



PAYMON ROUHANIFARD
SUPERINTENDENT

PRESS RELEASE

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Camden Basketball Legend Dajuan Wagner and Sixers Dunk Squad Celebrate Dedication of City-Wide Middle School Basketball Program

*Superintendent Paymon Rouhanifard joins former NBA players Dajuan Wagner and World B. Free, along with the Sixers Dunk Squad, to celebrate the launch of the **Dajuan Wagner Middle School Basketball Program in Camden***

Tuesday, December 5, 2017 – Office of the Superintendent, Camden, NJ – Superintendent Paymon Rouhanifard joined 350 student athletes in a Morgan Village gymnasium this morning to celebrate the renaming of the City’s Middle School Basketball Program in honor of Camden basketball legend and former NBA player Dajuan Wagner. The Superintendent was joined by Wagner and his Camden High School teammate, State Assemblyman Arthur Barclay, both of whom regularly hit the courts in Camden to mentor young players and support local student athletes.

The league, which has been responsible for nurturing young talent like Wagner and Barclay for over 20 years, is re-launching with new commitments of the support from the Philadelphia 76ers, the Camden Health and Athletic Foundation, and Wagner himself. The partners commit to helping the league purchase new equipment and uniforms, as well as supporting through coach training and student mentorship opportunities.

The launch event included a touching dedication to Wagner from his former Camden High School teammate and best friend, State Assemblyman Arthur Barclay, a performance by the Philadelphia 76ers’ “Sixers Dunk Squad,” and an appearance by 76ers legend World B. Free. Following the ceremony, students participated in a skills and drills clinic led in partnership by Camden City School District and the Camden Health and Athletic Association.

In 2000 Dajuan Wagner led the Camden High School basketball team to victory in the New Jersey State Tournament of Champions, and remains the highest scoring high school basketball player in New Jersey history. He went on to play for the University of Memphis, the Cleveland Cavaliers, and Golden State Warriors.

Dajuan Wagner, namesake of Camden’s Dajuan Wagner Middle School Basketball League, said, “I am proud to be back here, in the neighborhood where I grew up, in the school where I played middle school basketball, to celebrate the next generation of Camden’s athletic talent. This City is all about community, and I am proud to support our youth both on and off the court.”



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"Athletics programs are one of the District's strongest assets, and a life line for many of our students," said Superintendent Paymon Rouhanifard. "We are thrilled that Dajuan, the 76ers, and the Camden Health and Athletic Association are all committing to helping our middle school ball players build their skills and enjoy healthy competition in a safe and supportive environment. This is a great day for our City's basketball program."

"The Sixers are excited to partner once again with the Camden School District," said Amy Hever, Executive Director of Community Engagement for the Philadelphia 76ers. "We continue to find innovative ways to collaborate and use sport as a meaningful and impactful way to cultivate the young people of Camden - our city's future leaders."

You can view the Middle School Basketball schedule at camden.k12.nj.us.

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