



# NEWSLETTER



Pistons Elite players in action at their first Tournament in Ypsilanti on May 30

## WELCOME TO PISTONS ELITE

Greetings & welcome parents, players and fans of Pistons Elite Basketball! This is our inaugural season of competitive basketball – Detroit Pistons style! Our mission with Pistons Elite is to provide a complete development program for youth basketball players who are dedicated to the game and want to achieve advanced basketball goals.

In today's "SportsCenter" culture, so much attention is placed on the highlight film that it becomes easy to forget the amount of time and effort that it takes to achieve to success on the court. What the media doesn't show is the countless jump shots that players take at practice. You don't hear much about all the 5am workouts that players dedicate themselves to or the nutritional plans that they follow. It takes advanced training and knowledge to reach elite status. Although we are not the NBA or an athletic shoe exposure camp, we are a step towards that direction.

We have three teams this season (Boys grades 4th, 6th and 7th) and hope to expand a bit more every season. Along with more teams, we are planning to start an "off the court" awareness program that will help kids understand lessons that are not in a playbook. Issues like grades, nutrition, athletes and social media, rule comprehension, peer pressure and life after basketball are all things that today's athlete faces –and at a much younger age!

On-court development will expand as well. We are planning our first "Elite" camp in 2016 where the best of the best from the area will converge at The Palace for a week of intense training and competitive games. We will also be exploring year-round training sessions at Franklin for players looking to develop skills even when the season is over.

So as we advance through our first season, we hope that Pistons Elite exceeds your expectations and your boys find the experience both challenging and rewarding.

Keep your head up and aim high!

Geo Thomas  
Director of Fan Development

## 4TH GRADE UPDATES

The 4th grade Pistons Elite team started their season off strong, with a 4-1 tournament record in Ypsilanti last weekend. Facing a mix of 4th and 5th grade teams, they stepped up to the challenge every game and used their defensive and offensive talents to push past strong teams.

"I knew this was going to be a strong team," said head coach Dan Thomas, "that was proven this past weekend. But I still want us to practice hard and play to improve. Even though I have a feeling we can win a majority of our games we still have to keep a competitive edge."

## 6TH GRADE UPDATES

The 6th grade team faced an older lineup of opponents this past weekend and it was a big challenge for their first tournament. Four of the five games were against 7th grade teams that had height and athleticism. "Although it was tough we never gave up and fought through every game," said head coach Dan Thomas, "I was really proud of their effort."

In playing older teams, our 6th graders learned how to handle pressure, and learned the importance of making free throws. In their next tournament they will look to bounce back and play better as a team.

## 7TH GRADE UPDATES

Although the 7th grade team enters its fourth season playing together, the team has added players throughout the years and now boasts it's most complete team ever. After going 20-7 last year, the team has added some size (Davis Greene) and some athleticism (Tommy Guajardo). The return of SF Jaylin Atchison and PF Nathan Howard should keep this team strong on the boards. "I think we have a great combination of players and a decent inside-outside game," said head coach Geo Thomas, "We just need to up our intensity at the start of games and I think we'll be in store for a great run this year."

The 7th graders will make their first tournament appearance this weekend in Whitmore Lake. Their season will conclude with the AYBT Nationals in Ft. Wayne, July 15-18.

On a side note, SF Matt Fricke made the All-Tournament team in the May 9 pre-season tournament at the Palace. He was voted in by the five other coaches in the 7th grade division. Well done Matt!

## RESULTS FROM MAY 30-31 (YPSILANTI AYBT)

### 6TH GRADE

Pinckney (7th Grade) 41  
Pistons Elite 15

South Lyon Elite 39  
Pistons Elite 17

Common Bond 43  
Pistons Elite 19

Pinckney (6th Grade) 29  
Pistons Elite 28

St. Mary's (7th Grade) 35  
Pistons Elite 18

### 4TH GRADE

MI Dynamite 22  
Pistons Elite 15

Pistons Elite 31  
Angola 14

Pistons Elite 23  
Lansing Spartans 21

Pistons Elite 35  
Michigan Celtics 32

Pistons Elite 36  
Pinckney (4th Grade) 33

## CONTACT US

Boys 7th Grade Head Coach  
**GEO THOMAS**  
248.371.2048  
gthomas@palacenet.com

Boys 6th/4th Grade Head Coach  
**DAN THOMAS**  
248.352.8000  
dthomas@ffrc.net

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