



The Christ the King CYO Newsletter

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FAST BREAK

Monthly Newsletter

Fast Break is a monthly newsletter published by the **CTK CYO** in order to bring everyone the latest news, updates, and accomplishments of our boys and girls **CYO Basketball Programs** teams and players. Each month we will send out the newsletter with information on the teams, upcoming events and exciting programs that everyone in the CTK community can become part of.

The **CTK CYO** is proud to announce that beginning in the late winter of 2018 we are planning to have a competitive girls volleyball program. Legendary St. Anthony's High School Varsity Volleyball coach Donna Newman will be in charge of the new program. Coach Newman brings with her a wealth of coaching experience (25+ years) and was an All-American player when she attended Molloy College. This program will be designed specifically for those that want to play highly competitive volleyball and are looking to hone their skills so they can advance to the next level. Of course we will need volunteers to help support the program and to get it started. Look in the **ANNOUNCEMENT** section of this newsletter for updates and dates for informational meetings.

It's been a busy winter basketball season for the boys and girls. We had eight girls travel teams and eight boys travel teams entered in the Nassau-Suffolk CYO divisions. The girls divisions produced three playoff bound teams: 5th grade coached by Dave Gordon, 6th grade coached by Paul Gembs and 8th grade coached by Fred Vasselmann. We are wishing them well and are very proud of their accomplishments as they advance through the playoffs.

The boys travel teams are winding down the regular season and it looks like several of the teams will be playoff bound. As the final games approach each team is working hard in their practices to prepare themselves for the final leg of the season and the playoff grind ahead.

WHAT'S HAPPENING



Boys Divisions

High School League- The Boys High School League has proven to be quite entertaining. Each week we are getting more and more fans coming down to watch the games. Some outstanding performances have been turned in by the likes of Kevin Krach, Matt Feigenbaum, Travis Newman, Jaden Kealey and Matt Callahan. Crafty ballhandlers like Johnny Melville, Matt Pecoraro, Thomas Turturro, Matt Fajfer and Nick Greco get the crowd off their feet with their deft moves with the ball. Nick Greco created an uproar on 1/15 with his 40 ft. bankshot buzzer beater at halftime. Kevin Krach lit up the gym on 1/22 with a 30 point effort. How about the two games settled in overtime on 1/29!! Final regular season games are 2/12 and playoff action begins 2/26. All are welcome to come down to the **CTK GYM** and watch these exciting games on Sunday evenings.

Here are the H.S. Standings and League Leaders:

STANDINGS

	WINS	LOSSES
Team 3	4	3
Team 4	4	3
Team 1	4	3
Team 2	2	5

LEAGUE LEADERS

Rebounds

1-Travis Newman	116
2-Matt Callahan	93
3-Michael Cascone	79
4-Jaden Kealey	75
5-Antonio Figueroa	69

Assists

1-Thomas Turturro	21
2-Anthony Foti	19
3-Matt Fajfer	18
4-Travis Newman	17
Nick Greco	17
5-Matt Pecoraro	16

Points

1-Travis Newman	157
2-Kevin Krach	148
3-Nick Greco	113
4-Johnny Melville	106
5-Matt Callahan	90

8th Grade (Newman)- The 8th grade team coached by John Newman is currently in first place with a 8-1 record. The team is averaging 48 points per game while giving up only 31 points per game.

Key contributions are coming from everyone on the team whether it is on offense or defense. Balanced scoring is becoming the norm for each game as witnessed by the game on 1/22 against St. Philip Neri. In that game, won by the score of 59-38, Zach Lagrasta had 17 points, Joey Dietz had 16 points and Gavin Newman added 15 points. Antonio Figueroa has become a major force on the backboards and as a rim protector on defense. The team is also getting solid play off the bench from the likes of JJ Loscalzo, Kieran Bradley, Matt Barbero and Charles Whitcomb. The reemergence of Ryan Burke coming off a foot injury means more good things are going to happen for the team.

The team has three league games remaining and is looking to solidify a higher seed in the upcoming playoffs. The next game is against Infant Jesus on Friday 2/3 830pm at the CTK Gym.

6th Grade (Newfield)- The 6th grade boys have now won three straight games and four of their last five. With their full court press creating turnovers and with the boys sweeping the boards on defense, their suffocating style of play has led them to become the team to fear in the division. As they strive toward the playoffs, the team has been receiving strong contributions throughout the lineup.

After being inserted into the starting lineup, Aidan Borozi has stepped up his game to another level, while brother Jason Borozi continues to be a key cog in the boys recent run of success. Leading scorer Chris McHugh continues to play at a high level, while Nick Rubino and Ralph Severino have combined to lead the frontcourt with strong offensive rebounding and stifling defense.

The boys are looking to close out the season in their final three games with a long winning streak and momentum. Coach Mike Winter and Coach Jason Newfield are extremely proud of the boys' dedication, commitment, intensity and desire on the court. More importantly, they are a tremendous group of young men.

6th Grade (Gitz)-The 6th grade team coached by Chris Gitz and Chris Wozny has a record of seven wins and two losses. The team has been playing great team basketball as they have won the last six games they have played.

Aidan Murphy has been the consummate floor general taking charge in tough situations. Aggressive and gritty defensive play by Evan Sachs and Cameron Clark provides the team with the spark that ignites the offense. Giancarlo DiFava's ability to anticipate on the defensive end of the court has become a disruptive force to opponents. Christian Wozny continues to be dominant in the paint by leading the team in rebounds and second chance points. Spencer Alenik and Ethan Korenstein continue to answer the call and contribute much needed energy and effort. The consistent and unselfish offensive play of Michael Gitz and Adam Gonzalez has helped the team to average 40 points per game as the team becomes a force to be reckoned with in the league. Ethan Meisel adds smart and impactful play on both ends of the court, wreaking havoc on opponents.

All of the boys on the team are a pleasure to coach and continue to grow and develop as basketball players and as young men. This has been an exciting and fun filled season of basketball so far. The team is hoping to finish strong and make a run at the "B" division title.

5th Grade (Rosenoff)-The team is coached by Mark Rosenoff and Don Berozi. The team is currently 8-1 and is in first place in the "A" division which is a great accomplishment considering how many good teams there are. Every single player contributes to the success of the team. The boys are playing unselfish basketball and understand that outworking the opponent and playing hard defense is the recipe for success. They also understand that how you practice is how you play in the game. The team's hard work in practice is paying off and it certainly shows in the games. The coaches are proud of the effort that the team gives every single game. The boys are a pleasure to coach and watch.

5th Grade (Tuffy)-Coaches Mike Tuffy and Jaime Bello are very pleased with the progress of the team. After a very slow start, the team has won three of the last four games beating St. Lawrence 42-37, St Peter 47-41 and St. Dominic 52-32. The team has improved with great shooting, better passing and more consistent defense. The boy's basketball skills are rapidly developing, and they are hoping to make the playoffs by winning the last three games.

4th Grade (McConaghy)-The 4th grade team is coached by Brian McConaghy and Kevin Hughes. The team is having a great season as evidenced by their 4-2 record. The coaches have really enjoyed seeing the players improve their teamwork and basketball skills. C.J. Abbot, Joey Ruffino, Andrew McConaghy, and Anthony D'Angelo have been dishing and swishing from the outside. Sebastian Trent, JJ ramsay, Benny Hughes and Owen Kanganis have been bounding and astounding on the inside. Zach Fischman, Jeffrey Behar, and Jason Krauthamer have provided the hustle and muscle for some great team defense. The season is winding down with games remaining on 2/4 and 2/11.



GIRLS DIVISIONS

8th Grade (Vasselmann)- The eighth grade girls team is coached by Fred Vasselmann and is enjoying a tremendous year. They have just finished their fifth consecutive regular season going undefeated at 11-0 and enter the playoffs as the "A" division's first seed. This season, the CYO "A" division was expanded to twelve teams with the addition of two "B" division league champions. The CTK girls averaged 43 PPG offensively and impressively held their opponents to a league leading 30 PPG defensively.

The team has been together for five years and has been a consistent force in the CYO "A" division. Their overall CYO record for the last five years is 52-8!! Their motto is "All for One and One for All" and they have proven time and again that no team competes harder or with more commitment and desire than them.

This was by far the most difficult season where teams went to great lengths to try and disrupt and distract their focus on the court. However, the players, parents and coaching staff of the team always maintained the highest level of dignity, class, and integrity representing CTK to the highest level.

On 1/29 the team faced returning "A" Division Champion St. Agnes of Rockville Centre in a semi-final match-up. It was a rematch of last years final which St. Agnes won by one point in the last seconds of the game.

The game turned out to be a thriller, as expected, with multiple lead changes early on. In the final minutes of

the game with CTK up by eleven points, St. Agnes went on a 8-0 run to cut the lead down to three. CTK girls countered with a 10-0 run down the stretch going 4 of 5 from the free throw line to close out the game and earn the 47-37 win.

The team advances to the finals on 2/12 to be held at St. Mary's in Manhasset. They will be playing Good Shepherd of Holbrook and this is the first time in years that two Suffolk County teams are playing in the Nassau/Suffolk CYO finals. Congratulations and good luck in the finals!

5TH Grade (Gordon)-The 5th grade girls team is coached by Dave Gordon, Jason Loscalzo and Marty Kelly. The girls finished the regular CYO season without losing a game. They earned a first round bye in the post season tournament.

On Saturday 1/28 they hosted the quarter final game against the highly touted St. Agnes of Rockville Centre. After falling behind 18-17 with four minutes to go in the game, the team went on a 10-1 run to close it out and secured the 28-19 victory.

This Sunday is not only Super Bowl Sunday but also the semi-final playoff game for the team. They will meet the winner of the Our Lady of Hope vs. St. Agnes-1 game, on 2/5 at St. Bernard in Levittown. Game time is 345pm. Put the Super Bowl on hold and come down and support the team!! We wish them luck throughout the rest of the playoffs.

6th Grade (Gems)- The 6th grade team had an exciting regular season and finished with a 10-2 record. They entered the playoffs on 1/28 and did not disappoint with a convincing 32-22 victory over St. Philip Neri. Jesse Shisko set the tone of the game early on by swishing three outside shots in the first minute and a half of the game. Everyone on the team contributed in the win by keeping up a relentless pace and never relinquishing the lead. The team played an aggressive style of basketball right up to the final buzzer. The team advances to the second round of the playoffs on 2/11 at St. Gertrude in Bayville against St. Patrick of Huntington game time is 415pm. We wish them luck throughout the playoffs and make sure to come out and support the team!

7th Grade (Orlando)- The 7th grade team coached by Mike Orlando finished off a terrific season with an 8-4 record, missing the playoffs by just one game. The team showed great improvement over the course of the season both as individuals and as a team. The girls excelled on defense, making it hard on even the best opponents to score. In addition to playing the best defense in our league, there were plenty of bright spots on the offensive side with clutch shooting and great ball movement.

Special thanks go out to Ed Johnson and Randy DeYulio for their work as assistant coaches.

All the girls who tried out for their Middle School teams successfully made final cuts. Congratulations to Anna Orlando, Ava Espinoza, Brooke Kanganis, Daphne Koutsoukos, Jessica, Deyulio, Jordan DiPrima, Reese Johnson, and Ryann Reynolds for their achievements.

The girls were an absolute pleasure to coach. They are not only skilled basketball players but they are also outstanding young ladies. They were fun to be around and consistently displayed great sportsmanship in all situations. Hopefully they will build off of this year's success into their Middle School season and in the future.



K-2 Grade Clinic

The K-2 Clinic is being given by Coach John Newman and Coach Chris Gitz. It's been a hectic winter but our "clinicians" just keep on rolling along. Each week they are learning a new concept or skill and reinforcing what has been learned in the previous weeks. In addition to ball agility drills they have been introduced to speed and quickness drills. These are fun activities which are designed to improve things like lateral movement, feet quickness, jumping ability and overall agility. In recent weeks they have also been introduced to the V-cut and how to take a layup shot. Actual game play will be taking place as we near the end of the season. It will be exciting to see the players employ their new skills in live action! Check out the video of the clinic on the CTK website @ www.ctkcyo.net

ANNOUNCEMENT

Congratulations to the following members of Coach Newman's 8th Grade team:

Zach Lagrasta Joey Dietz
Ryan Burke Gavin Newman

All four were members of this year's 8th grade Commack Middle School team and were key components to the success of the team which went 9-1.

Congratulations to the following student-athletes for making the Honor Roll for the past Marking Period:

6th Grade Girls (Gembs):

Eva Dickinson Julianna Gembs
Isabelle Lanza Deanna Pagliaro
Jenna Pasqual Jessica Shisko
Lauren Vlacanich Lindsey Scully

8th Grade Boys (Newman):

Matthew Barbero Kieran Bradley
Joey Dietz Antonio Figueroa
Gavin Newman

The first informational **CTK Volleyball** meeting for the 2018 season will be held on Thursday March 2 @ 715pm in the CTK Gym. Any girls that are in the 6th-12th grade as of February 2018 will be eligible to participate in the program. We need people to volunteer as coaches, scorekeepers and lines people in order for the program to move forward. Coach Donna Newman will be present to answer any questions that you may have on March 2.

CTK will be hosting the Girls 6th Grade A, B, and C division finals on Sunday February 12th beginning at 2pm. All are welcome to attend to see some exciting Girls basketball action.



TRIVIA QUESTION OF THE MONTH JANUARY

What former CTK player played for the Notre Dame Fighting Irish and legendary coach Digger Phelps in 1973-74. (Hint.. he also played for Jim Boeheim at Syracuse in 1976-77)

Answer: Bill Drew....Bill played at Christ the King for Ken Hanlon and Ed Sullivan in the late 60's. He became an All-Suffolk County High School player while attending Commack South and Centereach High Schools. He attended Notre Dame for two years and would finish his career at Syracuse University under Jim Boeheim.

TRIVIA QUESTION OF THE MONTH

FEBRUARY

Do you recognize this team and the players?

What rare feat did they accomplish?

Email your answer to theace5120@aol.com

