

Kids jam Isiah Thomas' camp at Madonna

By C.J. Rieck
staff writer

Hot and enticing, Thursday was a perfect day — the type Michigan has far too few of. The kind of weather, with clear blue skies and bright sunshine, that lures those trapped inside by their work to rebel and make a dash for the door.

So why in the heck were more than 100 kids crammed into Madonna College's gym shooting baskets?

It takes a major attraction to get kids inside on a day like this. Take into account that most of these kids paid for the privilege, and the attraction escalates to the major league, four-star brand.

The feature lived up to its billing. After all, how could pro basketball stars the caliber of Isiah Thomas, Earvin "Magic" Johnson and Mark Aguirre disappoint anyone?

THERE WERE lots of other players that showed up for the Isiah Thomas Basketball Camp, which started last Tuesday and ran through Friday. Among the local celebrities was Livonia's Greg Wendt, former Detroit Catholic Central star now playing college ball at Duke, and Lofton Greene, the River Rouge coach.

It is the only basketball camp Thomas, the sparkling Detroit Piston point guard and former Indiana All-American, conducts, although he makes guest

appearances at others.

According to Thomas, the emphasis of the camp is on "mostly fundamentals. A lot of these kids know how to play, they just don't know the right way."

Thomas evidently knew that it would be impossible for the youths, 7-18 years old, to absorb all the finer points of being a basketball player. Many were more interested in seeing and talking to their heroes than playing basketball.

"I WANT TO learn something" was Mike Meehan's reason for attending the camp. A sophomore-to-be at Livonia Churchill, Meehan plans on playing either varsity or junior varsity for the Chargers this winter. Whatever he can

learn at the camp he figures will be to his benefit.

"Most of the instructors say, 'If you learn one thing well, the camp will have been worth it,'" said Meehan.

The camp did bring out the best in the participants. Most were eager to show off their stuff to their peers, and the competition was intense.

How much they learned may not be evident until the various cage seasons start. Thomas played his role to perfection: He instructed those looking for instruction, and he joked with the kids who just wanted to rub elbows with a star.

He certainly lived up to his billing.



ART EMANUELE/staff photographer

Isiah Thomas (from left) talks basketball with Derrick Cameron, 13, of Detroit and David Derhardt, 10, of Troy. Thomas conducted a camp last week at Madonna College in Livonia.

All-star gridgers set for battle

The East, with eight Observer & Eclectic-area players on the roster, will meet the West Saturday, Aug. 7, in the second renewal of the Michigan High School All Star Football game. Kickoff time is 1:40 p.m. at Michigan State University's Spartan Stadium.

The game, an attempt to showcase Michigan's recently graduated high-school football talent, is sponsored by the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association. It benefits Ronald McDonald House, which provides housing close to hospitals so that parents may stay near their seriously ill children, and a college scholarship fund for Michigan students.

Five of the O&E-area players are

from Oakland County communities. Dave Yarema, a 6-foot-3, 187-pound quarterback, and Jim Cerocchi, a 6-3, 210-pound defensive lineman, are 1982 graduates of Birmingham Brother Rice. Other Oakland County products are defensive back Walt Hulse (6-1, 180) from Birmingham Groves, defensive end Derek Woodmore (6-1, 190) from Auburn Heights Avondale and running back Carl Pelagatti (5-9, 170) from Orchard Lake St. Mary's.

Area Wayne County players include tight end Tom Redilla (6-3, 205) from Redford Union, linebacker Darrell Barkotwicz (6-1, 215) from Plymouth Salem and defensive back John Bieltis (6-1, 190) from Livonia Churchill.

Trenton's Jack Castignola will coach the East squad with help from Dearborn Fordson's Charles Justice, Marysville's Walt Braun and Royal Oak Kimball's Paul Ternerian.

The West team will be coached by Traverse City's Jim Ooley. He'll be assisted by Escanaba's Jerry Cvensgro, Sturgis' Harvey Pierce and Plainwell's Jack Stridel.

In the inaugural game last year, the East beat the West, 6-3. The East's touchdown came on a 79-yard pass play from Sterling Heights Stevenson's Steve Clouter to Temperance-Bedford's Todd Stoner with 1:20 left to play.

The touchdown was the end result of a trick play. Clouter pitched out to De-

troit Central's Steve Jones, who then flipped the ball back to Clouter.

Last year's game, played on a rainy Saturday, drew 11,400 spectators.

"We didn't get that many paid," said Farmington Harrison coach John Herrington, an assistant coach for the East last year and now the public relations man for the coaches association.

A lot of people just walked in. Security will have to be tightened this year.

Tickets, at \$3 each, may be ordered in advance by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to All-Star Tickets, Post Office Box 103, Okemos 48861. Tickets at the game will be \$4 each.

Bloomfield Legion earns place in zone tournament

Bloomfield Hills has earned a berth in the upcoming American Legion Zone baseball tournament next weekend thanks to a come-from-behind victory over Oxford in 18th District American Legion play last week.

Manager Norm Kaplan's Bloomfield Hills squad and Royal Oak are the 18th District teams in the zone tournament, scheduled Aug. 6-8 at Royal Oak Memorial Park and Royal Oak Kimball and Berkley high schools.

Bloomfield Hills, sporting a 19-6 record and riding an eight-game winning streak through last Thursday, scored the winning run against Oxford with two out in the bottom of the seventh inning on a pinch-hit single by Jeff Price, who was making his first appearance at the plate in 12 games.

B.J. Cameron scored the winning run

on a close play at the plate. Bill Rankin belted a solo home run for Bloomfield in the sixth. Kevin Granader, Jim Robertson and Pete Orman each had two hits for the winners.

Winning pitcher Joe Sheeran (4-2) survived a shaky start (four runs on five hits in the first two innings), going the distance, striking out nine and walking one.

In another recent game, Bloomfield Hills hung a 7-5 loss on the same Oxford team with Price again his mound effort.

Price, the third Bloomfield pitcher, was awarded a save for his mound efforts. He struck out the side with the tying run on the seventh inning. Starter and winner Scott Shafer (2-0) lasted 3 1/2 innings and gave up five hits.

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