

A PROUD MEMBER OF THE AMATEUR ATHLETIC UNION OF THE UNITED STATES SINCE 2009

CENTRAL TEXAS STARZZ

PROUDLY REPRESENTING THE CITY OF FIVE HILLS COPPERAS COVE, TEXAS December 2017

2018... Ten Years





MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Central Texas STARZZ basketball program is to provide an opportunity for our young people to develop and improve their basketball skills, as well as their personal development. Through basketball, our young people will learn valuable lessons about teamwork, discipline, respect, hard work and the value of making good decisions through participation in competitive sports.

Central Texas STARZZ
PO Box 1174
Copperas Cove, Texas 76522

254-290-0730

Email ccstarzz09@aol.com

Web www.starzzbasketball.com

FB at www.facebook.com/starzzbasketball



The Central Texas STARZZ is a non-profit 501(C)3 youth program, a member of the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU).

THE CLIPBOARD



Dorothy and I are pleased to be entering our 10th year with the Central Texas STARZZ. We are pleased with the many successes over the years and look forward to 2018. Many of our former players have graduated from college, others are in college, and still others are preparing to attend. We are so proud of their accomplishments.

In 2017, we fielded eight teams in eight age groups. Our desire this year is to increase that number by adding a 3-4 and 5-6 girls team. The 3/4 grade girls, the Starlettes, will be coached by Nic Cantrell, one of our new coaches.

Also re-joining our coaching staff will be the team of Dominic and Jessica Askew. They will be working with our middle school girls.

On January 28, we will partner with the Copperas Cove Parks and Recreation Department to host the Verizon JrNBA Skills Challenge. This is a competitive skills competition with winners moving on to the regional level. Final competition will be in New York City later in the summer. Staff and coaches will help to coordinate and conduct this competition. Working with and supporting the Parks and Recreation Department is one way to support our community.

As usual, we will be hosting our annual one-day basketball tournament on May 5-6. We had 53 teams attend last year. As usual, girl teams will play on Saturday and boy teams will play on Sunday. All Central Texas STARZZ teams will play.

We will have an organizational meeting on Saturday, February 3, 2018 at the Copperas Cove Applebee's. Meeting will be at 8:15 am. Staff and coaches. More information to follow.
Charles and Dorothy



254-290-0730

Shoemaker senior Charlene Shepherd signs to play basketball at North Texas



Students filed into Shoemaker's gym Tuesday afternoon to watch on as senior Charlene Shepherd signed her letter of intent to play basketball for North Texas, an NCAA Division I program.

Her family gathered around her, and the crowd silently watched on as she signed her name on the line to make her commitment official.

"I've had a few players before her sign," Lady Grey Wolves' head coach Michelle Alderson said, "but this one's a little different, because I've been knowing her for so long; since she was a little girl." Shepherd has always loved the game, and it's that love of basketball that has taken her from the sideline to the front line.

Her love was clear to everyone from a young age, especially her mother Patricia Shepherd, whose eyes filled with tears as she spoke of her daughter and what she has accomplished.

"She was watching her older sister play at Ellison," Patricia Shepherd said. "She was the water girl when Coach O'Neal (Alderson) was over there coaching.

"She was the water girl and came up from that and has now got her day where she signed."

The road to this day hasn't always been easy.

Charlene Shepherd started playing basketball in the fourth grade, and Patricia Shepherd believes that nobody thought this day would come.

She told the crowd of students gathered to watch and support her

daughter that any of them could be where Charlene Shepherd is with work.

"This is not something that's been given to her," Patricia Shepherd said. "Basketball is a tough sport to come into because the girls play tough against each other.

"She went through that, and grew up and it's just a great feeling."

Last season, one may remember seeing Charlene Shepherd on the volleyball court, but she signed her letter of intent for the basketball program.

Basketball is where my heart has always been," Charlene Shepherd said. "I love this sport, and every time I step on the court, I just fall in love with it all over again."

"According to Patricia Shepherd, more than 12 Division I and II schools pursued Charlene Shepherd, but in the end, she's committed to joining the Mean Green family.

"I love the coaches," Charlene Shepherd said, "the players that are already there, that's my future teammates.

"I feel like I fit in perfectly when I went on my visit."

Alderson, who has watched Charlene Shepherd grow as a player, believes that she's prepared for what the future holds.

"She may have to start at the bottom," Alderson said. "She may start at the top, but she's just got to be prepared for whatever she's going to get.

"Be focused mentally and prepared physically."

As for Charlene Shepherd, "I'm looking forward to everything.

"Anything God has coming towards me I feel like I'm ready for it."

Although this season has just begun, Charlene Shepherd already has her goal set for next season.

North Texas head coach Jalie Mitchell is the all-time leading scorer for the Mean Green.

"I'm trying to break that," Charlene Shepherd said.

As Charlene Shepherd prepares for her final season with the Lady Grey Wolves before moving on, Alderson had a few words of wisdom for playing at the next level, "She has to stay focused in school and grades and listen to her coaches," Alderson said. "Do what they ask and... I can see her as being a conference leader, Conference USA leader, easy."

Before the ink could dry on the paper, Alderson invited her friends to take photos with Charlene Shepherd in front of the Shoemaker High School official backdrop and enjoy some cake to celebrate this moment in Grey Wolves' history.

Charlene Shepherd has played with girls from all over the Killeen area in summer leagues and developed friendships with them, Patricia Shepherd said.

"That's what makes this special," she said. "She's really supported and she's got a lot of friends and family who love her."

"It's a very happy occasion to see the support and love in the gym today," Alderson said.

Coaching Quote

"A coach is someone who can give correction without resentment."

John Wooden



16 Jan 17. Central Texas STARZZ Team Sampson conduct fundraiser at AutoZone in Copperas Cove.



19 Jan 17. Former Lady STARZZ Ajunnae Smith (21) Ellison High School shoots over former Lady STARZZ Erica Powell (5) during the Copperas Cove vs Ellison game. Ellison won the game 45-35.

TEAM PLAYER



The definition of a team player is someone who puts aside his personal goals and works well with others, doing what he needs to do to strive for a common goal. An example of a team player is someone who plays basketball but who doesn't hog the ball; he instead passes it when it makes sense to do so.

If you want to be a good basketball player, you should improve your shooting, passing, on the ball defensive techniques, and allow yourself to be coached. Be able to work with your teammates and try to get to know them so that your entire team will work together as one



**Blast
From
The
Past**





LaPraisjah Johnson
South Plains Jr College



MAKALA GATEWOOD
Temple Jr College

South Plains Jr College vs Temple Jr College
Saturday, January 6, 2018 at 2:00 pm
Temple Jr College



Rashard Odomes
U of Oklahoma



Alexis Dukes
U of Texas – San Antonio

jr. nba

Skills Challenge

verizon

Participation is **FREE**

Open to Boys & Girls 13 & Under

Age is determined as of August 31, 2018

Compete for the chance to win
an all-expense paid trip to NYC.

Copperas Cove Parks and Recreation Department
Central Texas STARZZ

HOST:

Sunday, January 28, 2018 at 3:00 pm

DATE/TIME/LOCATION:

Copperas Cove Junior High School



CONTACT:

Contact Charles @ 254-290-0730 or ccstarzz09@aol.com

Permission slips required! Available at event.

www.jrnba.com/skillschallenge



Facebook.com/JrNBA



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www.JrNBA.com

COMING MAY '18

CENTRAL TEXAS STARZZ

SHOOTOUT

**MAY 5 – MAY 6, 2018
COPPERAS COVE, TEXAS**

\$200

**BOYS AND GIRLS
GIRLS PLAY ON SATURDAY MAY 5
BOYS PLAY ON SUNDAY MAY 6**



GRADES 4- 12

3 - GAME MINIMUM

1ST – 2ND PLACE AWARDS

Register at starzzbasketball.com before April 26, 2018

Email at ccstarzz09@aol.com

Contact Charles at 254-290-0730

"Come Get Some"

TEAM TRYOUTS

COMING IN FEBRUARY!