

Local Basketball Legends Put on a Show at the Matteson Pro-Am

Jeremy Saffold. Vance Cooksey. Carlton Guyton. New names to some, but legends to many in the Illinois basketball community. These former local high school stars (now overseas pros), teamed up with and against other current high school, college and pro players to provide night after night of exciting basketball this summer at the Matteson Pro-Am.

The Matteson Pro-Am began as an annual men's basketball league. Within the past two years it has grown in popularity due to the increasing skill level of the players. This summer, it became the hottest ticket in the south suburbs on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights.

"The atmosphere is electric, games get pretty intense and the crowd is extremely engaged," said Alex Brown, Athletic Manager for the Matteson Community Center. "This is something that has never been done in this area and we wanted to provide that service for our young adults in the community."

The league is structured into a nine-game regular season, with a single elimination playoff. Due to the fierce competition, individuals are very strategic and selective when building their teams.

"I've even witnessed coaches and captains hold open tryouts for their teams, I thought that

was pretty cool," said Brown.

In the end, the "Champions" lived up to their team name and won this year's championship



led by overseas pros Jeremy Saffold and Arman Anderson, Division I college players Tony Hicks and Durrell Combs, Top 20 2018 Illinois high school recruit Chase Adams and Coach Korie Wooden.

Beyond providing competitive, exciting games for the fans, Brown takes pride in the Matteson Pro-Am's value to the community.

"It brings the community together in a safe environment to enjoy competitive hoops with the area's best adult basketball players," said Brown. "You get a chance to see former local high school stars playing against each other

again and that was awesome."

Other marquee players at the Matteson Pro-Am included Evan Gilyard-(UTEP), Marcel Anderson (overseas pro and former NBA G-League standout), Crandall Head (University of Illinois), Jarvis and Darius Walker (Brothers of former NBA All-Star Antoine Walker), Macari Brooks (overseas pro), Jamie Crockett (overseas pro), Jermaine Love-Roberts (overseas pro), Malik Osborne (Rice University) Elijah Robinson (Emmanuel College) and many more.

Matteson Community Center

20642 Matteson Avenue
Phone: 708-441-4500
Fax: 708-441-4259

Matteson Community Center Web Site:
www.mattesoncommunitycenter.com

Business Office/ Rental Application Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday,
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday & Thursday,
8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Saturday
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.,
Sunday - CLOSED

Building Hours:

Monday - Friday
5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Saturday - 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Sunday - 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Oakwood Recreation Center

4450 West Oakwood Lane

Building Hours:

Mon. - Fri. - 8:30 a.m. to 8:45 p.m.
Sat. - 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Sun. - Closed

Recreational Services Staff:

DIRECTOR OF RECREATIONAL SERVICES
Anthony Burton

ATHLETIC MANAGER

Alex Brown

FITNESS MANAGER

Tyrone Davis

MEMBER SERVICES MANAGER

Lisa Hill

BUILDING ATTENDANT MANAGER

Terrance Hill

OFFICE MANAGER

Sarita Griffin

PROGRAM MANAGER

Janette Ramos

Parks & Recreation Commission

CHAIRMAN, SPECIAL PROJECTS

Ricky Marks

VICE CHAIR - PARKS, OAKWOOD PARK

Lionel Harris

VICE CHAIR - PROGS, WOODGATE PARK

Kevin McWoodson

VICE CHAIR - FACILITIES, NOTRE DAME PARK

Norman Reid

GOVERNORS TRAIL PARK

OPEN

ALLEMONG PARK

Cynthia Fitch

MEMORIAL PARK

Cindy Marks

Parks and Recreation Commission meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Matteson Community Center



REGISTER FOR Matteson Flag Football

Registration is now open
for non-contact, youth flag football
(ages 5-13).

Call (708) 996-4084 for more details