

## Pirate basketball experiences summertime successes

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High School sports in this day and age never sleeps, here are some updates on Pirate Basketball accomplishments thus far this off season.

Last week, a team of five Pirates played in the Nolan Fieldhouse League and competed with a lot of toughness winning three consecutive games to win the league tournament. The team consisted of juniors Steven Coyne, Josh King, and Kyle Hayes, sophomore transfer Kendall Thompson and incoming freshmen Chris Braun.

The team defeated CAI in a lopsided victory, but then had to turn around and play a very athletic and talented Rock Creek team in the semifinals. During that game, the Pirates came back from two double figure deficits including a 16 point deficit late in the second half to force overtime.

In overtime, the Pirates pulled out a one point victory on a terrific back-door feed from King to Coyne.

In the finals, the Pirates also gutted out another one point victory over South Central in overtime to win the league tournament.

"It was a gritty performance and it was great to see the kids compete and play with a lot of resiliency. I was very pleased with the way this group competed. They showed a lot of mental and physical toughness and they played really well together," commented Pirate Head Coach Sean Smith.

Additionally, a few weeks ago in the Salem League tournament, three of these Pirates, Steven Coyne, Kendall Thompson, and Chris Braun; along with junior Timmy Hall, sophomore Brad Baker and freshmen Aaron Daniel showed that same toughness nearly making it to the finals of that tournament after upsetting #2 seeded Eastern and then battling a physically tough West Washington team in the semifinals only to let the game get away late.

Despite being worn down from playing for the fifth consecutive day, the kids battled and showed a lot of mental toughness, gritty play and teamwork.

"It was a long summer, but I think that we found out a lot about our returning and incoming players", concluded Coach Smith.

For more information about Pirate Basketball, go to [www.CharlestownPiratePride.com/BoysBasketball.htm](http://www.CharlestownPiratePride.com/BoysBasketball.htm) .