



NEWSLETTER



The boys 7th grade team posted a perfect 5-0 record at the Oakland Regional Tournament in Pinckney, MI

7TH GRADE TEAM GOES 5-0

The Pistons Elite 7th Grade team continued to play well this weekend as they posted a 5-0 record at the Oakland Regional in Pinckney, MI. "It was a step up for us," said head coach Geo Thomas, "I thought our intensity was much better to start and finish games. This was lacking for us in previous tournaments."

The Elite opened with two solid wins before facing a talented Michigan Green team from Williamston, MI. Green was short-handed and needed to use two 9th graders just to field a team. The Elite played well in the first half behind the strong elbow shooting of **Tommy Guajardo** (6 points) and led 29-28 at the break. It was a half where the 2nd unit played amazing. **Rafae Qadir** hit two triples and **Davis Greene** slugged three blocks to inspire the team. In the second half, **Clayton Fox** and **Jaylin Atchison** combined for 26 points as the Elite simply wore down Michigan Green. It was their best game of the season... until Sunday.

After coasting to a win against Eaton Rapids, The Elite faced off against Marshall for the third time this season (0-2). Having lost to them a week earlier, the Elite team was fired up. "I really think we can beat these guys," said co-captain **Matt Fricke**. "We just need to play great defense."

That's exactly what the Elite did as they ran the 1-3-1 to near perfection. Points were scarce for both teams in the first half as Marshall took a 14-13 lead into halftime. The second half was a game of runs where each team traded small leads. But with the score tied at 33, the Elite defense held tight in the last minute of regulation, and Marshall missed their last three shots before time ran out.

In overtime, the Elite ran a designed play off the tip resulting in **Henry Clark** being fouled. Clark made both free throws to put the Elite up 35-33. The great defense continued and after a **Nathan Howard** block, Coach Geo was telling his team to stall when the ball found its way to a wide-open Fox on the right baseline. Fox swished the triple and finished the scoring as the Elite won by five. "That was a fun game," said Marshall head coach Toby Crull after the game, "Well played. Well done."

On a side note, Marshall will be attending the AYBT National Tournament in Fort Wayne next month. What are the odds Pistons Elite will play them at some point?

6TH GRADE UPDATES

The 6th grade team went 2-3 in the win-loss column this past weekend, facing a variety of opponents of size and skill. From the first game to the last, our focus of this tournament was to give maximum effort for 40 minutes. Isaiah Cassell-Mahr was a great example of outstanding hustle. In our two games on Sunday Isaiah came off the bench played heavy minutes in both games, rebounded the ball very well on both ends while creating offense for his teammates through solid passing and strong rebounding.

"This was our best tournament so far because of how much we learned about ourselves as a team and about the game of basketball. Players are learning their roles on the team and becoming more comfortable with them."

In the Capital City game on Saturday, the 6th grade elite showed how important rebounding is as Blake Harmon and Jake LaBarre controlled the pace of the game. Their defensive rebounding limited the Cougars to just on shot on most of their possessions.

4TH GRADE UPDATES

The 4th grade Pistons Elite team returns to action this weekend as the boys join the 7th grade team at the Lansing DSE. "The team has been practicing real hard," said Coach Dan Thomas, "I can't wait to get them back in action." This will be their second tournament of the season after going 4-1 in Ypsilanti May 30-31.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 20-21 – LANSING AYBT

7th, 6th and 4th grade teams

JUNE 26 – FRANKLIN SCRIMMAGES

@FRANKLIN ATHLETIC CLUB

Boys 7th and 6th grade

RESULTS FROM JUNE 13-14 (OAKLAND REGIONAL AYBT)

7TH GRADE (7-2)

Pistons Elite 32

Pinckney 27

Pistons Elite 31

Motor City Mayhem 26

Pistons Elite 57

Michigan Green 51

Pistons Elite 32

Eaton Rapids 20

Pistons Elite 38

Marshall 33 (OT)

6TH GRADE (4-9)

Pistons Elite 21

Michigan Green 6

Pistons Elite 39

Capital Area Cougars 29

Common Bond 59

Pistons Elite 17

Pinckney Pirates 45 (7th Grade)

Pistons Elite 29

Pistons Elite 41

Pinckney Pirates 31

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