

SPORTS  
**FEATURE**

# Summer camp offers winning game plan for student-athletes

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

PITTSFORD — It taught far more moves than your average basketball camp.

And the players didn't even spend half the day in the gym.

Because in Joe Gigliotti's mind, dribbling and shooting skills are only part of a successful scholastic basketball player's portfolio.

"There are a lot of kids out there who are capable of being an athlete in college. But how many of them are student-athletes?" remarked Gigliotti, head men's basketball coach at Nazareth College from 1975-81.

Gigliotti now serves as a guidance counselor at Aquinas Institute. Last week, he combined his experience in both basketball and student development by overseeing a unique event at the East Avenue college: an academic-athletic camp.

Twenty-two boys, all entering seventh or eighth grade in the Rochester City School District, participated in the program from July 23-29. Each camper's comparatively low \$20 registration fee was made possible by sponsorships from Nazareth College and Citibank.

Daily activities featured basketball instruction from high-school varsity coaches such as Aquinas' Mike Dianetti and Penfield's Joe Foster. City School District teachers were also on hand to offer mentoring in reading, math and language arts.

In addition, Gigliotti emphasized traits such as leadership, interaction, respect, punctuality and responsibility. This training is vital, he said, since only a select few athletes are ever able to make a living playing basketball.

"We're teaching them about character. For a lot of these guys, the physical skills will only carry you so far," said Gigliotti.

"We want to teach them self-esteem and motivation. I want them to feel good this week about what they are as people," added camp staff instructor Gerard Farrell, who also serves as guidance director at McQuaid Jesuit High School.

Gigliotti said he hopes to make the camp an annual event and expand the program to include a wider range of age groups. In addition, he plans on doing follow-up consultations with this year's campers and their families in the upcoming months.

This multi-faceted philosophy worked well for at least two of last week's campers, Sharad Jiles and Alvin Johnson.

"I can play basketball anytime in my back yard. But learning, you can't do that there," said Sharad, 13, who will enter eighth grade at Charlotte Middle School next month.

"Sometimes you don't feel like coming here to do the work, but the work's good for you," remarked Alvin, 13,



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Jerod Reid (right) takes a jump shot over Donald Haywood during a one-on-one competition at the academic-athletic camp.

set to begin eighth grade at School of the Arts.

Both Sharad and Alvin plan to continue improving their on-court skills over the next several years. Yet they're also intent on earning college degrees — regardless of whether they attain basketball scholarships.

"It's just a sport," reasoned Sharad, who said he'd like to open his own business some day.

Alvin, meanwhile, said he plans on "getting a nice job if I don't make it to the NBA."

## Registration open for Monroe County summer sporting events

The following sporting events will take place within Monroe County over the next several weeks:

**Aug. 11-12 — "Relay for Life:"** Bishop Kearney High School, Irondequoit; runs 6 p.m. Fri. through 6 p.m. Sat.; running and walking event; benefits American Cancer Society; call 716/288-1950.

**Aug. 13 — St. John Fisher "Sports Day:"** Silver Stadium, Rochester; 2 p.m.; Fisher alumni and staff welcome; \$10, includes admission to Rochester Red Wings game and picnic lunch; call 716/385-8001.

**Aug. 14 — Our Lady of Mount Carmel Men's Golf Tournament:** Salmon Creek Country Club, Ogden; \$55; benefits Rochester's Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church; call Eunice Leone, 716/586-6256.

**Aug. 21 — John Bednarski Celebrity Invitational Golf Tournament:** Shadow Pines and Shadow Lake golf courses, Penfield; \$110; benefits Cystic Fibrosis Foundation; call 716/546-5890.

**Aug. 22 — Heritage Christian Home Foundation Golf Classic:** Eagle Vale Golf Club, Fairport; \$80; benefits Heritage Christian Home; call Bob Rood, 716/381-6550.

**Sept. 15 — Scott J. Bufano Golf Tournament:** Eagle Vale Golf Club; \$125; discount for foursomes; benefits AIDS Rochester; call Larry Zeiber, 716/442-2220.

**Sept. 18 — St. Joseph's Villa Golf Tournament:** Ridgemont Country Club, Greece; \$190; benefits the Villa; call 716/865-1550, ext. 284.

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