

Biography - Coach John Berry

Coach John Berry has been coaching basketball since 1993. He has worked with over two thousand kids and coached over one thousand games. Coach Berry has coached at the recreational, travel, AAU, junior varsity, and varsity levels.

Coach Berry's love for basketball began at an early age in North Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. As he was growing up, sports were everything to him. Every day, Coach Berry would go to the playground and play against or with childhood friends. In the summer months, Coach Berry would watch relatives play in organized street leagues in front of large crowds. Coach Berry was a ferocious fan of the Philadelphia 76ers, led by the great Julius Erving. Among relatives and friends, debates were held, strategies consummated, and tons of film studied.

Throughout high school, Coach Berry was very undersized. As a freshman, he was four feet, ten inches tall, weighing sixty pounds! As a senior, he was five feet, four inches tall, weighing eighty pounds! Given the makeup and strength of his high school varsity basketball team (Murrell Dobbins Area Vocational Technical School, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania), he knew it would be very difficult to secure a spot. In fact, that team was ranked number one in the United States in 1985! Eventually, that team would produce three NBA players: Hank Gathers (RIP), Bo Kimble, and Doug Overton.

Instead, Coach Berry studied the game as a coach. He would attend every home basketball game, converse with coaches and varsity players, and watch as many local high school, college, and NBA games as possible. Over time, Coach Berry developed that coach's edge.

As founder and lead skills development coach for YouthHoops.com (since 2008), Coach Berry runs year-round basketball camps, which emphasize fundamental skill development, basketball IQ, and life lessons.

Coach Berry has a bachelor's degree from Howard University (1990) and a master's degree from Temple University (1992). He is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated, Beta Chapter. In addition, Coach Berry is a Gracie Jiu-Jitsu practitioner under the leadership of Royce Gracie black belt, Mazi Heydary (Chapel Hill Gracie Jiu-Jitsu).

During Coach Berry's coaching tenure, he has always infused life lessons, character enrichment philosophies, and a surgical style of instruction into his programs. These very things, for the first time, are being shared in this book, *Life & Basketball*.

Coach Berry is married to Erica Berry and has two lovely daughters, Lena and Sophia. Currently, Coach Berry and his family reside in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.