

INFORMER 2011

DC SENTINELS

[HTTP://TEAMDCBASKETBALL.ORG](http://TEAMDCBASKETBALL.ORG)



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MARCH 22, 2011

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Sponsor of the Month

The Leather Rack

Store Hours:

Sunday 11AM – 8PM

Monday – Thursday 11AM – 11PM

Friday + Saturday 11AM – 12AM

Address:

1723 Connecticut Avenue NW

Second Floor

Washington DC 20009

<http://www.shop.theleatherrack.com/>

The Leather Rack is a peerless retailer of provocative furnishings, novelty and apparel in the Washington DC metropolitan area. They have been a proud sponsor of the Sentinels since 2007. Please remember that all members of the Sentinels receive a percentage off of their merchandise. Please be sure to check them out and tell them the Sentinels sent you!

DC SENTINELS
INFORMER
MARCH - APRIL EDITION

GET TO KNOW YOUR FELLOW
SENTINELS

**LONNIE
WILLIAMS**
AKA
LJ

Name: Lonnie Williams (LJ)

Age: 28

Occupation: Contract
Specialist

Date Joined: March 4, 2008

Reason for joining: My reason for joining is that this organization not only focuses on basketball but the community as well. This organization participates in several charity events, fundraisers, and projects throughout the community.

Best memory: My best memory is my very first tournament with the Sentinels. It was the 2008 Coady Roundball Classic in Chicago. I was extra nervous about going b/c I didn't know what to expect but my team performed very well. We were undefeated the first day of the tournament and lost in the semi final round the second day by 1 point. That's a very good way to approach a new situation.

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THE SENTINELS TAKE CHI-TOWN

The Coady Roundball Classic (CRC), is the largest and longest running gay and lesbian annual basketball tournament in the world. This year's tournament (21st annual), will be held on April 16 and 17, 2011. The CRC is an NGBA sanctioned event and serves as the National Gay Basketball Association's Championship Tournament. Every year the event features around 35 teams with players representing Washington D.C, Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, New York, London, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, Indianapolis, Memphis, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle, Phoenix, Salt Lake City, and many others.

This year we are taking 3 teams!

**Good luck Sentinels in your
quest for more hardware!**

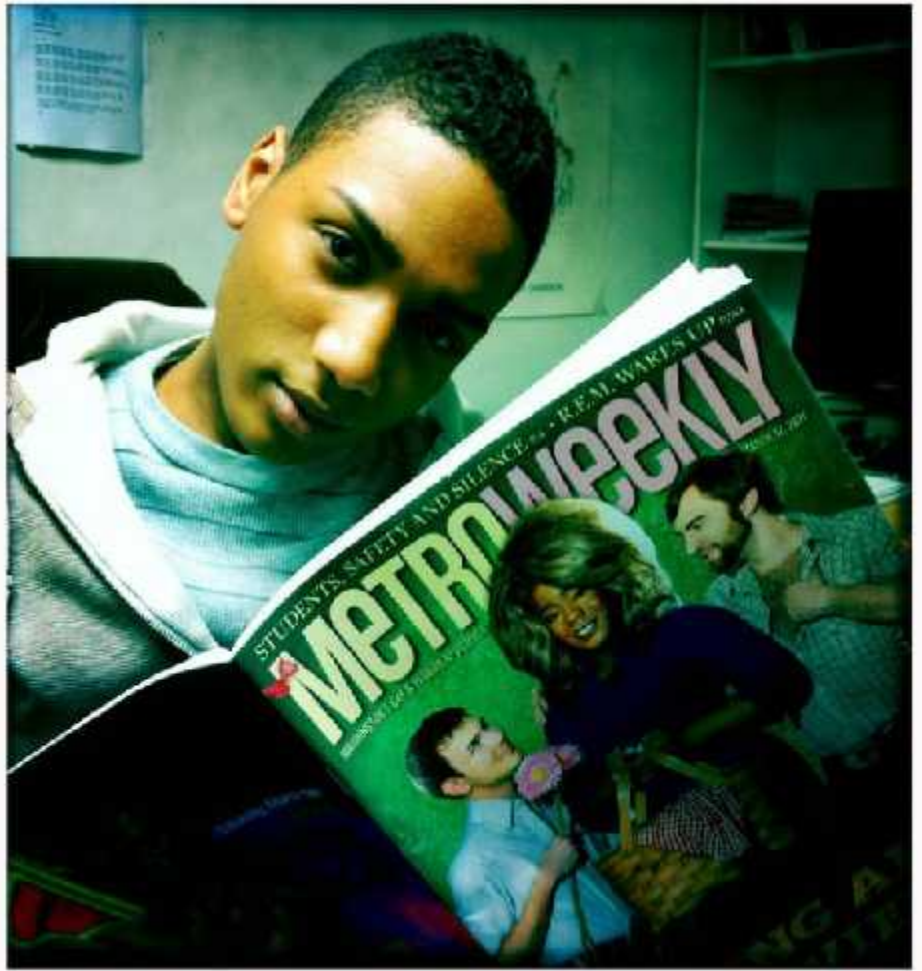
We didn't win the tournament but we gave it everything we had and left our hearts out there on the court.

Something interesting about LJ:
Other than basketball, I'm also a competitive all star cheer-leader.

Currently Listening to:
"Super Bass"
by Nicki Minaj

Currently Watching: Nothing at the moment b/c I have my music on.

Last word: Because of this organization, I've met some great people that I know I can call life long friends. I hope the organization is around for many more years to come.



DO IT! WITH JUSTIN - EPISODE 3: HOOPS

Basketball with the D.C. Sentinels

In the latest installment of Metro Weekly's new, bi-weekly series, Metro Weekly's very own Justin Stewart tries his hand out at dribbling... a basketball, with the D.C. Sentinels. Be sure to count along as Justin tries to make a basket.

Check it out:

<http://www.metroweekly.com/video/?ak=6076>

Thank you Justin & Metro Weekly for the video piece...we had a blast!



If you are interested in being profiled here, please contact me at:

Clarence.Ezra.Brown@gmail.com

Be sure to check Justin out on Metro Weekly as he tries his hand at various sports with GLBT organizations through the metropolitan area.

<http://www.metroweekly.com/>



TEAM DC BASKETBALL
THE DC SENTINELS

Presents

LAST FRIDAYS HAPPY HOUR

March 26 * April 29 * May 27 * June 24 * July 29 * August 26 * September 30
October 28 * November 25 * December 30 * January 27, 2012 * February 24, 2012

FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2011
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Drink Specials (Cash Bar)

(Prices range from \$4 - \$8)

- 1.) SLAM DUNK
- 2.) THREE POINTER
- 3.) FREE THROW

*

An assortment of Beer and
Wine on the Black Fox
Lounge Happy Hour Menu



BLACK FOX LOUNGE
1723 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20009
www.blackfoxlounge.com

For more information, please contact the TEAM DC Outreach
Committee (800.977.8801 or Outreach@teamdcbasketball.org)

Food

A-La-Carte Menu...
Choose from an assortment
of delectable items Black
Fox Lounge has to offer

\$1 Raffle/Give-aways

Movie Tickets
Gift Certificates/Cards
Assorted Gifts



**OUTREACH
COORDINATOR**

This is Kraig Ronald Scott and he was recently appointed as the Outreach Chairperson for The DC Sentinels. He would be happy to offer any assistance with regards to communication efforts with our team and the community. Below is his contact information if you need to reach him.

outreach@teamdcbasketball.org
kraigscott@gmail.com

LAST FRIDAYS—BLACK FOX LOUNGE

“Last Fridays @ Black Fox Lounge”

The next happy hour is set to take place on **Friday, April 29, 2011** from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. The event will take place on the main level (the downstairs level is available through advance request). Drinks are cash bar. Food is a-la-carte. All other drink specials on the Happy Hour menu will be available as The drink specials (which range from \$4-\$7) will be as follows (with assistance from Ben Bogardus):

- **-The Slam Dunk**
- **- The Dribble**
- **- The Three Pointer**

THE SACRED SIX

DC Sentinels has six domains in which we focus on meeting our outreach goals: Health/Awareness; the Elderly; Sports/Fitness; Education; Homelessness; and The LGBT Community. Members of DC Sentinels work hard to promote fellowship, communication and friendship among all association participants through open gym, national and international tournaments, and monthly group outings throughout the metropolitan area.



We will be participating in helping package meals sometime soon.



AIDS WALK 2011 KICK-OFF PARTY

Come to the AIDS WALK Kick-Off Party on April 7th at Nellie's, 5:30pm to 9pm with FREE registrations!

- Raffle Prizes
- Free Nellie Fries/Beer (1)
- Free Walk Registration
- Free Walk Fundraising Guide
- all of these if you register!

The 25th Annual AIDS Walk Washington Will Take Place Saturday, October 29, 2011.

Last year we raised **\$1010.00.**

For more info click below:

[AIDS WALK 2011](#)

DC Sentinels A: Building a Championship Team

We took a moment to chat with A Team members Desmond Mackall and Brian Hamlett following their repeat championship in Las Vegas...

You guys have come a long way since we reorganized in 2007, can you tell us a little bit about your first championship in Washington D.C., the Capital City Classic II...

Desmond: The first championship in D.C. was a rewarding one. It was our first tournament win as a unit right here in our back yard. We were focused, motivated, and above all supported by our everyone at home. The energy of the crowd was great and we ended up victorious. Though this was a win for us, this only propelled us forward and made us hungrier for the Las Vegas tournament. Many people could argue home court advantage so we were very happy about this win, but wanted to prove that we could do it again elsewhere. We left the DC tournament with a sense of accomplishment as well as a thirst for another tournament win.

Brian: The first Championship in DC was special for two reasons. The first is because we were able to win in front of our home crowd and protect home turf. Those are always important things. Second because it was the culmination of a long journey that many of the A Team started a year and a half prior. It was just a great moment to realize that hard work and perseverance do pay off.

Congrats on winning in DC! Can you also tell us about your journey as a team building yourself up to championship level...

Desmond: Wow, we have certainly come a long way as a team. We started off 8 or 9 deep when I came here in 2007, but as with many teams you have growing pains. Though true, there were only five of us at one point. I like to call us the fab five because we stuck it out for a while only having "just enough" players. (G. Burley, B. Hamlett, S. Wilkerson, and coach B. Swann) We lost many games, we got our tails whipped many times, but each and every game taught us a lesson. We cried together, laughed together, and had many one to one sit downs about our development as a team. We had many players come and go in search of a "winning team", and the thirst for championships. It was very hard to see very good players come and go from our team. After the Chicago tournament in 2008 we had only 6 guys and lost buy a total of 8 points the whole weekend we decided then that we would rather play with the 6 of us then have 10 very good players who did not want to grow and develop as a team. From this point on we were very careful about who we played with and how we decided who would play with us. This was no longer about winning games, but growing as a family, as friends, and as teammates. Our dedication to this concept is slowly beginning to pay off.

Cont. —>





Team Members:

- Total Raised \$1,010.00
- Clarence Brown \$145.00
- Gerard Burley \$80.00
- Matt Curtis \$30.00
- John Favazzo \$320.00
- Michael Fee \$60.00
- Daryl Fields \$35.00
- Timothy Francis \$115.00
- Brian Hamlett \$35.00
- Desmond Mackall \$50.00
- Terry McGuire \$15.00
- William Swann \$125.00

**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR DONATIONS
TO THIS VERY
WORTHY CAUSE!**



BIRTHDAYS

- AKAI 1/1**
- BENJAMIN 1/12**
- THOMAS 2/01**
- KRAIG 2/3**
- DEWAYNE 2/05**
- DEMITRIAN 2/12**
- RAFAEL 2/15**
- MATTHEW 2/22**
- O'NE DUPRE 2/26**
- JOHNNY 'JET' J. 2/28**
- MARIO 3/15**
- KRAIG 3/16**
- COACH HUNI 3/31**
- JAMAL B. 4/5**
- RANDOLPH 4/7**

**Happy Birthday to all
of you from the
Sentinel Family!**

Desmond (cont.): We have a cohesive unit now that have embraced the concept of "Shut up and Play". As one of the captains of our team, I make it my point to talk to every player that has an interest in playing with us. I make it very clear now that if they can't leave their egos at the door then it's probably best that they play for someone else (no matter how good they are). What I love about our team is that any one player can have a good game. There is no All-star on our team and we all trust and have confidence in one another as players. I believe that every player on our team understands this and this has been one of the key reasons why we are beginning to be successful. We still have a ways to go, but I think we just might be on to something.

Brian: The journey as I look back on some days seemed difficult because we knew we had a talented team. We were coming up just short. But what I will say is that everybody kept a positive attitude from the Coach on down and we all stuck together no matter what happened on the court. That made the bond between us all grow stronger. When we added the final pieces to the puzzle, it just made things very seamless. Learning to lose as a team and never pointing fingers at one another certainly made winning as a team even sweeter.

Coach Huni has been with the Sentinels for a very long time...can you tell us about his coaching style and how he preps you guys for success...

Brian: Its funny. A lot of people see Coach as so nonchalant. He is actually very fundamental in what he teaches. He is very passionate about basketball and he loves the team. He studies each of us individually and then puts the right pieces on the floor to make us successful. The drills he has us run are designed to help us play game situations. He also studies the opponent and incorporates that in how we strategize. But at the end of the day, we play Sentinel basketball. Coach is no nonsense. He knows how to encourage but when necessary he will get in your butt lol.

Desmond: I love my coach. He is a no-nonsense guy who comes to handle business and expects nothing less from you as a player. Off the court he is a very charismatic and loving person who would do whatever he can to help you out. This is what I love about our entire organization. When the sneakers come off and the jerseys are hung up...we are still family. Coach Huni is much like a big brother to me. I respect him as my coach, family and friend. As to his coaching style, if you can't take the heat, get off his bench...lol. As I said Coach Huni is a no-nonsense coach. When the ball goes up he means business and nothing less. If you are not doing what is expected...you sit. It is as simple as that. What I love about our team is that we understand this. Coach Huni can care less about how good you are as a player. If you are not representative of the organization and bring nonsense to the team, you don't play. If you are not producing and not acting responsibly off the court, you don't play. Truly, he encourages all of his players to be a class act win or lose because when its all said and done and the tournament is over its about the friendships and bonding experiences we share at the tournaments. an

Vegas baby, Vegas! | January 15-16, 2011



Cont.-->

VOL UN TEER

The DC Center HIV Working Group focuses on HIV prevention for gay, bisexual, and transgender (GBT) men in the District of Columbia. Volunteers assemble safer sex kits. For more information, visit the HIV Working Group Page.

The DC Center
1810 14th Street NW.



George Mason University's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and Ally Resource Center Carnival

**When: April 5, 2011
11:30 AM - 3:00 PM**

This is a great opportunity to meet LGBTQ & Ally students at George Mason University students and let them know about events, volunteer opportunities, and great resources in the Washington, D.C area. DC Sentinels will have a table at this event.

We all love Coach Huni...so...last question...you guys are going to Chicago for the Coady Roundball Classic in April...what are you looking most forward to and what are your expectations since we all know teams are going to be stacking their teams and gunning for you guys?

Brian: I think going to Chicago, I'm looking forward to the entire A team being there. In Vegas, we didn't have Rafa or Gerard and we miss them. I'm also looking forward to playing there because I myself missed the Chicago tournament last year. Most importantly, a 3rd Championship in a row would definitely solidify what we have tried to build with our team. We know that teams are now gunning for us, but, we feel if we play Sentinel basketball and believe in each other, we will always be successful.

Desmond: As we prepare for Chicago I must admit that I most look forward to seeing all my friends from around the U.S. and abroad. I know these are competitive tournaments, but for me its so much more. The friendships and bonds that you make over the course of the years are priceless. In many instances, its as if we never left one another. We pick up right where we left off. As far as expectations, I don't have any. My hope is that we continue playing as a focused unit and continue to display the sportsmanship and poise we have always presented as a team. We play hard and with passion as a unit so we just have to keep that same momentum. I think that we have a great team. I love each and every one of my teammates and know that as long as we come with one mission and focus in mind we will continue to be contending for the number one spot at the sound of the last buzzer.

Thanks for the interview guys! We are really excited for your team and hope that you bring home a third A Division Championship to DC. Here's to a three-peat!

**Got a Cover Story? Let us know!
It may just show up in the next
BI-MONTHLY INFORMER!**





Rock Skate Roll Bounce

Please join us for our skating social event
October 2011



Movie Night

Please join us for our Movie Night social event
November 2011 (BYOB)



Bowling Night

Please join us for our Bowling Night social event
August 2011



Support our Friends!

US Helping Us

The mission of Us Helping Us, People Into Living, Inc. is to improve the health and well being of Black gay men through innovative programs and services, and -- through a vision of inclusiveness -- to reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS in the entire Black community. Incorporated in 1988 as a self-help support group for Black gay men living with HIV/AIDS, Us Helping Us has become one of the largest Black AIDS service organizations in the District of Columbia, serving gay and same-gender-loving men, heterosexual men and women, and transgender persons.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sports Fest
Room & Board
14th & T Street
Beer, Soft Drinks, DJ
April 7
7-10 PM**

**Last Fridays @ Black Fox
Lounge
April 29, 2011**

**Coady Roundball
Classic
April 16 -17, 2011**

**George Mason University
"Carnival"
April 5th 11:30-3pm**

DID YOU KNOW?

Last summer the DC Sentinels clinched the Bronze Medal in the VIII Gay Games which took place in Cologne, Germany. The Sentinels took a mixture of A Division and B Division players and exceeded expectations by bringing home some hardware.

"It was an amazing experience...one that I will remember for the rest of my life," said Clarence Brown of the Bronze Medal victory. "We really fought hard and learned to play together as a team over there...I've never hurt so much after a week of basketball lol."

The Sentinels are experiencing great success these days. Fresh off of the Bronze medal last year, the Sentinels won **three** of the **four** championships in the Capital City Classic II in Washington, DC (A Div, B-Lower Div, C Div). This was followed by another A Division championship in Las Vegas.

Great work Sentinels and may your success continue!

**Congrats to:
Gerard, Chris, Justin, Clarence, Desmond,
Wade, Tim, Mike, Miles, and Sterling!**

