL 5X5 TEAM. (Photos and story by Marleen van den Neste)

The basketball 5x5 team is the most advanced basketball team of Special Olympics Howard County. It consists of (10) players: (2) women and (8) men. Five play at a time in a full-court setting. The team practices two times a week. (Front row: Nora Nickles, Munir Vohra, Julia Phillips, Bryan Bourdon, Brian Sylvea Back row: Coach Healey, Charles Gaines, Kenny Long, Coach Miller, Jeff Krischik, Zach McKay, Not pictured Antoine Webster)



The team is coached by the infamous Jack and Jack: Jack Miller and Jack Healey who in their own words said they are “two tennis players that know just enough about Basketball to make them dangerous.”



On March 23, 2014 the team travelled to Oakdale High School in Ijamsville, MD to participate in the Special Olympics Maryland State Basketball Tournament.



The first game of the day is against the Anne Arundel Sharks. Coach Miller gives some last minute pointers before the game starts.





Munir takes the fast break pass from Zach before driving hard for the layup.

Below: Zach show excellent form in following through as he passes to an open teammate.





Left:

Munir shown with unequalled focus as he uses his “game face” to intimidate the opposition.

Right: Charles uses his size and athletic ability to finish off another basket.

The team plays well and there is loud cheering on the sideline by the coaches, parents and team members. **Assistant Coach Duke Sylvea



After shooting the ball (for another successful score) number 31 (Julia Phillips) takes a hard foul and is helped off the court.



Some good plays by Nora Nickle and Brian Sylvea.



The coaches are very pleased.



Brian Sylvea fights for the ball.



The second game is played against the Emerge Gladiators. Coaches Jack and Jack talk while the team listens attentively.



Nora and Jeff attempt to pass the ball while a Gladiator player attacks.
And Howard County players (Zach, Jeff and Charles) make life difficult for Gladiator number 23.



At the end of the game the players receive a medal from MSP Officers.



Congratulations Howard County basketball team 5x5!



A well deserved cheer for the team and coach.



NEXT DESTINATION

The 2014 Special Olympics USA Games. Good luck!

