

## **2008 BASKETBALL TOUR USA REPORT**

We had a group of 20 adventurous basketballs embark on a tour of the East Coast of the USA. We were venturing into the heart of basketball for America and knew we were going to be facing some very tough opposition. However, apart from the basketball, we also had some time to soak into some of the culture that the USA has to offer.

We explored San Francisco and Fisherman's Wharf on the way over with a brief stopover and then flew to Washington D.C. In between training sessions, we were able to see the Washington Monuments and the White House in the afternoon and also saw the city by twilight. It is a really beautiful city and full of history. We went to the International Spy Museum (where some of the boys enjoyed playing James Bond and undercover agents!) and then travelled to Baltimore for our first game of the tour. Other attractions included the National Air and Space museum, a tourmobile ride of Arlington National Cemetery and also a tour of the US Naval Base.

On the basketball side of things, we went to a College basketball game and also had a tour of Chapel Hill (UNC) – where Michael Jordan went to University. Through connections from Jason, we were able to have a tour of the facility, a tour of the basketball museum and meet one of the current players. The boys were blown away with the facilities they have there.

We went to an NBA game (Washington Wizards v's Boston Celtics) and again through Jason's connections, we were able to get in early to see the warm up, have a tour around, meet some players and have some photo opportunities. It was awesome for the boys to meet these players they see on TV each week. We then watched the game from the top of the stadium with 70,000 other people. It was a great night!

The variety of schools we played against ranged from 40 students (all on basketball scholarships) to 1200 students – and each one of them went out of their way to be hospitable and make the boys feel welcomed. They all provided after match functions for the teams after the games and did everything possible to be a great host. Undoubtedly, the highlight of the tour for the boys would have to be the billeting. Most schools billeted the boys for either 1 or 2 nights and the boys got to get a real grasp of family life in the States. There was always positive comments from the billeting families and some of them were very reluctant to let the boys go.

All in all it was a fantastic tour and the boys gained a wealth of experience both on and off the court. It is really character building when the boys are facing 7 foot 2 African American giants on the court. To their credit – they did not back down and took the challenge head on. All of the coaches were very proud of the boys on the way they behaved, learnt, accepted and grew throughout the tour.

I hope this tour has inspired the boys to be the best players they can be.

Mandy Smith

**Summary of Results:**

***The Friends School, Baltimore***

Juniors Won 60-48

Seniors Lost 50-52

***St Stevens and St Agnes School***

Juniors Lost 41-48

Seniors Lost 51-62

***Evangel Christian School (Div 3 Virginia State Champions)***

Juniors Lost 50-84

Seniors Won 70-58

***Cape Henry Collegiate School***

Juniors Won 46-37

Seniors Lost 58-65

***Oakridge Military Academy***

Juniors Lost 39-62

Seniors Won 62-44

***Norfolk Christian School***

Juniors Won 36-24

Seniors Lost 39-67

***Life and Breath Tournament***

Juniors Lost 31-57 and 39-72

Seniors Lost 43-83 and 30-76

**Touring Party**

**SENIOR BOYS**

Surname	First	Year
Bosley	Kurtis	11
de Botton	Joshua	11
James	Thomas	11
Reid	James	11
Rowley	Sam	11
Scarano	Roni	11
Stobo	Matthew	11
Laking	Alan	10
McEwen	Stuart	10
de Botton	James	10

**JUNIOR BOYS**

Surname	First	Year
Woods	Lachlan	9
Bosley	Damian	9
Burt	Lachlan	9
Madden	Joseph	9
McEwen	Aonghus	9
Wilson	Andrew	9
Clarke	Campbell	8
Handlin	Sean	8
Rowley	Michael	8
Spain	Michael	8

**Coaches:** Dom Finlay, Jason Strong

**Staff:** Chuck Ardron, Mandy Smith