

## **TTO E-letter - Inaugural Edition! (November 1, 2018)**

**Welcome to the first edition of the TTO E-Letter**, a monthly update where coaches, parents, alumni and friends from across the program can stay informed about key developments within the TTO Family. Feel free to forward this to parents, alumni or other friends of the program!

Future newsletter topics will include updates from teams across the program, news from alumni, exclusive interviews, important program announcements, special offers and more. *Got a suggestion, comment or info to add? Email [tto.eletter@gmail.com](mailto:tto.eletter@gmail.com).*

### **NEW TEAM: Introducing the Girls' "17U National Team"**

Earlier this month, Coach Erika Smith was introduced as the head coach of TTO Girls' brand-new 17U "National Team," assisted by Delmar Carey and Yawnie Kizer. This team was formed this year in hopes of giving more girls the opportunity to showcase and play at a competitive high level. This team will be traveling to and competing in all of the same tournaments as the EYBL teams (but will not play in EYBL-exclusive sessions). Their season will start in March, and they have already had four workouts/open gyms for interested players. All of the players who are locked in have received offers.

### **THIS WEEKEND: TTO "Skills Day" - Sunday, Nov. 4 @ Bullis**

On the boys' side, TTO will host its annual "Skills Day" event this Sunday (Nov. 4) at Bullis in Potomac, MD. Players at every age level of the program will get quality reps doing game-relevant drills, with high-level instruction and attention from the entire roster of TTO coaches. Ages 8U through 12U will be from 9 am - 11 am in the "Old Gym," and ages 13U through rising 17U (last year's 16U) will be from 9 am - 11am in the "New Gym." It is a unique and valuable annual tradition and one more reason #itsjustdifferent.

### **TTO On The Road**



Six players from the boys' program were selected to participate in the first-ever USA Basketball Boys' Mini-Camp, held Oct. 5-7 in Colorado Springs. Pictured above, left to right: Casey Morsell (2019), Jeremy Roach (2020), Hunter Dickinson (2020), Armando Bacot (2019), Justin Moore (2019) and Trevor Keels (2021).

### **One Question Q&A with Jeremy Roach:**

**Q:** You have been a part of USA Basketball for years (including two gold medals), but this was the first-ever minicamp for high school players. What was the biggest lesson you took away from this minicamp experience that other players might learn from also?

**A:** “We learned about developing great habits and decision-making skills, how to bring a professional attitude in everything you do and what it takes to get to the league.”

**BREAKING NEWS!** On Thursday night, (on his birthday, no less!), Jeremy announced the four schools he is considering for college (listed alphabetically): Duke, Kentucky, North Carolina and Villanova. Be sure to give him a follow on Twitter (@jeremyroach10) Congratulations to Jeremy on the next phase of his decision-making process. (And happy birthday!)

**Must-See:** Highlights of Jeremy Roach’s [performance at USA Basketball Minicamp](#).

### **Commitment Watch - Boys 2019 Edition**

Armando Bacot - North Carolina  
Anthony Harris - Virginia Tech  
EJ Jarvis - Yale  
Carsten Kogelnik - Brown  
Justin Moore - Villanova  
Casey Morsell - Virginia  
Josh Oduro - George Mason  
Charles Thompson - Towson  
Josh Watts - Brown  
Jahmir Young - UNC-Charlotte

**Worth a read:** [Harris Verbally Commits to Virginia Tech](#) (Washington Post)

### **Commitment Watch - Girls 2019 Edition**

Jessica Booth - Lafayette  
Jakia Brown-Turner - NC State  
Jayla James - Penn State  
Lauren Park-Lane - Seton Hall  
Rayniah Walker - Temple

### **#FACTS**

Six players from the 2018 Boys’ EYBL 17s squad were listed in the latest PrepHoops Top 250 national rankings of the Class of 2019: Armando Bacot (11), Justin Moore (49), Ant Harris (58), Casey Morsell (77), Jahmir Young (180) and EJ Jarvis (215). Four were listed in the most recent 2019 “ESPN 100”: Bacot Top 20, Morsell and Moore Top 50, Harris Top 75.

### **ALUMNI**

#### **TTO in the Pros: NBA**

**Victor Oladipo** (TTO Class of 2010, Pacers)

Read: [“Oladipo and the Pacers are Poised to be Contenders”](#) (LA Times)

Read: [“Victor Oladipo’s Drive”](#) (Indianapolis Monthly)

**Jerami Grant** (2012, Thunder)

Read: ["Eight Breakout Candidates for the 2018-19 NBA Season"](#) (The Ringer)

**Jerian Grant** (2010, Magic)

Read: ["Advice from Uncle Horace helping Jerian Grant adapt in Orlando"](#) (NBA.com)

**Josh Hart** (2013, Lakers)

Read: ["Why Josh Hart Might Be LeBron's Most Valuable Teammate"](#) (538.com)

Read: ["You May Not Know Josh Hart Yet, But You Will"](#) (The Ringer)

**Congratulations to Marcus Derrickson** (2015), who earned a "two-way" contract with the Golden State Warriors - he will split his time between the defending champs and their G League affiliate, the Santa Cruz Warriors.

### **TTO Freshmen in Men's College Basketball**

**Matt Becht** (Mount St Mary's), **Myles Dread** (Penn State), **James Dunlop** (Hampton), **Terrence Gibbons** (Lincoln), **Bryce Golden** (Butler), **Darius Hines** (Marist), **Xavier Johnson** (Pitt), **Miles Latimer** (Stony Brook), **Vincent Lee** (Nevada), **Davis Long** (Delaware - PWO), **Collin Nnamene** (Mt St Mary's), **Ian Robertson** (Randolph Macon), **Brandon Slater** (Villanova), **Jalen Smith** (Maryland), **Matt Urbach** (James Madison), **Tre Wood** (UMass).

**Worth a Read:** [Jalen Smith is a Crucial Piece for Maryland](#) (Sports Illustrated)

### **TTO Freshmen in Women's College Basketball**

**Elena Birch-Smith** (Delaware St); **Amira Collins** (Tennessee); **Taleah Dixon** (Loyola MD); **Lauren Ebo** (Penn State); **Kate Klimkiewicz** (Boston College); **Kayla Liles** (Elon); **Paris McBride** (Delaware); **Savannah Simmons** (Kansas State); **Lexi Weger** (Princeton).

## **CLASS REPORTS**

### **SENIOR PROGRAM**

#### **17U EYBL - 7th Grade (Boys)**

**17U EYBL:** Coming off the most successful season by any team in the history of the EYBL. First team to go unbeaten in a full EYBL regular season. Won Peach Jam title. (Armando Bacot named Peach Jam MVP.) Won "The 8" title.

**17U Orange:** Players from the spring and summer of 2018 - punctuated by a Hoop Group title at the end of the summer - are now narrowing down their college offers - expect announcement updates in future editions of the E-Letter. (Darius Hines is a freshman at Marist.)

**16U:** With three superstar 16-year-olds playing with the 17s last summer, the squad had a successful transition season, including an EYBL session championship and a Hoop Group summer championship. Coach Doug has the players ready to elevate to the 17s level.

**15U:** The EYBL squad won an AAU National Championship, a title at Hoop Group Summer Jam Fest and earned a trip to the Final Four at Peach Jam.

**8th Grade:** Oladipo is coming off an .800 winning percentage in the '17-18 season, including a trip to the MADE Hoops Final Four and a championship in Memorial Takeover. 14U Grant was

runner-up at AAU Nationals and added championships at Memorial Takeover and in Texas, among other big tournaments.

**7th Grade:** The Oladipo team racked up championships all over the country, from MIT to MADE Hoops Midwest Mania to Memorial Takeover, plus a Top 8 finish in the 8th grade division in the Super Showcase in Orlando. Gets an infusion of talent from the TTO Grassroots pipeline. 7th Grade Black deployed an innovative platoon system to apply full-court pressure and high-octane offense all game long, all season long, leading to strong tournament showings, including a national championship runner-up finish at the AAU D2 National Championships.

### **17U EYBL - 7th Grade (Girls)**

**17U EYBL:** After a historic season with a record of 48-2 last summer, all five of our c/o 2019 girls will sign their letters of intent in early November. Our returning "Big 3" (Mir McLean, Madison Scott, and Angel Reese) are patiently going through their process building relationships and discussing their future interest with Power 5 college coaches from across the country. All 3 have made significant jumps in the top 100 national rankings after last summer. According to ESPN HoopGurlz High School Girls National Rankings, Angel is currently ranked #5 overall (#1 Position Rank), Madison is ranked #20 overall (#2 Position Rank), and Mir is ranked #36 overall (#5 Position Rank). The future is BRIGHT!!!

**16U EYBL Team:** After another successful EYBL season, the 16u Nike EYBL Team - led by head coach Delmar Carey and assistant coaches Erika Smith and Tony Murray - looks to make an even bigger impact this spring. With 3 players returning -- Alyssa Andrews (10th grade), Taylor Gibson (10th) and Yonta Vaughn (9th) -- we are excited about our leadership on and off the court. All three returners have earned D1 offers and will be expected to have another great AAU season. With the addition of some players from our TTO 15u Showcase team, things are shaping up for another great season.

**15U Nike Showcase Team:** Coached by Andre Foreman and Sid Smith, the 15Us have a few key players from TTO 14U team that plan to make an impact on the circuit -- Kennedy Clifton and Marian Turnbull, along with Page Greenberg who returns back to the TTO family. Looking forward to the upcoming season.

**15U Nike Showcase Team Baltimore:** Led by Jason Johnson, the team was established January 2018 as a new team under the TTO Girls brand. The team played in 10 tournaments against the top 9th grade girls from other Nike programs. Started out strong the first 3 tournaments winning 8 out of 12 games. Despite injuries and at times only having 7 on the roster, the team remained very competitive, including 10 games in 6 days at US Junior Nationals and Nike Nationals. (Coach Jason: "I truly think the girls grew as a team from this experience. An experience some of them never had. Playing against very high level girls at their age made them want to work harder for next year.")

**8th Grade Nike Showcase Team:** This group of young ladies are full of potential. It is a team loaded with talent in every position. They are steadily working as individuals as well as a team and have thirst for competition. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade team has been and will continue to work on becoming complete highly skilled players. Their weekly routines include skill development and basketball concept sessions, team practices, strength conditioning, speed, agility, and injury prevention. During the fall and winter months they are attending national level skills camps, playing against local 8<sup>th</sup> travels teams, JV high schools teams, the Mid-Atlantic Girls National

League (MAG League), and have received a special invite to play in the highly competitive Rose League (MADE League for girls).

**7th Grade/2024:** This past weekend, started playoff play in the MD Shooting Stars Fall league. Led by Tony Murray and Willie Brooks, they entered the playoffs as the No. 1 seed, with an undefeated regular-season record in their division. In addition to the fall league, the team has played two very competitive exhibition games versus the MD Belles and Lady Prime. The team is preparing for The Rose League which will begin play in November with the first stop in Hampton, VA. The team will also be participating in the St Francis Veteran's game event November 10-11th. As well as the MAG League hosted by Team Sol which begins in early December. This group of girls and coaches is working very hard to get better on and off the court. They are looking very strong and plan to go out and compete and represent the Brand.

## **GRASSROOTS**

### **Grassroots Report (Boys)**

**2025/12U:** The biggest offseason news was the introduction of Keith Thomas as head coach of the 6th Grade Oladipo squad, loaded with versatility and the potential to be a match-up nightmare.

**2026/11U:** One of the most successful pairs of teams in the entire TTO organization will run it back, loaded with previous national championship experience and a sophisticated grasp of Xs and Os.

**2027/10U:** After pushing the national championship finalists to their limit in Orlando, 2027 returns three loaded teams with a core of do-it-all bigs, along with an enviable depth of wings, all making the critical transition from zone D to man.

**2028/9U:** Looking to build on a foundational season in 2018, Coach BJ's 9U team will add depth to an experienced backcourt and look to progress to the next stages of playing smart off the ball.

**2029/8U:** "TTO: The New Class" hit the ground running entering the fall, with the 7U Nationals runners-up moving over en masse into our Grassroots program. Next up: "50" and "32" 101.

### **Grassroots Report (Girls)**

**2025/12U:** A brand-new team comprised of 11 talented girls. This team is led by Coach Jamel Marshall Sr. So far, the team has played in two competitive exhibition games against New World and PV Thunder. The team is hard at work preparing for the St. Francis Academy Veterans Holiday Weekend Shoot-Out Classic tournament that will be held Nov. 10-11 in Baltimore. They are also preparing for the "Mag League" that will begin in December as well as the Prince George's County Boys and Girls Club League that is set to begin in January. The team, along with "Coach Mel," are working very hard to become cohesive team both on and off the court.

### **One More Reason To Follow @TTOBasketball on Twitter and Instagram:**

Starting in December, the boys' middle school teams (5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade) start play in the prestigious MADE League with sessions Dec. 1-2 (Hampton, VA), Jan. 19-20 (Springfield, MA), Feb. 9-10 (District Heights, MD) and March 2-3 (King of Prussia, PA).

The girls' 7th and 8th grade teams will also play in the MADE Rose League Winter Circuit, launching in November: Nov. 17-18 (Hampton, VA), Dec. 15-16 (District Heights, MD), Jan. 26-27 OR Feb. 2-3 (Brooklyn, NY) and March 2-3 (King of Prussia, PA).

### **TTO in the Community: William Beans Holiday Food Drive -- PLEASE DONATE**

Every Christmas, the TTO Family provides holiday meals to 75 families in the William Beans neighborhood. In the next E-Letter, we will include a link to a sign-up sheet for players' families to volunteer to supply a component of the meal and to be a part of this meaningful TTO tradition. (Food drop-off will be at TTO HQ in mid-December, a few days before the meals are delivered. Specific details coming in the next edition of the E-Letter.)

*Are your players helping in the community? Salute them to the rest of the program - email your story to [tto.eletter@gmail.com](mailto:tto.eletter@gmail.com).*

### **Fundraising Tip**

The "FreeThrow-a-Thon" -- player gets pledges to cover every made free throw out of 100 shots taken -- is a great way to earn money for the team account or cover player team dues.

*Got a fundraising tip to share that's worked for your team? Email [tto.eletter@gmail.com](mailto:tto.eletter@gmail.com)*

### **Get To Know a TTO Coach**

**Coach Name: Ronald "Rizz" Colbert**

**Team:** Head Coach, 2027/10U Black

**From:** Waldorf, Maryland

**HS:** Thomas Stone, **College:** Drexel

**Favorite all-time player:** Gary Payton

**Favorite all-time coach** (who didn't coach you): Shaka Smart

**Favorite drill:** Loose Ball Charge Drill

**Something a player can do to impress you:** "Dive on the floor for a loose ball, rather than bend over to pick it up."

**Fun fact:** Coach Rizz's wife just gave birth to their third child, RJ. Congrats, Colbert family!

*Want to nominate a coach to Get To Know? Email [tto.eletter@gmail.com](mailto:tto.eletter@gmail.com)*

### **Key Dates to Save:**

**Nov. 4, 2018:** TTO "Skills Day" (boys' programs)

Location: Bullis (10601 Falls Rd, Potomac MD)

Time: 9am-11am (8u-12u), 11am-1pm (13u-rising 17u)

**Dec. 7-9, 2018:** ARS National High School Hoops Festival (@ DeMatha)

Interested in purchasing group tickets for your players and parents? Email Doug Martin:

[douglasmartin721@gmail.com](mailto:douglasmartin721@gmail.com)

**Dec. 2018:** Annual William Beans Holiday Meal Drive. More details to come in the next edition of the TTO E-Letter.

**February 2019:** Spring/Summer Coaches' Summit (Day/Time/Location TBA)

**March 1, 2019:** Coaches' Background Check DEADLINE (file as early as Jan. 1, 2019)

**May 4-5, 2019:** TTO Girls' Cinco De Mayo Event (Location TBA)

**May 25-27, 2019:** Memorial Takeover (Locations TBA)  
 Looking for 16 teams per age group. Please promote to other programs/coaches.

**July 28, 2019:** Annual Cookout (@ Foundation School)

Got any info you want to add to the TTO calendar? Email [tto.eletter@gmail.com](mailto:tto.eletter@gmail.com).

**TWEET OF THE MONTH**

5:22 PM - 9 Oct 2018

Got a Tweet of the Month to nominate? Email [tto.eletter@gmail.com](mailto:tto.eletter@gmail.com).

**VIDEO OF THE MONTH**

“Lights On,” by Victor Oladipo feat. Tory Lanez  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=3&v=bHYAvXKygCU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=3&v=bHYAvXKygCU)

[Learn more about Vic’s new album here.](#)

Thanks for reading. The next edition of the TTO E-letter will arrive on November 30.

Don’t miss out! [Click here to receive the E-Letter directly to your email inbox every month!](#) (If you use Gmail and don’t see it in your main inbox, look in the Promotions tab.)

Please submit any requests, announcements or news to share by November 15. Email [tto.eletter@gmail.com](mailto:tto.eletter@gmail.com).