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Press Release

D.A. MORRISSEY'S BASKETBALL CAMP **A layup for young Stoughton athletes**



UMASS Boston Chancellor and former Northeastern University basketball player Dr. Keith Motley, at right, joined District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey at the DA's summer basketball camp for local youth this week – sharing lessons on life on and off the court.



The O'Donnell Middle School gym was loud with laughter and the sounds of kids practicing their layups and learning life lessons this week, as DA Morrissey's Office held its annual summer basketball camp.

"The camp provides a blend of constructive activity and constructive messages for the kids chosen to come," District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey said. "We intersperse basketball skill building with talks from older kids who have made good choices and adults they respect. They take away more than a better jump shot."

Many of the youngsters who attend the camp are hand-picked by the adults around them for a positive summer experience. "We are always looking for ways to help good kids stay on the right path."

Retired Southeastern Regional Vocational and Coyle Cassidy High School basketball coach Carl Boen, who runs the three-day program alongside Norfolk County ADA Chris Meade, provides instruction for campers in grades 3 through 8.

Members of the varsity basketball teams at Stoughton High School have also volunteered their time this week to coach the kids. Ashley Medeiros and Kayla Motley, both 17, are the captains of the girls' varsity team and agree working with the younger kids at the camp is a rewarding experience.

"I enjoy it a lot because I love playing basketball, and teaching the kids here you get to watch them play and see them practice, and you hope that maybe they'll follow in your footsteps one day," says Medeiros.

Motley adds that while working with some of the younger kids can be challenging at times, seeing their improvement makes it worth it. "By the third day of camp, they're always better than when they started," she says.

Varsity Captain, Joe Wilder, 18, is in his third year coaching at the camp - and attended it as a boy. "I was one of them," Wilder says, "Teaching younger kids to work hard and improve is important. I've had a lot of fun doing it."

In addition to learning from the coaches and Stoughton High varsity players, the kids also heard from a number of guest speakers. Deputy Police Chief Robert Devine spoke Monday morning on the importance of making positive choices and the necessity of teamwork and strong leadership. Dr. Keith Motley, Chancellor of UMASS Boston and a former basketball player at Northeastern University, spoke Tuesday. Stoughton High School coach John Gallivan donated his time to the camp again this year, as did State Police homicide detective and Stoughton-native John Fanning.