



New Jersey Scholars Elite Youth Basketball Academy

'2022 Season In Review'

Princeton, New Jersey - At New Jersey Scholars Elite Youth Basketball Academy, our mission is to help striving young student athletes pursue excellence in all facets of their lives, using competitive and elite basketball as a broad development platform.

Season In Review: The 2022 Nike EYBL season launched April 8th of this year in Orlando, Florida and concluded July 24th in North Augusta, South Carolina. During the first weekend session in Orlando, all of the NJ Scholars high school teams went undefeated (12-0), a rare competitive feat at this level of competition. This served notice that the NJ Scholars program was among the best in the nation and set the tone for a tremendous season. Some highlights included a highly publicized win against LeBron James' Strive For Greatness team and victories against other top sponsored teams such as Team Durant (Kevin Durant), Team Melo (Carmelo Anthony) & Team Griffin (Blake Griffin). The NJ Scholars rising sophomore (15u), junior (16u) and senior (17u) teams finished the AAU Season with a combined record of 62 Wins - 15 Losses. While we judge our program by more than wins and losses, we are grateful for this record of achievement. We also saw the successful return of Cornelius Robinson to our 17u team after injury earlier this year. Overall, our Program Directors, Coaching Staff & Player Development Staff have done a remarkable job. The staff's ability to develop players and provide them a platform for visibility has resulted in an unprecedented outcome – at the end of the season three starters on our rising senior team were ranked by 24/7 Sports among the 5 Best Players in the United States. In addition, many other players in our program have received dozens of scholarship offers.

2022 NJ Scholars Tournament Schedule & Results: 62 Wins 15 Losses
Nike EYBL Session 1 – Orlando, Florida April 8–10 (15u, 16u, 17u Teams: 12-0)
Nike EYBL Session 2 – Indianapolis, Indiana April 22–24 (15u, 16u, 17u Teams: 10-2)
Hoop Group Southern Jam Fest – Hampton, Virginia May 13–15 (15u, 16u, 17u Teams: 10-3)
Nike EYBL Session 3 – Louisville, Kentucky May 27–30 (17u Team: 4-1)
Hoop Group Jersey Shore Jam Fest May 27–29 (Champions: 15u & 16u: 10-0)
Nike EYBL Session 4 – Kansas City, Missouri July 7–10 (15u, 16u, 17u Team: 9-6)
Nike EYBL Finals PEACH JAM – North Augusta, South Carolina July 17 – 24 (15u, 17u Teams: 7-3)

High School Representation: NJ Scholars' players represent dozens of communities primarily across New Jersey but also include players from four adjacent states. The players hail from public and non-public high schools that are generally located in urban settings. Our community-based programs include middle school and younger participants that span even more cities across New Jersey.

NJ Scholars In The News: Our program and coaches were referenced in a NY Times Article - [‘Jersey Is Taking Over’: N.J. Hoopers Outshine the Shadow of New York - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](https://www.nytimes.com/2022/07/15/sports/basketball/nj-scholars.html)

Player Rankings: In a majority of the National Player Ranking Polls, DJ Wagner is the #1 ranked player in the Class of 2023, Mackenzie Mgbako #3 and Aaron Bradshaw is ranked as high as #5, based on this summer’s Nike EYBL performance.

In the Class of 2025, NJ Scholars’ Darryn Peterson is the #4 ranked player. We fully expect that many other players will continue to climb the ranks based on our program of continuous development and exposure.

Player Commitments: On April 8th, Mackenzie Mgbako verbally committed to Duke University (Fall 2023) & on August 6th, Cian Medley verbally committed to St. Louis University (Fall 2023).



NJ Scholars Rising Stars Update: Our 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th Grade teams played a rigorous schedule against high level talent and competition. NJ Scholars 4th Grade Team, coached by Program Director Fran Nicolas, won the 2022 AAU National Championship. We are so proud of their amazing accomplishment, as they are the 1st New Jersey led AAU Team to win Nationals in 12 years. The future for NJ Scholars is indeed bright.

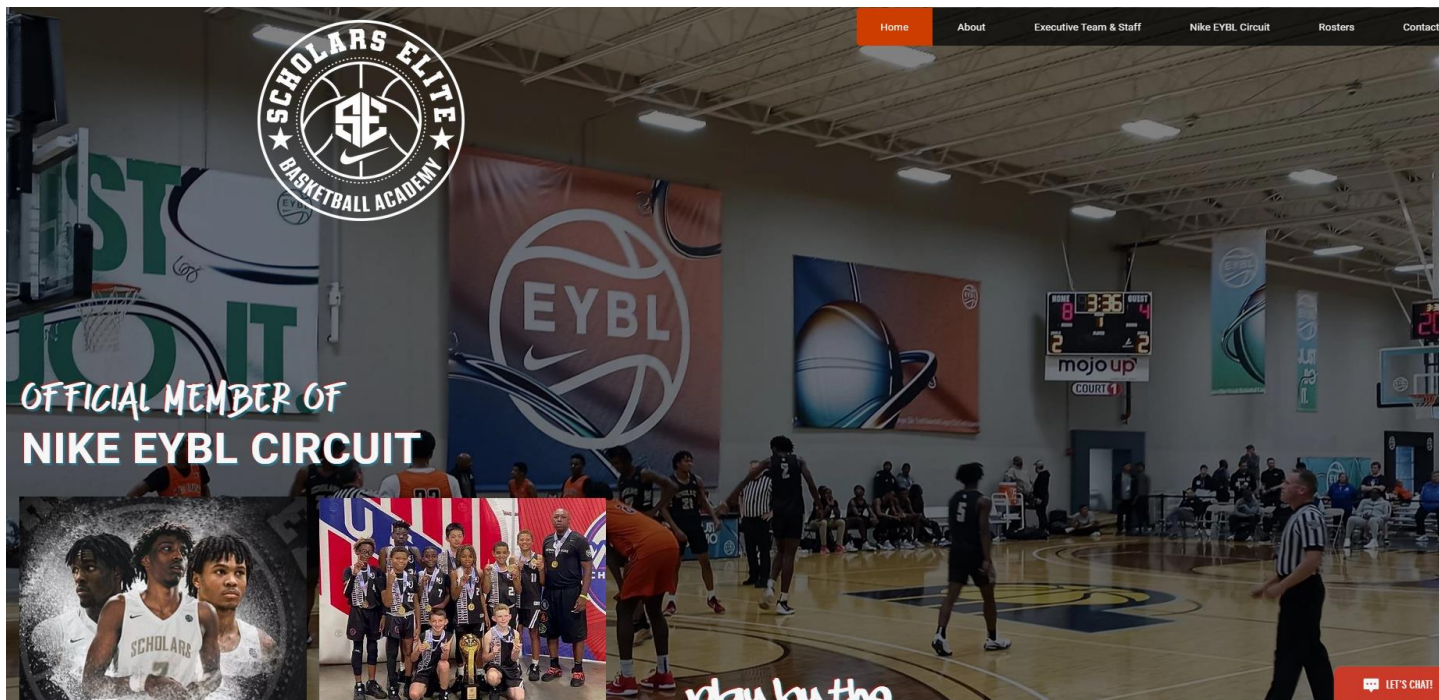


DJ Wagner Wins Gold For Team USA: Our very own DJ Wagner, the No. 1 prospect in the Class of 2023, was an integral part of Team USA U17 National Team defeating Spain, 79-67, in the Gold Medal game of the FIBA U17 World Cup in Malaga, Spain.



Scholarship Offers For NJ Scholars Players: Several of our players have received scholarship offers and/or interest from some of the most prestigious universities in the nation: Kentucky, Duke, Michigan, Baylor, Louisville, Maryland, UCLA, Memphis, Georgetown, Ohio State, Illinois, Kansas State, Princeton, Temple, Seton Hall, Tennessee, Oklahoma St., Indiana, Pittsburgh, Harvard, St. John's, Texas A&M, Missouri and many more.

Website/Social Media Update: We have created a newly designed and fully updated website for NJ Scholars (Partial Homepage Screen Shot Below): Please take a look at www.scholarsbasketball.org. In addition, you will find a more detailed Instagram & Social Media presence: Instagram - [@educate2elev8](https://www.instagram.com/educate2elev8).



NJ Scholars Community Initiatives: We continuously strive to serve our local communities and their families. We do so by partnering with reputable organizations with the same mission and goal of making a positive impact towards others. Throughout the year, NJ Scholars has been focused on assisting under-resourced families in New Jersey.

One area that NJ Scholars strategically targeted was food insecurity. 800,000 people, including 200,000 children, suffer from food insecurity in New Jersey. NJ Scholars partnered with Cougar Cares in their direct efforts to assist local students currently in food insecure situations. In addition, NJ Scholars' direct contribution and collaboration with Cougar Cares was instrumental in enabling those students to attend their Prom this Spring and participate in their 2022 Graduation Activities/Events.

Another targeted area was youth development and family assistance. We were able to partner with Mapso Legends in supporting their local youth basketball tournaments this summer and back to school supply campaign. NJ Scholars was a key contributor of the 1st Annual Mapso Legends Basketball Tournament, providing custom designed Nike uniforms for participating youth. The Youth Tournament, held at Maplewood Memorial Park, was highly attended by those in the area. NJ Scholars also partnered with a local Trenton basketball legend and his organization, Hoop Skillz Elite. By donating backpacks, bags and basketballs, NJ Scholars participated in the Hoop Skillz Free Basketball Clinic for children of the capital city. The free basketball clinics this summer have been open to and attended by many 3rd - 8th Grade kids throughout the City of Trenton.

New Jersey Scholars Elite Youth Basketball Academy
www.scholarsbasketball.org | Instagram [@educate2elev8](https://www.instagram.com/educate2elev8)

NJ Scholars 17U



New Jersey Scholars Elite Youth Basketball Academy
www.scholarsbasketball.org | Instagram @educate2elev8





NJ Scholars 16U



NJ Scholars 15U



At New Jersey Scholars Elite Basketball Academy, we will continue to expand our work within our extensive basketball community, by providing the absolute best experience that is available to elite prospects.

We will also serve program participants and underlying local communities in the following areas:

- Academic Resources and Educational Support
- Emotional Health & Wellness Programming & Seminars
- College Preparation, Readiness and Admissions Support
- Participation in Social, Cultural, Community and Civic Engagements/Events
- Player Development, Mentorship & Guidance
- Creation of Local/Regional Basketball Leagues & Tournaments

As stated earlier, NJ Scholars' mission and goal is to help our youth pursue excellence in all facets of their lives, not just in basketball. This pursuit of excellence encompasses academics/education, camaraderie/teamwork, citizenship, and a direct strategy to empower, enlighten and enhance the lives of others in our local communities.

THIS IS NEW JERSEY SCHOLARS ELITE BASKETBALL ACADEMY!

Have A Great & Blessed Day,



Martin Whitfield
President & CEO
NJ Scholars Elite Basketball Academy
martin@scholarsbasketball.org