

Local Mavericks earn AAU state championship

The U14 Maryland Mavericks Gold boys' basketball team won the Maryland State AAU D2 Championship by defeating the Southern MD Mustangs 56-54 in overtime at Morgan State University. In going through the tournament 6-0, the Mavericks defeated teams from Anne Arundel, Baltimore City, Carroll, Baltimore, Frederick and Charles counties.

In the semifinal against Frederick's High Octane, the Mavericks led most of the game. But after Dan Marr fouled out with 2 minutes to go, Drew Dorsey made some crucial contributions to keep the game in reach with a steal, assist and 2 free throws. Devonté Sykes, who led the offense throughout the tournament, hit a free throw with 30 seconds left to give the Mavs a 61-60 win.

In the championship game, the Mavericks benefited from the return of two previously injured players. Robby Jenkins who led all scorers with 15 points including three 3-pointers and Charlie Clark, who scored 7 points including 5-6 free throws. Ryan Spangler hit one of two free throws with 6 seconds left to put the game into overtime before the Mavericks pulled out the 56-54 win and the Mavericks organization its first state championship.

The tournament in general was a big step up for the Mavericks as the U17 Mavericks with many of the local high school players making it to the semifinals before losing by 1 point in the closing seconds. Carroll's U13 Gold team, coached by John Harrell, took second in their pool before bowing out. Mavericks teams from Frederick County also did well with the U17s taking fifth place and the U13s making the finals before falling to Cecil Kirk in the championship game.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Maryland Mavericks recently won the AAU State Basketball Championship. Front Row (L-R) : Danny Kelley, Harrison Bachman, Christian Pitts, Joe Rodriguez, Drew Dorsey, and Devonte Sykes. Back Row: Coach Tito Matos, coach Clarence Robinson, Luke Brecker, Ryan Spangler, Charlie Clark, Dan Marr, J.T. Sands, Robby Jenkins, and head coach Paul Kelley.