

## '2017 Press Release'

### "For the Love of the Game, Darrell still remembered"

Thank you all for your interest in our BullDawgs Tournament being held May 13th and 14th. This years event will again be dedicated in memory to a very influential coach, person and father. "Darrell Hirashima" I am very honored to be able to do this special dedication to such a great man.

The love for a man that truly touched all of our hearts will be truly remembered May 10th weekend. The BullDawgs Basketball Club, an AAU club that is a member of the Pacific AAU District will be running a tournament this weekend throughout the Peninsula. Over 90 teams participated in 2010, 154 teams in 2011, 194 teams in 2012, 234 teams in 2013 playing games in various gyms from Daly City to Los Altos. Over a thousand people will come together again to honor Darrell Hirashima in this year's **15th Annual event**.

Alfonso Joo, President and founder of the BullDawgs Basketball Club, felt that something should be done to honor Darrell. "I have been running tournaments and helping out the community for several years" "When Darrell passed I felt like the bay area lost a truly great man who loved the game, a true gentleman and mostly a great mentor" I started to think about it and started to plan a way to honor such a great man. So the next part was easy, we took our annual Pacific Tournament held every year during May since 2002 and proceeded to change the name to the "Darrell Hirashima Tribute in 2009" It was great to get the final approval from the family. The family has been great in organizing this event. Dustin, Darrell Jr. and Trisha from Orinda Magic are truly great friends.

"We really wanted to make it something special, so we added a Scholarship in Darrell's name' The Darrell Hirashima, "For the Love of the game" award to a graduating Senior.

*From the Orinda Magic Website:*

*"Magic has suffered a devastating loss in the form of president, founder and heart of the Magic program. Darrell Hirashima, loving husband, devoted father and committed basketball coach passed away late in the afternoon on a Friday after nearly two weeks on life support. Darrell had suffered a massive heart attack on Sun., Dec. 7, his second since August and succumbed to his injuries Fri., Dec. 19. Darrell left behind a wife, Theresa, a daughter, Trisha, and two sons, Darrell Jr. and Dustin as well as scores of players both former and current. He will be remembered as a man who was dedicated to sharing his love of basketball through development and competition"*

*Awards for 1st Place will be Crystal awards and will be etched as the "Darrell Hirashima Tribute 2017". Tournament T-Shirts will be sold with all teams listed participating. We will also add a dedication to Darrell Hirashima. The "Hirashima" scholarship to selected Graduating Seniors will be open this year to all clubs! Criteria will be sent out to Coaches on requirements!*

*"We are more than a Basketball Club, we are a family of friends"*

#### **Past Player Recipients**

2000-Austin Sutta	2006-Courtney Fearon	2012- Jenna Yee	2015 Kylie Kiech
2001-Tori Markey	2007-Daneesha Stallworth	2013 Calila Que Cruickshank	2015 Emma Pastorino
2002-Molly Nohr	2007-Katie Batlin	2013 Courtney Dana	2015 Kian McNair
2003-Jontelle Smith	2009-Deserie Azlin	2013 Dana Michaels	2016 Julie Anne Martin
2003-Jene Morris	2010-Stephanie Golden	2014 Kimmey Tom	2016 Rayanna Ross
2004-Brittany Boswell	2011- Erin Joo	2014 Maddie Guidoux	2016 Ashley MacDonald
2005-Marnique Arnold	2011- Bene Leticia Ocegüera	2014 Morgan Ramee	2017 To Be Announced
2005-Jaleesa Ross	2011-Gina Del		

*Alfonso Joo*

**BullDawgs Basketball Club**