

Bayhawks start season with kids' clinic in Erie Hall

TOBY KELLER
assistant news editor

On Oct. 23-24, Penn State Behrend hosted the second annual Erie Bayhawks Basketball Clinic in Erie Hall, put on for students in grades one through eight. Over 100 kids from across the north east region of the United States, including some from Canada, attended the two day event, learning the fundamentals of basketball, running through drills with former NBA players and scrimmaging against each other.

The camp was led by the Erie Bayhawks coach Jay Larranaga, who played professional basketball for 12 years in Italy, Spain and Greece. Ben McDonald, who played for five years in the NBA and five years overseas, and is the Bayhawks assistant coach, was also in attendance.

Players Kyle Goldcamp and Cedric Jackson helped run the clinic, which was considered a success and continued the Bayhawks' growth as an organization. The Erie Bayhawks are an expansion

team that entered the NBA's D league in the 2008-2009 season. One of 16 teams in a league that boasts of competition from overseas, D1 colleges and players who drift in and out of NBA contracts, the Bayhawks play at Tulio Arena in Erie. They made the playoffs in their premier season, but lost to Colorado in the first round.

November Schedule

NOV 13 @ FORT WAYNE
NOV 19 VS SPRINGFIELD
NOV 20 VS SPRINGFIELD
NOV 26 @ FORT WAYNE
NOV 28 @ FORT WAYNE

They are a franchise dedicated to the development of professional basketball players, and have close affiliations to the Cleveland Cavaliers and Toronto Raptors. Danny Green and Darnell Jackson occasionally played for the team last year, both are now signed to full contracts with the Cavs.

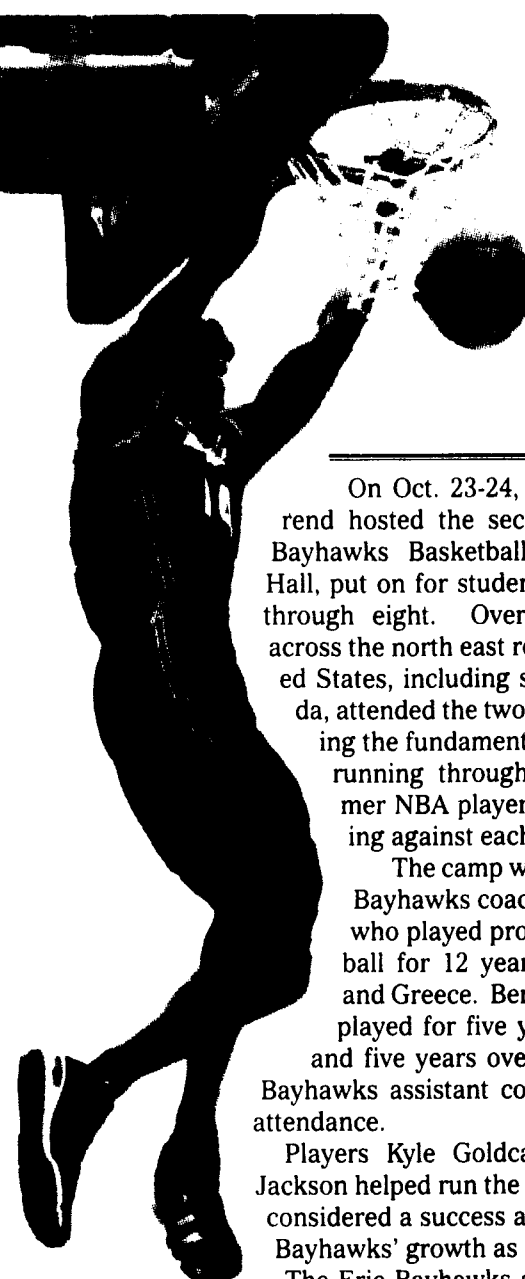
Cedric Jackson, who played for the

Bayhawks last season, spent much of his time playing for NBA teams on 10-day contracts. He is now attending Cleveland State University. Players who spend two years in the NBA are no longer eligible to play in the D league, which has become not only a developmental stage for progressing professional athletes, but it also serves as a science experiment for the NBA to test new rules and play conduct.

The D League continues to grow in popularity. It is a competitive league that people can experience for a fraction of the cost of going to an NBA game. The league has recently signed a contract with the television station Versus to air its games. Once people are introduced to the Bayhawks and their competition, the high level of basketball is apparent, which has made them a success.

The clinic held at Behrend was a premier learning experience for students with a love for the game of basketball.

Young athletes took part in the clinic, and got to learn from players who are on the road to professional basketball. Those in attendance seemed to enjoy the event, while learning fundamental skills from great players.



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