



THE HOOP SCOOP

Strengthening Community Through Sport

→ Honoring Jess Spencer's Dedication to Youth Basketball



If you've attended any GF Hoops programs or clinics, you may have experienced the joy and inspiration that Jess (Conicelli) Spencer brings to our community. Jess has been an essential part of GF Hoops since 2015, sharing her passion for basketball and her commitment to young athletes. She has led the K-2 winter program and our 4th-grade developmental team, trained our FCYBL Select teams, and ran our year-round clinics, summer camps and coaches' training.

Jess's remarkable basketball career began at Biola University, where she earned the title of GSAC Women's Basketball Player of the Year and was inducted as a Women's Basketball Hall of Fame "Ring of Honor" Honoree. She went on to play professionally in Belgium, Luxembourg, and Switzerland, achieving the prestigious Eurobasket Forward of the Year honor. Her skill, discipline, and love for the game are qualities she instills in every young athlete she coaches.

Jess, thank you for all you do. You are a treasured part of the GF Hoops family. We Love you, Jess!

Now residing in Wilmington, NC, with her husband and two year-old daughter, Jess is building an exciting and vibrant athletic program as the Athletic Director at Providence Preparatory School. Despite her new responsibilities, Jess remains connected to GF Hoops, and we are thrilled that she will be back with us for our winter 2nd-grade training program, along with our summer camps in 2025.

New 3X3 Format for Girls High School Basketball League



In the spirit of the excitement and energy from the Summer Olympic Games, we're thrilled to kick off our inaugural Girls High School 3v3 Basketball League! Get ready to bring your A-game and showcase your skills in a fun, fast-paced environment!

3v3 basketball is a blast for several reasons!

- **Fast-Paced Action:** Fewer players means games move quickly
- **Skill Development:** Players improve faster with more touches
- **Team Dynamics:** Smaller teams foster stronger teamwork
- **Less Pressure:** A relaxed atmosphere allows for more enjoyment
- **Strategic Gameplay:** Focus on spacing, and decision-making
- **Social Interaction:** A fantastic way to meet new people

What to Expect:

- **Dynamic 3v3 Format:** Shorter, high-intensity games
- **Team Formation:** Sign up with friends or we will find a team for you
- **Olympic Spirit:** Embrace the competitive vibe and style of play
- **Game Rules:** See our website at [Girls 3v3 rules](#)
- **Schedule:** Regular weekend games & final championship tournament

Come ready for fun, bring your friends and enjoy the game in a new dynamic format! Register for only \$99 by logging into your account [here](#)



Great Falls Basketball Shines at the Reston Summer League



This summer, seven boys' teams from Great Falls Basketball took on the Reston Summer League and delivered outstanding performances, often competing against older and larger teams. Our athletes demonstrated impressive skill, teamwork, and resilience across all age groups.



The **Junior Varsity Great Falls Spartans**, coached by Karen Rewalt, rose to the challenge against tough high school competition, showcasing their hard work and determination.



In the **Fairfax Stars League**, the **8th Grade Boys team**, led by Tavis Laws and Josh Wilson, claimed the championship title, a remarkable achievement for both coaches and players.



The **7th Grade Ballers**, coached by Sean Armah, fought their way to the championship in a league with teams often a year older and significantly bigger. Despite these challenges, the Ballers displayed outstanding teamwork and camaraderie, proving their resilience.

For our **6th graders**, two teams represented Great Falls with pride: the **Rising Stars**, coached by Adam Harper, who won the championship, and the **Flip Mode Squad**, led by Kevin Chaikin, who finished in the top three. Both teams played with exceptional skill and determination.



Our **5th Grade team**, led by Tommy Barletta, played up in the 6th-grade league, showing impressive growth and resilience. Their hard work paid off with a playoff win, signaling bright futures for these young athletes.

Finally, our **4th Grade division** featured three incredible teams: the **Sizzle**, coached by Shaun Lasseigne, the **Combat Wombats**, led by Adam Bovenzi, and the **Rim Wreckers**, guided by Osman Baig. All three teams placed in the top four, with Sizzle winning the championship and the Combat Wombats securing the runner-up position.

Congratulations to all the players and coaches for a fantastic season! Great Falls Basketball is proud of our teams' accomplishments, and we look forward to more victories and growth in the future. Go GF Hoops!



Did you know: The original game of basketball had nine players on each team, not five!

GF Hoops Celebrated Halloween Spooktacular at the Village Green

Where the community enjoyed meeting and taking photos with our mascot, **Luna the RUFFeree!** Luna delighted everyone by handing out over 1,200 pieces of candy!



Great Falls Basketball Gives Back to Schools & Community

Great Falls Basketball (GF Hoops) has been making a significant impact on our community by giving back to local schools, students, and charities in meaningful ways.

PTA/PTO

Since 2021, GF Hoops contributed over \$20,000 to parent teacher organizations by partnering with them to bring summer basketball camps to their schools. GF Hoops camps provide a fun and active summer option for 1st through 6th graders. Registrations open each February.

Gyms/Schools

GF Hoops contributes to schools by providing essential gym equipment, such as backboards, nets, brooms, and rims. This year, we plan to fund the installation of AEDs in two gyms, adding a crucial safety resource for students, coaches, and spectators alike.

Accessibility

To ensure accessibility for all families, GF Hoops maintains a Financial Aid program, offering reduced or waived registration fees to those in need. Since 2021, over \$3,000 has been offered to families, so that every child has the opportunity to participate.

Scholarships & Awards

GF Hoops supports young athletes through scholarships and awards. Since 2021, the "Poyner High School Senior Scholarship," honoring Matt Poyner, has awarded \$45,000 to 45 graduating seniors who volunteer their time with GF Hoops. The "Live Like Lily" award, introduced in 2023 in memory of Lily Kishore, recognizes outstanding young referees and coaches, with \$1,200 awarded so far.

Charitable Organizations & the Community

GF Hoops goes beyond basketball by supporting charitable causes. Our annual Hoops Challenge and Sock Drive have benefitted "It's From The Sole," which provides footwear to underserved communities, and "Shots for Shots," funding vaccinations in Haiti. We also donate to local youth events like Langley Girls' and Boys' Youth Nights, Celebrate Great Falls, and sponsored the CRES 25th Anniversary Gala.

With a dedication to community service and a passion for youth development, GF Hoops strives to be a cherished partner and positive force in our community

➔ Alumni Spotlight: Danny Hosley – From the Court to Diamond!

Danny "Do-It-All" Hosley played with GF Hoops from 4th grade through his senior year in high school and fondly remembers earning the title of GF Hoops Tournament Champion with his buddies. When asked what he enjoyed most about his time on the courts with us, he said "I loved being able to connect with guys I went to school with, friends who went to other schools and play basketball together."

After completing his D1 baseball career at George Mason, Danny joined the Savannah Bananas, where he combines his athletic skill with entertainment, captivating fans with his charisma and unique style of play. This winter, we're excited to welcome Danny back on our courts as a referee—autographs will be limited to GF Hoops players only! Join us in celebrating Danny Hosley—a remarkable athlete and inspiring alumnus who continues to make waves in the sports world. Go #18!



