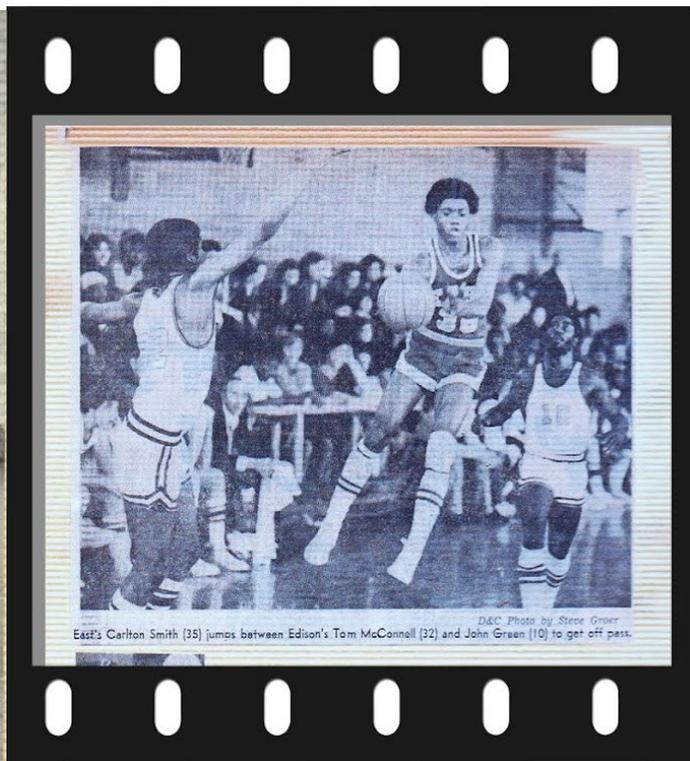
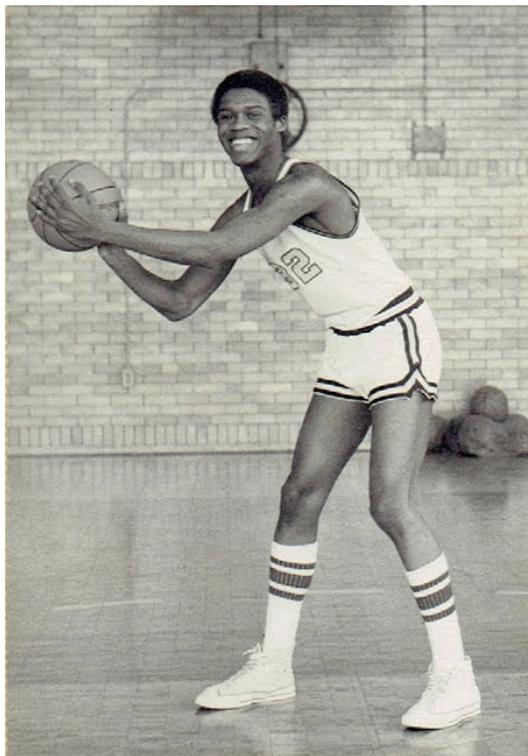


# *Greetings from Coach Tom McConnell*

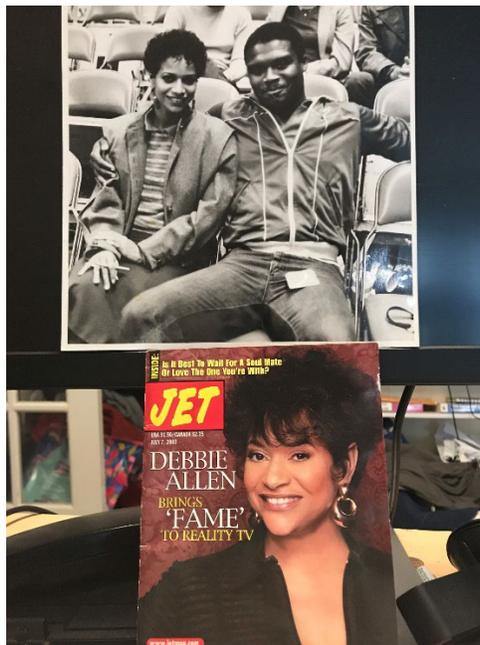
August 2022 – For those of you who are new to our program or not aware, assistant Coach Tom McConnell has a focused TEAM goal of SUCCESS, by guiding higher level player development and GROWTH from individual contributors as a focus. As a 100% volunteer, his goal is to serve as a connector from the middle school basketball program to Campbell high school. To assist with these goals, I would like to let you know how he qualifies to help your growing student meet these goals.



Coach Tom was born in (Riceboro) Savannah, Georgia and began playing basketball at age 12 in Rochester N.Y. He had to shovel snow at times to get shots up on the playground! He made the varsity team as a sophomore in high school at a Technical and Industrial high school after being cut as a freshman.

Growing up, his idol was Kareem Abdul Jabbar. While on the team in high school, my nickname was “McAdoo”, a reference to current Hall of Famer Bob McAdoo then of the Buffalo Braves, and Knicks, Celtics and Lakers among others.

His dream was to play in college at Villanova. Money wise, as a walk on practice player at Southern University, I decided to focus on my studies and graduated with a Liberal Studies/Journalism degree. Getting my degree allowed me accept my first post college job offer from General Dynamics but I had to move himself and my college sweetheart to San Diego, California. My love for photography and basketball allowed me to be a part of the San Diego Clippers media team, where I served as a contract photographer during home contests. I was able to build relationships with Greg Kelsner (neighbor), Bill Walton, Craig Hodges, Bob Carrington, Michael Cage, Lionel Hollins, Debbie Allen and Norm Nixon,



Alan Wiggins, and Tony Gwyn, Zack Jones among others, during pickup games and after pickup socialization at Pacific Beach Recreation Center and Mission Bay Beaches.

But my love for being actively on the court wasn't satisfied, so I turned to officiating thinking I could do a better job while watching the higher levels

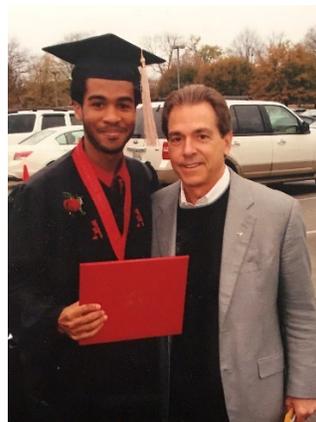
perform. After getting into recreational officiating, I went to high school camps and got busy enough to improve and move quickly up the ladder. When the Clippers moved to LA, I had started calling high school games and improving while being mentored.



I was invited to PAC 10 camp on scholarship and had performed in numerous JUCO assignments when my Baton Rouge spouse got homesick and asked that we move closer to family. I packed up and led the way to Atlanta, where our 2 boys played in the Smyrna Basketball League.

*Well now you say to yourself... "This sounds great, but what does this have to do with me and my son?"*

The key take aways are parenting, boys and basketball expectations that dictate success. My oldest son is just as tall as me but didn't have the heart to play high level basketball. He will never be a referee either because he doesn't like to be yelled at. I am proud that he got his degree from Alabama and is a successful business man today!



But when my oldest was growing up and I tried to test how much he liked the game, my youngest son Kelvin continued to practice on his own so I helped him grow and gave him goals based on my fundamental training. He was told that he was too short and too fat and was cut in middle school after playing high level AAU with the Atlanta Celtics.



He stayed with his goal of playing D1 basketball and after some interest at that level (Arizona State in James Harden's class, New Mexico State and Wofford) had to walk on at Kennesaw State to earn his annual D1 scholarship. His hard work provided plenty of proud moments. He played and competed at Notre Dame, UNLV, St. Louis, and defeated Georgia Tech and Iman Shumpert in probably the greatest win in Kennesaw State basketball history to date!



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I wanted him to continue his career overseas, but his fundamental path led him into training, where his most noted client is 4<sup>th</sup> year player Collin Sexton among many others.



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The point that needs attention here is that ALL goals are attainable with hard work. The other point is that hard work is working on your WEAKNESSES when nobody else is watching. When you are not trying to improve yourself, someone else is improving themselves and putting themselves in a better position than you. Collin's numbers are on the rise and there will be a lot more to come from him!

Under the leadership and guidance of Coach Foster, we have guided the 2024 group of students from middle school to Campbell High school. Our current goal and focus is to expect hard individual work that leads to team success and to have fun along the way..... for the good of the **Campbell High School** program.





