



E P W B A

END OF YEAR REPORT WINTER 2025

A review of the season with EPWBA



HELLO AND WELCOME

We hope that you have enjoyed the Winter 2025 season. This report is design to inform you of the experiences many had in our league. We take this information as part of our end of season review to determine how we can improve our program. In an effort to be transparent we share this information so that you are informed about the continued growth of this league

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OUR MISSION

Our mission is to promote, develop, and teach all volunteers and participants GOOD CHARACTER, PHYSICAL HEALTH, SPORTSMANSHIP, TEAMWORK, DISCIPLINE and FAIR PLAY.

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A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a basketball. The person has a tattoo on their left forearm. The background is dark and out of focus, showing what appears to be a basketball court floor.

TOP 15 SCHOOLS BY ENROLLMENT

1. **Benton Middle** – 48 Players
2. **Ashland Elementary** – 32 Players
3. **Saunders Middle** – 29 Players
4. **Springwoods Elementary** – 26 Players
- T5. **Lake Ridge Middle** – 24 Players
- T5. **Home Schooled** – 24 Players
7. **Kyle Wilson Elementary** – 23 Players
- T8. **Colgan High** – 22 Players
- T8. **Henderson Elementary** – 22 Players
10. **Marshall Elementary** – 20 Players
11. **Covington-Harper Elementary** – 17 Players
12. **Antietam Elementary** – 16 Players
13. **Porter Traditional** – 15 Players
- T14. **Montclair Elementary** – 14 Players
- T14. **Potomac Shores Middle** – 14 Players

INSTRUCTIONAL (2ND/3RD GRADERS)



INSTRUCTIONAL (2ND/3RD GRADERS)

Season in Review

Enrollment in Winter 2024	Enrollment in Winter 2025
109 Players	102 Players
16 Teams	12 Teams

Special Notes:

- Introduction to Game Competition
- 3 on 3 Basketball
- 2nd & 3rd Grade Boys and Girls

- **67 percent** of survey participants signed their child up for Instructional to introduce their child to the sport
- **94 percent** of survey participants indicated their coach's practices will very or mostly effective

Feedback



3 on 3 Format

Overall League Structure



Late Practices

The positive coaching and the fairness of play. This was an overall very positive experience

Practice is a little late - ending at 8:30 on school nights. But I get it.

PREP BOYS (4TH/5TH GRADERS)



Tournament Champions	Longhorns
National Conference Regular Season Champions	Badgers
American Conference Regular Season Champions	Longhorns

PREP BOYS (4TH/5TH GRADERS)

Season in Review

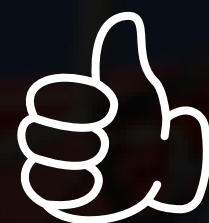
Enrollment in Winter 2024	Enrollment in Winter 2025
130 Players	146 Players
16 Teams	18 Teams

Special Notes:

- Introduction to 5 vs 5 Full Court Basketball
- Man to Man Defense Only
- 4th & 5th Grade Boys
- Largest Age Group in EPWBA

Feedback

- **52 percent** of survey participants had a child in Prep Boys who previously played in EPWBA Instructional League
- **100 percent** of survey participants indicated they would or most likely return next season



Growth of Players



Late Practices
Officiating

Being that this is our first season, I love that we actually have practices throughout the season.

I did not like that some of the practices went til 9pm at night.

The fact not all coaches or referees understood the rules. There was a lot of zones and trapping that happened.

PREP GIRLS (4TH/5TH GRADERS)



Tournament Champions	Liberty
Regular Season League Champions	Liberty

PREP GIRLS (4TH/5TH GRADERS)

Season in Review

Enrollment in Winter 2024	Enrollment in Winter 2025
46 Players	42 Players
6 Teams	6 Teams

Special Notes:

- Introduction to 5 vs 5 Full Court Basketball
- Man to Man Defense Only
- 4th & 5th Grade Girls
- First Age Group of All Girls League

- **60 percent** of survey participants had a child in Prep Girls who previously played in EPWBA Instructional League

Feedback



Growth of Players



Coles Elementary

Thoughts on Pre-Season Clinics

It was good need more skill development drills.

EXCELLENT! More of those type training sessions

We believe the pre-season skill training is a benefit for the girls to help learn the skill of the game. We hope they are offered again!

Thoughts on Coles Elementary

We definitely needed an hour and half. That was helpful but hated the small court

It wasn't always ideal, but we understand how much space is limited and we were happy there was a consistent space and time for our daughter and the team to work together

MIDDLE BOYS (6TH/7TH GRADERS)



Tournament Champions	Terrapins
National Conference Regular Season Champions	Tar Heels
American Conference Regular Season Champions	Mountaineers

MIDDLE BOYS (6TH/7TH GRADERS)

Season in Review

Enrollment in Winter 2024	Enrollment in Winter 2025
105 Players	115 Players
14 Teams	14 Teams

Special Notes:

- Introduction to Zone Defense
- 6th & 7th Grade Boys
- 2nd Largest Age Group in EPWBA

Feedback

- **0 percent** of survey participants had a child in Middle Boys who played on Middle School team
- **100 percent** of survey participants indicated they would or most likely return next season



Schedule
Consistent Locations



Practices Lost
From Weather

I loved the joy that the kids had playing... especially when coaches reinforced good sportsmanship. It really makes a difference.

I didn't like that so many practices were missed, but the weather and schools' lack of use of the community calendar is beyond the league's control.

MIDDLE GIRLS (6TH-8TH GRADERS)



Tournament Champions	Tempo
Regular Season League Champions	Tempo

MIDDLE GIRLS (6TH-8TH GRADERS)

Season in Review

Enrollment in Winter 2024	Enrollment in Winter 2025
44 Players	32 Players
6 Teams	4 Teams

Special Notes:

- Introduction to Zone Defense
- Starts in October to play season before PWCS season
- 6th – 8th Grade Girls

Feedback

No Survey Responses

FRESHMEN BOYS (8TH/9TH GRADERS)



Tournament Champions	Clippers
Eastern Conference Regular Season Champions	Hornets
Western Conference Regular Season Champions	Nuggets

FRESHMEN BOYS (8TH/9TH GRADERS)

Season in Review

Enrollment in Winter 2024	Enrollment in Winter 2025
89 Players	79 Players
10 Teams	10 Teams

Special Notes:

- Limited Practice Time, Focused on Recreational Experience
- 8th & 9th Grade Boys

Feedback



Good Competition



Unbalanced Teams

My son has been playing EPWBA for for 7 years now. It's always a good time and great way to stay in shape in the winter while on break for soccer.

The boys have fun and that's the important part for our family; being active and engaged in a team sport. Our son had fun getting to play rec ball against a lot of his friends

The competitive imbalance. 10 teams so 5 have to have winning records and 5 losing but the 5 worst teams were so much worse.

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS (10TH-12TH GRADERS)



Tournament Champions	Kings
Eastern Conference Regular Season Champions	Sixers
Western Conference Regular Season Champions	Kings

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS (10TH-12TH GRADERS)

Season in Review

Enrollment in Winter 2024	Enrollment in Winter 2025
88 Players	81 Players
10 Teams	10 Teams

Special Notes:

- Limited Practice Time, Focused on Recreational Experience
- 10th – 12th Grade Boys

Feedback



Playing on a Team
Building Relationships



Lack of Practices

Watching the kids play together that have known each other for many years in some cases. Giving the rec level player an outlet to keep playing at a certain competitive level.

We need more warm-up time between games, and the league should designate individuals to operate the clock. It's difficult for coaches to manage team warm-ups while also searching for someone to run the clock during their scheduled home game.

ROYALS TRAVEL TEAMS



ROYALS TRAVEL TEAMS

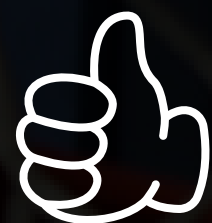
Season in Review

Enrollment in Spring 2025	Enrollment in Winter 2025
45 Players	52 Players
4 Teams	5 Teams

Special Notes:

- Runs from October – July
- Includes 6th – 8th Grade, Boys and Girls
- Member of the FCYBL During Winter 2025 Season
- Each Player Receives Development Plan from Coaches to focus on development of certain skills during season

Feedback



Competition
Consistent Schedule



Need More Gym Time

Great 2nd season and much improved since the very first season. We learned that EPWBA fits in and is not just another team in FCYBL, but can field competitive teams. That's amazing progress for only being involved in a program for 2 years when many of the teams start in 5th grade, and they are part of organizations that have been participated in the FCYBL since its inception 40 years ago

Thoughts on Royals versus Previous Travel Teams

Participating in the Winter Travel program is a great way for players to play in a more competitive environment when it is not possible to participate in a Summer AAU team (e.g., due to playing other sports such as baseball), and the cost provides a very attractive alternative compared to many programs that can cost \$1000s of dollars per year.

LEAGUE RESPONSE TO SURVEY TOPICS

- **Prep Girls – Coles Elementary As A Practice Site**
 - The EPWBA Board is aware of the concerns of the usage of Coles Elementary. The thought process behind using Coles Elementary was to provide more court time to focus fundamental skills. No other age group received the amount of court time that the Prep Girls received this season including Pre-Season Clinics, 1.5 hour practices and opportunities to get additional practices. We value this age group and the development of this group, but we also recognize the concerns that were presented. We will review the options available for next season.
- **Freshmen & High School Boys – Lack of practices**
 - Traditionally practices at these age groups have not been well attended. A decision was made many years ago to reduce the amount of practices for these two age groups. Players prefer to play games at this age group, mainly for the opportunity to play with or against their friends. Coaches have the option to request extra practices, but several coaches have expressed concerns with getting players willing to commit to attending these practices.
- **General League – More Court Time**
 - The EPWBA Board is aware of the many requests to have more time on the court, to run leagues outside of the winter season and provide more training. The EPWBA board is exploring options for each of these and will look to provide some news soon on opportunities to come soon.



THE PIPELINE

Starting in Winter 2024, EPWBA decided to provide a pathway for our Prep level players to prepare for travel basketball. The Pipeline Training program was designed to give families more opportunities to understand more about the rigors of travel basketball, while developing skills and building relationships with other potential travel players.

The overall EPWBA Pipeline starts as early as our Novice League with our 1st graders. Our goal is to develop certain skills by the end of season for those players so that by the time they reach the age of our travel program, they are prepared for that level.

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EXTRA PRACTICES

Top 12 Teams with Added Practices

1. **Hawkeyes (Middle Boys)** – 11 Practices
- T2. **Crimson Tide (Middle Boys)** – 9 Practices
- T2. **Heat (Freshmen Boys)** – 9 Practices
- T2. **Mountaineers (Middle Boys)** – 9 Practices
- T2. **Sixers (High School Boys)** – 9 Practices
6. **Thunder (Freshmen Boys)** – 8 Practices
7. **Razorbacks (Middle Boys)** – 7 Practices
8. **Tigers (Middle Boys)** – 6 Practices
- T9. **Bears (Prep Boys)** – 5 Practices
- T9. **Rockets (High School Boys)** – 5 Practices
- T9. **Patriots (Middle Boys)** – 5 Practices
- T11. **Raptors (Freshmen Boys)** – 4 Practices
- T11. **Terrapins (Middle Boys)** – 4 Practices

We believe practices are essential for the development of our players. We wanted to recognize the teams and the age groups who leveraged the opportunity to use the extra gym time. This season we were able to create 133 hours of extra practice time in addition to the regularly schedule practices at our local middle schools. These practices were available for all Prep – High School age groups using the lottery request process by the team’s coach.

Added Practices By Age Group

1. **Middle Boys** – 55 Practices
2. **Freshmen Boys** – 32 Practices
3. **High School Boys** – 21 Practices
4. **Prep Boys** – 20 Practices
5. **Prep Girls** – 3 Practices
6. **Middle Girls** – 2 Practices

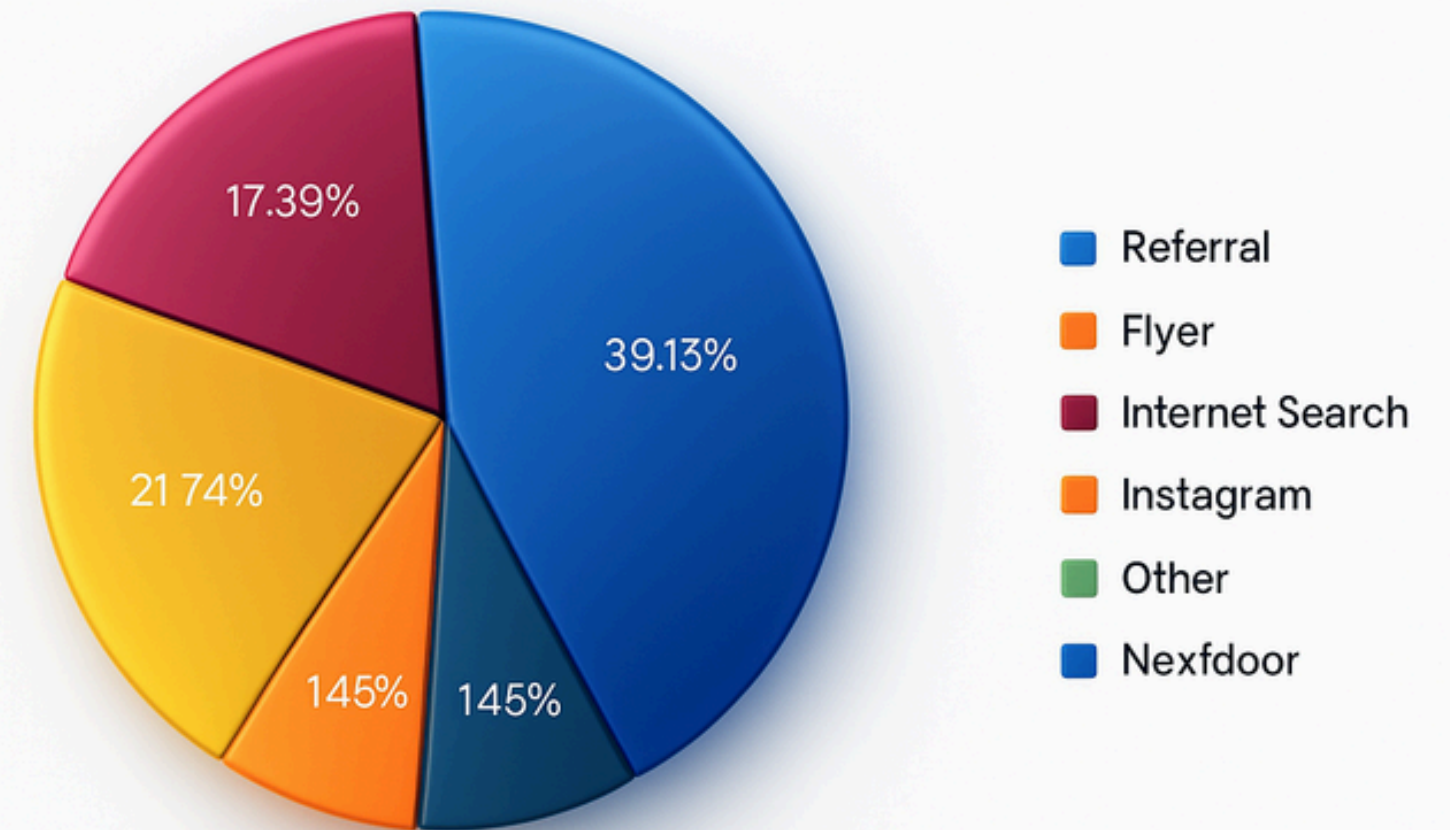
OTHER NOTES

- This season **70 regular season games** were rescheduled

Top 5 Schools to Host EPWBA Games

- **Benton Middle** – 80 Games
- **Hampton Middle** – 77 Games
- **Saunders Middle** – 68 Games
- **Potomac Middle** – 66 Games
- **Potomac Shores Middle** – 36 Games

How Did New Players Find League?



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



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TNT Event Rentals



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GET IN TOUCH

Thank you to our EPWBA Family for another amazing season! Please feel free to reach out with any questions about this report or anything related to the league.

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