

Hillcrest Academy Ravens Basketball Camp Contest



Submitted

KALONA

Hillcrest Academy Ravens Basketball Camp Director Dwight Gingerich and the camp staff consisting of Stephen Bender, Mitchell Drey, Aaron Gingerich, Nate Miller, Chris Nachtigall and Ron Swartzendruber thank the campers for a tremendous week of camp. Coach Gingerich is very appreciative of the efforts of the camp staff who did a great job through the

week with our 135 campers. A thank you as well to Hillcrest players Bryce Bailey, Kale Bailey, Lydia Beachy,

Niva Helmuth, Charlie McAndrew, Rowan Miller, Maria Portillo, Owen Scott and Claire Withrow for their help in the afternoon sessions with campers in grades 1-4. Coach Gingerich thanks Hills Bank, Sinclair Tractor and SmartScripts for their part in sponsoring the camp again this year.



Submitted

Awards 2023

Best defender: Rowan Miller (9-12); Bronx Miller (7-8); Braxton Ropp (5-6).

Mr. Hustle: Isaac Birky (9-12); Abe Widmer (7-8); Derek Ebersole (5-6).

Best Rebounder: Kale Bailey (9-12); Kendrick Kos (7-8); Kellen Miller (5-6).

Outstanding Camper: Bryce Bailey (9-12); Gibson Scott (7-8); Drayce Miller (5-6).

Mr. Fundamental: Seth Ours (9-12); Oliver Miller (7-8); Brayden Humphries (5-6).



Submitted

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For one month every summer, the Snow Valley Camp becomes a Mid-Prairie reunion among these Golden Hawks from the cornfields.

"Absolutely," Schlabaugh said with a big smile. "It's kind of our one time of the year we get to spend, but we do get to spend about 23 nights in dorm rooms. You're ready for it to be done, but you can't wait for it to get started in the next year."

"It's great," said Kern, a resident of Kalona who has coached at the camp for all 27 years of its Iowa existence. "Show and I were together 26 years at Mid-Prairie. I did a lot of things with him. It's so fun to come back and do these weeks and run this camp. It means a lot. The camp is still really strong. We're better than ever right now."

This year's camps feature three boys sessions and one girls session, each lasting four days in an environment that is strictly, and passionately, basketball. All of the sessions sold out to campers coming from nearly all 50 states. Coaches arrive here from across the country and overseas.

"We have a pretty high standard for our camp," said Showalter, who worked the camps of the late UCLA coaching legend, John Wooden, for years before purchasing the Snow Valley brand following its start in California 61 years ago. "I think players that come here are players who really want to get better. It's not a babysitting camp. I tell parents and players, this is not a camp for everybody. If you don't love basketball, it's probably not going to be real fun for you. If you love basketball, it's going to be a great session."

This year's campers included Brady

Weber, a rising junior at Mid-Prairie, and other Golden Hawk student-athletes, along with a few from Highland Middle School and High School.

Friday, the camp's clinicians included Clay Moser, an assistant coach at the University of Arkansas who was formerly a scout and coach with the Los Angeles Lakers.

"We get great coaching," Showalter said. "We have coaches from really all over the world. I think the players really see it, they're getting good coaching. We have a 7-to-1 ratio with players to coaches."

While some summer sports camps are struggling to survive, Snow Valley has been able to maintain its popularity and sold-out sessions.

"Camps are kind of dying across the country," Schlabaugh said. "It's harder and harder to find good camps, hard to find good overnight camps. So we're the largest overnight camp in the country for basketball."

"Our first year, we had 12 coaches, 80 campers," Kern said. "And it's developed into this. And there's some people said it would never go when he started it. Now we're selling out at 375 to 400 kids a week."

It truly is a basketball treasure, Iowa style.

And with a strong Mid-Prairie connection. Coach Show won 446 games at Mid-Prairie and led the Golden Hawks to five state tournament appearances.

"It's hard to believe, when we were running Mid-Prairie's camp years ago," Kern said, "that this would develop."

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