

TUSCULUM

BASKETBALL

WHY ARE YOU HERE?

- Why are you here?

Why have you attended this camp, what is your motivation as a basketball player, who has helped you to come to camp, what are your expectations both here at camp and as a player for the coming year?

- Now that you're here, do you appreciate what you're being taught?

Do you understand what the coaching staff here at Tusculum is teaching you? They have put in hour after hour in preparing this camp, to make it special for you. The drills and skills that you are learning here in this three day period will help you improve as player, they are the cutting edge drills in Individual Skill Development. But, you won't improve if you don't take what you're learning here and apply it at home. That's why the coaches have you keeping a note book, so that you can write all this down, so you can take what they are teaching you and use it at home. That's how you improve. It's just is the essence of what Coach Boone told you on the first day - "There comes a time when winter ask, what have you done all summer?"

- I have had the great opportunity to coach in the NBA play-offs and the Finals, I have coached in minor league basketball, and at the college level. I think the best coaching job in the world is the minor league level, we are helping players to realize their dream.

- Where do you want to go, what is your dream?

Keep this in mind, it doesn't matter how good you are, it matters how you perform. And, how you perform is directly linked to what you are being taught here at this camp. It is directly linked to what you take from here and work on at home. It is directly linked to the number of quality hours you put into your game.

- **There could be an NBA player sitting here today**

We all know the story of Michael Jordan, he was cut in the 9th grade. How many people looked at Michael as an 8th grader for a 9th grader, and said there is an NBA player? Nobody!

- **Why was Michael so good, why is Kobe the best player in the NBA?**

You know that neither one of these two guys had a consistent jump shot coming into the league. But they worked, I mean they worked on their games. I am reading a book right now, it talks about people who are successful in life. They bring up the number 10,000. People who succeed work, they put in over 10,000 hours toward reaching their dream, making themselves better, toward reaching their goals.

Look at Jimmy Boone over there, his team set a school record for wins and going to the NCAA Tournament. Jimmy was the player of the week a couple of times during the season. He was a very important part of the team's success. Do you know what Jimmy is doing this summer. He is shooting 50,000 shots, he lifts 4 days per week, and he does a ball handling workout, very much like the one you are learning here at camp, three to four days per week. 50,000 shots - how many shots will you shoot this summer, shots that you keep track of and record like Jimmy is doing? When Jimmy came here as a freshmen, he was a good shooter with an average handle and he weighed about 160 pounds. Jimmy will go into next season as one of the best shooters in college basketball, with a great handle, and he weighs about 180 pounds - he is pure muscle. Not one of you guys in camp can stop him one on one.

- **Are you willing to put in 10,000 hours toward reaching your goal?**

If you are, I don't know if you are gifted enough to be an NBA player. But, I promise you this, if you're willing to put in 10,000 hours of work over the next few years, you can be a college basketball player.

- **In closing, is an NBA player sitting here today? I don't know . . . I don't know what is in your heart and your guts. But, I do know this - if you have the burning desire and passion to be a great player. If you have the work ethic to commit to 10,000 hours. If you have that knot in your stomach that drives the great ones. You can be a college basketball player.**

Thanks so much for you attention and coach-ability, all the best to you and your teammates for a great , great season.

Address to Tusculum College Elite Camp by former NBA Coach, Gerald Oliver