

North Oldham girls basketball host youth camp

BY WYATT SPARKMAN

North Oldham Girls Basketball hosted its 2025 Summer Youth Camp from June 16-18 at North Oldham High School.

This was the second year it was run by head coach Marcus Shelmidine. He had 32 girls sign up, a few more than last year's camp.

"I think getting both elementary schools there is a good number from both of our elementary schools and represents all second through sixth grade," Shelmidine said. "It was really good. We had basically all of our older girls there to help. It was a good week."

Shelmidine ran the camp, but his players helped lead drills throughout the three days. The camps helped the youth learn basic basketball skills and set a foundation to grow from year to year.

"I think the thing, this is



PHOTO BY Wyatt Sparkman

North Oldham head coach Marcus Shelmidine coaches his team during a timeout in a 41-30 loss to Trimble County.

across all of girls basketball, is just basic ball handling," Shelmidine said. "If you can handle the ball, you can play. [We worked on] basic ball handling and just basic shooting. That's all the girls want to do anyway is just shoot, so I try to meet them halfway on that. I would say ball handling is the biggest thing, and something that,

high school girls basketball in general, just needs to get better at."

Shelmidine knows the camp is a great way to introduce himself to the younger athletes, especially with youth girls basketball that is connected to North. He also knows that the key to building a strong program is getting players interested in the

sport early and developing their basketball skills early on.

"With me being in the middle school teaching, it helps a lot," Shelmidine said. "Being able to retain girls and kind of maybe direct girls towards basketball that maybe hadn't thought of it in the past and being able to build relationships with girls at a younger age, so by the time they get to me in high school, they know me as a lot more than just the high school basketball coach. I think that's really important. I think our current older girls help a lot, and they've bought in. They have some big personalities in a good way and being able to help that."

For Shelmidine's high school players, the camp allows the Lady Mustangs to build their knowledge of the game, so they can teach it to the younger

girls. Shelmidine has started to see strong relationships form with his group.

"The relationships are there. The foundation is still being set," Shelmidine said. "We're still really young, but just the conversation and the relationship is different, and then, that confidence I have in them has, I think, translated to the younger girls too. In our camp, I'll direct it obviously, and I'm keeping it on the road, but I let the older girls run with it. They play games, and they instruct. They did a great job with that."

Shelmidine was able to be more comfortable and confident hosting and running the camp in his second year.

"I think just being able to have a certain level of confidence that, 'okay, this is the way I want to do things going forward. This is what we have to be better at as a

program,' so in five or six years, those girls come up, they know the expectation and get them into our middle school program at an earlier age," Shelmidine said.

For year three, he wants to see the youth interest take off, especially with the WNBA's growth in popularity over the past few years.

"There's a lot of good athletes and a lot of good girls in North that, I don't think, basketball has been presented to them in the second, third or fourth grade before," Shelmidine said. "It doesn't have to come at the harm of other sports, but you look at the success of volleyball at North, they do a great job in elementary schools. We have to capitalize on that too. I think just continuing that and understanding that you might not see the dividends for five or six years, but that's okay."

MILES

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Simpson saw the buy-in early with the group. He knew that group of players was going to make a difference the moment they set their goal to make it back to regionals. The play that Miles stole the ball, Simpson could tell how keyed in his team was to the game because of how they remembered the trap he told them to do.

"For Julian to reach in and steal that ball, just to do it all perfectly, people might call that luck, but we always talk about playing and putting yourself in a position for good things to happen," Simpson said. "When I heard that interview after the game, I thought, 'sometimes you talk to them, and when you think they leave, they don't remember a thing you said.' In that particular case, what we said and what played out just worked out perfectly for us in that case. I was amazed at him and his teammates in that regard."

South Oldham's 2023-24 basketball season ended with back-to-back losses to North Oldham in the district championship and Spencer County in the first round of the regional tournament. Simpson has heard that a group has to experience basketball sadness before they can win a championship. Going into the 2024-25 season, South Oldham showed strides of that throughout summer ball.

"You could tell that we were hurting, and you could just tell that they were going to come back, and we lost three games that summer in summer ball," Simpson said. "I think we were 19-3, and you could just see we knew. I'm not going to sit here and say I knew we were going to win the region, but I knew that we were going to be in the thick of it."

Miles had a big decision to make going into his senior year about his status playing football. Sams had hardly seen Miles throughout the off-season, and right before the dead period, Miles told Sams he wasn't going to play football his senior year.

Miles missed both the two opening scrimmages and all the month of July, but after sitting in the stands and watching his friends and brother play, Miles wanted to get back on the field.

"I really wanted to play because all my friends are on the team," Miles said. "I had Ethan [Arnold] at quarterback, and I just didn't want to miss another year not playing with him and all the other boys on my team."

Miles was able to relearn Sams' playbook within an hour and was running drills in the second hour of practice. Sams wasn't worried about his understanding of the game but more so his ability to retake hits after not being tackled for so long.

"His schematic knowledge of sports is elite, and his understanding of spacing and purpose and not his job but the job is really, really good," Sams said. "Those that have it are really good. It's similar in basketball. You can see it that he's aware of where everyone's at on the court, his teammates, the angles that the defenders have. His wickedness in athletics is very, very high."

Miles missed the season opener against Anderson County but came back strong in the second game of the season. He scored three touchdowns on 170 total yards from scrimmage. "It was awesome, especially when we scored that first play of the drive," Miles said. "It just was such a good feeling to finally get back and play the sport that I've always loved."

As the season went into the North Oldham and Oldham County rivalry games, Sams looked to get Miles the ball as much he could, making him one of the focal points of the offense.

"We found out ways in the passing game on high percentage completion spots that we could get him in to get him the ball with a little bit of space," Sams said. "In the run game, it was a little bit harder... He was really good in space so trying to get him the ball in different forms. Even though if he was running downhill, he was good. I was just trying to find a lot of ways of giving him the ball, and it even worked on their blocking, on creating natural cutback opportunities for him and bounce opportunities for him."

Miles dominated the county rival games en route to another county sweep for South Oldham. Miles ran for 189 yards and one touchdown against North Oldham before combining for 142 yards and one touchdown through the air and on the ground.

Throughout the 2024 season, Miles led the team in rushing and receiving yards and touchdowns. He combined for 1,489 yards and 20 touchdowns to cap off his high school football career.

"I had a super good o-line this year that really helped me get into space and make something happen for the team," Miles said. "We had Ethan at QB that also helped me. He'd find an open area to go on the triple option or the read option. He'd either give me the ball or take it, and one of us is doing something with it. I had faith in coach Sams throughout the entire year about his play calling, and I just knew that he made the right decision in these big time moments."

Sams believes there are two types of kids in football that can make plays. One is getting them the ball and letting them make something special happen while the other instills confidence in the player calls and the team. Sams believes Miles was the latter. Sams gives credit to Miles and his class and the class before him to help establish the culture

Sams wanted.

"It was just immediate buy-in, and that's a lot to the character of the kids that came through here," Sams said. "They're going to do what they're told to do, but they also appreciate an explanation of why and where it benefits and evidence as to why we do it like that where it is going to be helpful, so they can kind of see for themselves the picture of it. It was a great blessing to have the last two classes that saw things in a similar lens that I see them, and it makes fighting together a lot easier. It makes celebrating successes a lot more fun."

After the hot summer start, South Oldham Basketball tore through the 2024-25 season. The Dragons started the season 18-3 while Miles averaged 21.8 points per game while shooting 49% from the field and 40.4% from three throughout the season.

However, the season did experience a few hiccups against North Oldham. Miles only had 11 points in the regular season game on 4-for-20 shooting while also going 7-for-21 in the district championship game later in the season.

"It just really made us mad, because we knew that we could beat that North team, and I knew I didn't have a good game," Miles said. "That's what coach Simpson told me after the game. He was like, 'we can beat that team. You didn't have your best game, neither did Jake [Fithian]. We just need to play our game next time.'"

Simpson never wants to tell a kid they can't shoot the ball. He encourages games where his best players might have a bad shooting performance, because it allows them to grow for more important games down the road.

"I think those games all along the way helped him grow, and as he matured as a basketball player, he understood what it took to win a game in the state tournament," Simpson said. "There were other games along the way that season where he recognized that and not just him. Other guys had to learn that too, along the way, and some learn it sooner than others."

South saw a 16-point second half lead disappear in the final seconds of the first round of the regional tournament, similar to how the team lost the year prior. Through those trails, the Dragons and Miles grew. Simon Kenton tied the game with seven seconds left, and after a missed 3-pointer, Miles made a put-back to win the game at the buzzer.

"After they made that shot, I wasn't even worried, because I came back to the bench," Miles said. "I said, 'we're winning this game. They gave us too much time.' Coach drew up a play for me to go to the basket, and I saw Brooks [Bee] open, so I threw it to Kolton [Wuchter], one more. That was probably the best night of my life."

South then knocked off

Spencer County to earn redemption before having to earn it again against North Oldham in the regional championship. South finally got one over on North with a last second 3-pointer to win the regional championship.

"It was down to the wire, but once again, you have Julian driving the ball and almost goes to the floor," Simpson said. "He catches himself with one arm. If he slips there, it's a walk. He fights that off, throws it to Kolton, who then passes to the corner to Books Bee.

That bunch had confidence in each other, and I think that came a lot from the leadership, from the captains and Julian being one of those."

In the state tournament, South Oldham made its

first KHSAA Final Four in program history with the help of the leadership from Miles.

SEE MILES/PAGE A6

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Charlie Boone, 5533 W. Hwy 524, Westport, KY 40077 has filed an application with the Energy and Environmental Cabinet to construct a 12x16x10 Pavilion on 16x20 concrete pad. The property is located at 5533 W. Hwy 524, Westport, KY 40077 in Oldham County, KY. Any comments or objections can be submitted via email to: DOWFloodplain@ky.gov Kentucky Water Division of Water, Floodplain Management Section, 300 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, KY 40601. Call 502-564-3410 with questions.

LEGAL NOTICE

Public Notice

Notice is hereby given that Martin Flannery, 13923 Harbour Place, Prospect, KY 40059 has filed an application with the Energy and Environment Cabinet to . The property is located in Cardinal Harbor off Harbour Place. The building is designed to store items like his lawn mower, tools. And general storage. It is planned to sit underneath his deck in a 10.5 x 10.5 area. It will be adjacent to his existing structure and match the existing structure's appearance and meet local zoning restrictions. Any comments or objections can be submitted via email to: DOWFloodplain@ky.gov Kentucky Division of Water, Floodplain Management Section, 300 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, KY 40601. Call 502-564-3410 with questions.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Notes
6. Long-haired dog breed
12. ESPN's nickname
16. Spanish be
17. Disadvantage
18. Of i
19. Actor Pacino
20. On your way: ____ route
21. Fifth note of a major scale
22. Companies need it
23. News agency
24. Faces of an organization
26. Ponds
28. Samoa's capital
30. Partner to OPaO
31. Adult male
32. Cool!
34. Used of a number or amount not specified
35. No No No
37. Hosts film festival
39. British place to house convicts
40. Made of fermented honey and water
41. Chief
43. College army
44. Thyroid-stimulating hormone
45. Consume

47. One point north of due east
48. For instance
50. Brews
52. Alaskan river
54. Not soft
57. "The Golden State"
59. "The world's most famous arena"
60. Larry and Curly's pal
61. One billion gigabytes
62. Conducts inspections
63. Malaria mosquitoes
66. Unit to measure width
67. Features
70. Affairs
71. Letter of Semitic abjads

CLUES DOWN

1. Follower of Islam
2. Trauma center
3. French young women
4. Norse god
5. U.S. commercial flyer (abbr.)
6. Merchant
7. Peyton's younger brother
8. "Jungle planet in "Star Wars" galaxy
9. Tree-dwelling animal of C. and

S. America
10. "Pollack" actor Harris
11. Stuck around
12. Put on
13. Influential Norwegian playwright
14. Christian ____ designer
15. Fulfills a debt
25. Style
26. More (Spanish)
27. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
29. Remedy
31. Disturbance
33. "The Martian" actor Matt
36. Express delight
38. Brooklyn hoopster
39. 1900 lamp
41. Motionless
42. OneO's mother (Brit.)
43. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
46. Compels to act
47. Gardening tool
49. Ancient country
51. Flightening
53. Wimbledon champion Arthur

54. Popular plant
55. Database management system
58. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
60. Where soldiers eat
64. Tenth month (abbr.)
65. Illuminated
68. Atomic #18
69. Adults need one to travel

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DSNBSJAVSHSL
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