



CITY OF ALBION
PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release
December 20, 2016

**Former NBA Scout Milton Barnes Brings
“Play Right Basketball Academy”
to Albion and Surrounding Communities**

Albion, MI – Milton Barnes, an Albion College Alumnus and former Albion resident, brings his knowledge of basketball to Albion and its surrounding communities with Play Right Basketball Academy. The program offers training sessions for boys and girls in grades 3 through 8, emphasizing four components: basketball skills, life skills, health and fitness, and academic support.

A native of Saginaw, Michigan, Mr. Barnes grew up loving the game of basketball. He played for his high school and for the Albion College Britons. Upon graduating from Albion College, he rooted himself in the Albion community. He served as the Head Coach of the Albion High School Basketball Team, achieving an outstanding 65-11 record.

Mr. Barnes has experience on all levels of the game serving for seven years as a Player Personnel/Scout for the Minnesota Timberwolves, two years as a scout for the Washington Wizards, and over 20 years of Division I college coaching including four years as Head Coach of Eastern Michigan University. He has coached internationally for both the Nigerian National Team and Virgin Islands National Team.

While his career has now brought him to Dallas, Mr. Barnes has always considered Albion his home. With a purpose to give back to the Albion community, he funds his own travels back-and-forth from Dallas to bring Play Right Basketball Academy to the

area. City of Albion Recreation Department Director Larry Williams noted, “This is a godsend for young people in Albion and the surrounding area.” They would otherwise have to spend hundreds of dollars to hire a private coach to acquire training of this caliber. Mr. Williams added, “Some people talk the talk but Milton is actually walking the walk. He’s choosing to come back to Albion to share his knowledge and skills.” On his motivation for the program, Mr. Barnes stated, “The community needs to have programs for kids to instill values that make Albion a special place. I want to give back to Albion to accomplish that.”

Play Right Basketball Academy is made possible through the Battle Creek YMCA partnering with Marshall Public Schools and the City of Albion’s Recreation Department. The program began on October 11, 2016 and will run through May 31, 2017. Meeting times are Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at two locations: The YMCA of Battle Creek Multi Sports Center, 182 Capital Avenue NE, Battle Creek from 3:00pm – 7:00pm and the Albion Community Center located at Marshall Opportunity School, 225 Watson Street, Albion from 4:00pm – 7:00pm. The cost is \$10 per month.

Play Right Basketball Academy is also offering a one-day Holiday Skills Camp on Wednesday, December 28 from 9:00am – 5:00pm at the YMCA of Battle Creek Multi Sports Center, 182 Capital Avenue NE, Battle Creek. The cost is \$50 or \$25 for enrolled academy members.

Applications for both programs can be found at www.playrightbasketball.com.

For more information, contact:

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