**TN AAU BOYS BASKETBALL 9TH GRADE STATE TOURNAMENT**

*COACH VON*

The Class of 2020 is one of our favorite classes to cover. The class is so deep with talented kids and there are nearly a dozen competitive teams. On May 20&21 a bulk of the freshmen teams in the area took their shows on the road and met up in Franklin, TN at the AAU State Tournament. From our previous 2020 Rankings 6 teams traveled to Middle Tennessee to compete for the State Championship; **Showtime, Pharaoh Elite, Memphis Royals, Team Development, TNBC (Walden),** and **TNBC (Thompson).**

The first game of the tournament featured the Memphis Royals taking on TNBC (Walden). The Royals were led by **Zion Hawkins**. While **Rod Jackson** led the way for TNBC. The Memphis Royals came out on top, 66-57.

Another matchup that we followed closely was Team Development vs. Memphis Showtime. Showtime’s **Catterious “Lil Catt” Moore** hit 5 3s and finished with 28 points and **Jaylin Lucas** added 15 points. Showtime jumped out to a 15-1 lead, before Team Development fought their way back into the game led by point guard **Trey Bonds**. Team Development won 62-58.

In the first round of bracket play TNBC (Walden) lost to Club 51, 51-49 and Memphis Showtime defeated RSD White, 81-57.

In the Elite 8; The Memphis Royals lost to the Memphis Wareagles 8th Grade team 69-60, Team Development beat RSD Red 67-52, TNBC (Thompson) lost to Club 51, 57-56, and Memphis Pharoah Elite defeated Memphis Showtime.

The Memphis Pharoah Elite vs. Memphis Showtime was yet another game that we were interested in. Lil Catt Moore led Showtime again this time with 21 points, **Matthew Kidd** added 14, and Jaylin Lucas added 12 more. **“Lil** **Rickey” Shotwell** scored in double figures for Pharoah Elite. Showtime led by 8 at the half after adjusting to a triangle & 2 on defense, in hopes to corral shooters Rickey and **Jesse Payne**. After the 3rd quarter Pharoah Elite had closed the gap to 3. In the 4th quarter 5 Showtime players fouled out, leaving them to finish the game with only 3 kids. Behind solid performances from 6’6 big, **Duane Posey** and **Delvin “Scooter” White**, Pharoah Eliteprevailed in the end 72-66.

Team Development lost in the Final Four, 76-53 to the 8th Grade Memphis Wareagles and later defeated Club 51 in the 3rd Place Game 64-58.

Memphis Pharoah Elite cruised to a twenty point Championship victory over the 8th Grade Memphis Wareagles.

**MBA JUNE 2020 RANKINGS:**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **RANK** | **TEAM** | **PREVIOUS RANKING** |
| 1 | TEAM PENNY | 1 |
| 2 | TEAM THAD | 2 |
| 3 | MEMPHIS PHAROAH ELITE | 4 |
| 4 | TEAM DEVELOPMENT | 8 |
| 5 | MEMPHIS ROYALS | 5 |
| 6 | M33M | 6 |
| 7 | MEMPHIS SHOWTIME | 3 |
| 8 | TEAM MAGIC ELITE | 7 |
| 9 | TNBC ELITE (THOMPSON) | 10 |
| 10 | TNBC ELITE (WALDEN) | 9 |
| 11 | BRETHREN | 12 |
| 12 | MEMPHIS DRAGONS | UNRANKED |
| 13 | DMG | 11 |