

Latest news and bulletin updates

June Spotlights

Past, present, and future student athletes

Past

PJ Edwards spent his freshman year (2021-22) at the University of Central Florida. PJ was the starting Shooting Guard for MPA in the 2019-20 season, our best season statistically since MPA's inception. That year, MPA's overall record was 28-8, and our team won the most Grind Session games (24) in the history of the league, also capturing the Grind Session's record for the longest winning streak: 20 games. PJ is one of the best two-way players MPA has seen. PJ is now entering his 2nd year at UCF and plans to be an impact player for them this year.

Present

DJ Jefferson has grown tremendously since he arrived at Minnesota Prep. Before joining our school, DJ had two college offers: from TCU and Bryant University. Six months after starting at Minnesota Prep, DJ received 14 high major Division I offers, becoming Minnesota Prep's highest-recruited player ever. He also became a top 50 player (#45) in the country for the class of 2022, making him the highest-ranked player in Minnesota Prep history. After playing in the Iverson Classic All-Star Game and reopening his recruitment, DJ has committed to the University of Tennessee Volunteers. Jefferson will be a name to remember in the near future.

Future

Jalyn Patterson is the youngest player to ever play on The Grind Session. His first year he was 13 years old throughout the whole Grind Session season. He scored a season-high 15 points against DCTC, a community college in a suburb of Saint Paul, MN. He also scored 13 points against Oak Hill. This year, he contributed big minutes as a backup point guard, starting in 5 games. He let it be known that in the near future he's gonna be a problem, with displays of some spectacular plays & high IQ basketball. As a 14-year-old freshman, Jalyn has received his first official offer from Tulsa University's coach Frank Haith.



Picture caption:DJ Jefferson top left, P.J. Edwards top right, Jalyn Patterson lower center

PJ Edwards

<https://youtu.be/18Ifwp1sqDU>

Dj Jefferson

<https://youtu.be/iO3Y-299urM>

Jalyn Patterson

<https://youtube.com/shorts/5QqsNW6wNGM?feature=share>

June addition

The Latest News from the Coaches

Lucas Patterson

This year has been one of the most successful off the court but the most challenging year on the court. Still in the midst of COVID, everything is moving closer to back to normal as we knew it. The talent on our High School National team is by far the most talented team in the school's short 4-year history... With multiple injuries and a few setbacks after our very successful Target Center event, we started to trend backwards and never really gained our footing back the rest of the year due to the loss of players to injuries. Injuries and circumstances outside of our control plagued the remainder of our season...

Through it all, there's always a silver lining, and we were able to get 8 seniors into school on full athletic scholarships: 4 Division I and 4 Junior College signed student athletes! This year was the most kids in history that held an offer from a Division I school on our roster, which was 9. Our expectations next year is nothing less than a The Grind Session championship. Our coaches are working hard to get student athletes to our school that have our core values: Focus Effort Energy, which we call paying the FEE, to Empower and Prepare them for the next levels.



NYA & MPA

We're Better Together!

Our partnership with the 501(c)3 nonprofit Neighborhood Youth Academy (NYA) is that of a seamless relationship. Not only is NYA our fiscal agent, but our programming and leadership are of one accord. The NYA shares the core values in serving our communities and aims to empower youth to be the "captain of their own ship," through mentorship and direction from our established entities. As long as Minnesota Prep is trending upward, Neighborhood Youth Academy will be an integral part of orchestrating growth behind the scenes to make sure programming and organization is on the cutting edge. We are proud to be in this partnership with the NYA and look forward to continuing this relationship for years to come.

www.mplsnya.org

Dream Big Achieve High! The latest updates

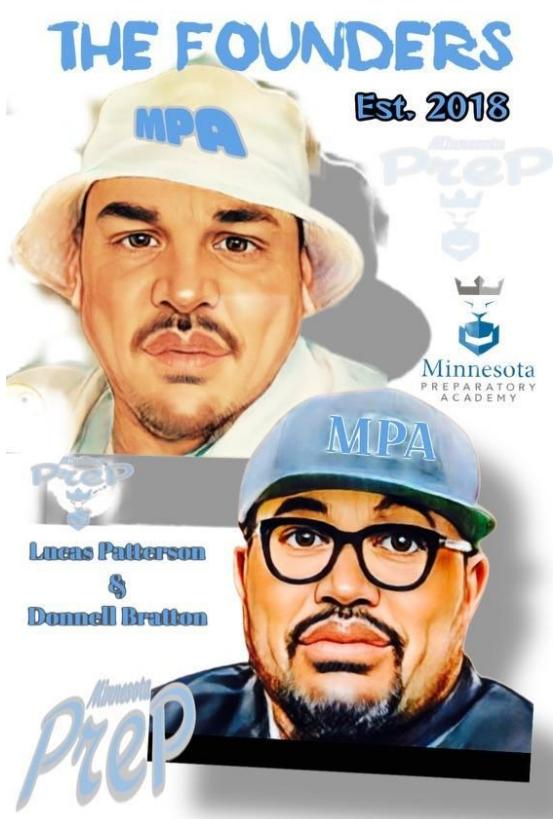
In Conjunction with NYA, this year we are planning to have a fall Gala to promote achievement for students to live out their wildest dreams, through our Dream BIG Achieve High campaign. We need the community's help to make their dreams a reality by supporting these student athletes through our administrative & programming support. We're aiming for an event the second week of October. Watch for more details to come soon!



June Edition 2022

MPA NEWS

Issue #1



Founders Lucas Patteerson & Donnell Bratton

First black owned prep school in the Midwest. Over the years, prep schools have dominated the high school basketball scene. There are only a few local high school leagues in the country that would be considered worthy opponents against top prep school competition in the country. Prep schools have been a reservoir for college coaches for quite a while on the East Coast and in the South. The Midwest and West Coast have been late to the party the past 30 years, but lately these regions have been heavy contributors to the prep school reality.

As controversial as prep schools may have been in recent years, they have been a true benefit to the student athletes and college recruiters that obtain prep kids from tough prep school leagues. While prep school demographics typically reflect that of young black males throughout the country, the owners/hierarchy at these schools don't often reflect the overwhelming skin tones of these student athletes. This can ultimately become an issue and has created issues in the past. There has been an overwhelming lack of advocacy for student athletes of color. Student athlete advocacy is just as important as playing exposure events. Often, student athletes find themselves being extorted for their name, image and likeness by talent scouts that only have their own interests in mind.

There are prep school leaders and coaches of all races, and many have their student athletes' best interests at heart, but in reality, some don't. At Minnesota Prep, we are hoping to shine a light on the inequities faced largely by Black student athletes in the prep school community, and the need for more advocacy for these young men. Minnesota Prep is a Black-owned and led prep school, and we publicly advocate for more Black-owned prep schools. The leaders at Minnesota Prep have lived experiences like those of their student athletes and have their

Many think that the prep school model shuns traditional public-school athletics. At Minnesota Prep, we have seen first-hand the reality that American public high schools have been failing Black students and their families for years, even promoting the "school to prison" pipeline.

We have not set out to change the world, just to speak truth to it, and to convey messages of empowerment to our student athletes. We strive to promote more positive and self-fulfilling outcomes for each student's journey in this thing called life! We embrace all energies and welcome all challengers. For us the proof is in the results, and in the life-changing situations for the students we touch, move and inspire...

www.mnprepacademy.org



students' best interests in mind
at all times.

Jerry Gambles Boys & Girls Club partnership

Cofounder Lucas Patterson has been in a working relationship with Jerry Gambles Boys & Girls Club since 2010. It started with a 4th grade boys traveling basketball team appropriately named Future Academic Ballers.

For the simple fact that this program has sent 44+ student athletes to college on full athletic college scholarships in the past 4 years is beyond remarkable. FAB has worked with over 400 youth participants in the inner city, in a matter of 12 years of existence. Touch, move and inspiration has been the Ultimate goal for this program, and it has not disappointed.

Moving forward, with an advanced version of the program "Future Academic Ballers" It morphed into a school (Minnesota Prep) that was built to serve the student Participants in a much more introspective way and help navigate through the rigors of the college athletic trenches... Jerry Gambles boys & Girls Club has been with these movements every step of the way. Growing and empowering each other at every turn, it's been both pleasurable & enjoyable working alongside the crew at the Gambles. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the club. The future is bright!!!

"Great futures start here!"



Future Goals for MPA

- To own a facility that merits all the needs for our school reality & strategic partners
- Add Girls Basketball
- Add Track
- Grow our Board of Directors
- Expand our faculty
- Start a regional basketball program for developmental purposes
- Add on to our strategic partnerships as we grow and expand



William Shorty Patterson Scholarship

The Shorty Patterson Scholarship Fund supports scholarships for young student athletes who would not be able to afford the opportunity to attend Minnesota Prep.

William Shorty Patterson (June 4, 1935 - June 28, 2022)

William "Shorty" Patterson was one of a handful of black students at North High. Because of his exceptional athletic abilities and massive frame, standing at 6'8 and all muscle, many aspects of life transcended race for William.

But that wouldn't be true in all aspects. While at Gustavus Adolphus College, Patterson experienced unbelievable racism and discrimination as a basketball player. Traveling down south in the 1950s was not easy for black men. While Gustavus made their way to the championships in Kentucky, William was experiencing a whole new set of laws and rules for black people in the south. Not only could he not go in the stores that his white counterparts could, he also could not stay in the same hotels and housing as his teammates. At the facility, the bantering and heckling from the stands was relentless. No human being should ever encounter this type of disrespect.

Even worse was that in Kentucky they wouldn't let Shorty play, telling the Gustavus coaching staff that it would incite a riot in the gymnasium." The names and comments that were yelled from white people were unreal," a former teammate said.

Despite those adverse experiences, Shorty was still able to become a top player in the country and was picked in the 10th round of the 1958 NBA draft by the Minneapolis Lakers.

William "Shorty" Patterson is a testament to strength in adversity, enduring racial trials and tribulations and being able to stand up in the face of the abusers. Stories like his need

to be told so everyone can understand the racial trauma that still lives in so many people and is often handed down through generations.

Cont:

To change this narrative, we must first change ourselves and be honest with ourselves. Change is inevitable, and with understanding, commitment and leadership - all the values that William "Shorty" Patterson possessed - we'll be able to change for the better.

Help a student athlete obtain these life-changing opportunities!

Give through the neighborhood youth academy 501c3 www.mplsnya.org/donations



College Scholarship money earned the past four years at Minnesota Prep for student athletes is roughly \$2 million in scholarships.

Special Thanks to

Twin Cities Co-op Change Matters Program

Raising over \$10,000 to continue to support our youth

NYA is built on Community support and serves as an opportunity to make a difference in children's lives!

THANK YOU for your contribution.

Donations are tax-deductible.

We accept PayPal. Visit

www.mplsnya.org/donations

Fun Facts

- States we visited this year
 - GA, CA, FL, KY, IN, AZ, D.C., NC, CO, VA, KS, TN, NY,
- Graduated 100% of our students
- National monuments visited
 - MLK, D.C., Mohammad Ali, HBCU's
- Coach Patterson has two sons that have been in the program