

## Coaches

The coaches for the Foothill-SLAM NJB All-Net 2011 season are experienced and intend to provide a good learning experience for the players. Their focus will be teaching the fundamentals of basketball, utilizing the positive coaching alliance techniques to prepare our kids for high school basketball. The majority of our teams are coached by non-parent coaches. In most cases, the head coach will welcome the help of a parent to be the assistant coach to cover practices or games where the head coach has a conflict. Each team needs team parent to help with the administration of the team.

- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys: Victor Ragni:** Victor is beginning his 7<sup>th</sup> year as head coach of SLAM's 5<sup>th</sup> grade boys all net team. His 2007-2008 team made it to the All Net National Tournament in Southern California. He also coached 17 years for the Sunnyvale Youth Basketball League and stresses the fundamentals and team play. While attending college in Southern California he coached the 7<sup>th</sup> grade boys' varsity and 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys' junior varsity basketball teams for local middle schools. He is a firm believer in the teachings of the Positive Coaching Alliance and can be reached at [vragni@avidbank.com](mailto:vragni@avidbank.com)
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys: Ben Packer, and Gary Chern:** Ben and Gary each played basketball in high school and continue to enjoy the game via coaching. Ben and Gary have been coaching All Net boys for six years and have taken two 6th grade Foothill boys teams to the national tournament (2004-05, 2006-07 seasons). Gary and Ben enjoy working with youth and especially take pride when the team comes together and plays disciplined team basketball. Gary Chern can be reached at [gchern@gmail.com](mailto:gchern@gmail.com). Ben Packer can be reached at [bpacker@gmail.com](mailto:bpacker@gmail.com)
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys: Mark Farnham:** Mark has 14 years of basketball coaching experience including 10 years with a youth basketball league grades 6-8<sup>th</sup>, 2 years as an assistant high school varsity coach and 4 years at Foothill NJB All Net grades 6-8<sup>th</sup>. His coaching style is to focus on the fundamentals while balancing the up tempo requirements of playing in the all net league. Activities will center on team basketball and the individual development of each player. I enjoy the All Net environment and the opportunity it provides the young athletes to develop and prepare for the next level. Mark can be reached at [mark.farnham@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mark.farnham@sbcglobal.net)
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys: Mani Messy** graduated High School from St Benedict's Prep in New Jersey where he competed at the highest level of high school basketball. He attended Seton Hall University on a basketball scholarship, competing on the national stage 3 years, twice in NCAA tournament, once in the National Invitational Tournament and, finally, moved on to Europe, where he played professionally. He now coaches Varsity Boys at Pinewood and runs the Above and Beyond basketball program. Mani can be reached at: [e.jmessy@gmail.com](mailto:e.jmessy@gmail.com)

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls: Tom Cheli:** Tom has coached Yball, NJB, AAU and the Pinewood girls and boys teams for the past seven years. Tom loves the game of basketball since he began playing for Egan and Los Altos High. Tom is a passionate coach who wants to help develop all around players by teaching the fundamentals and the strategy of the game. Tom can be reached at: [tcheli@comcast.net](mailto:tcheli@comcast.net).

**Blaz Grizelj:** Blaz has coached 5 years of Youth Girls basketball, most recently taking the 3rd & 4th grade All-Stars to 2011 NJB National Championship along with Greg Paulson.

He practices the Positive Coaching Alliance and will make sure the girls learn, enhance their skills, have fun, and want to play again the following season.

Blaz can be reach at: [blazgrizelj@yahoo.com](mailto:blazgrizelj@yahoo.com)

**Greg Paulson:** Greg attended St. Francis High School, and went on to become a Division 1 college basketball player at Santa Clara University and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Greg has coached dozens of youth teams over the last 6 years, including NJB. He is a firm believer in positive coaching, teaching fundamental basketball skills, playing as a team and most of all having fun while doing this. Greg can be reached at [gpaulson@gmail.com](mailto:gpaulson@gmail.com).

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls: Sam Kesten:** Sam is a local basketball product, having played four years of varsity basketball at Fremont High School and competing with the West Valley Basketball Club (traveling AAU team) for 3 years. He played college basketball at Occidental College in Los Angeles, earning a starting role as a sophomore at shooting guard. Sam now works at Campbell Middle School as an 8th Grade math teacher and is a college readiness lead through Citizen Schools - an education reform organization. Sam runs shooting clinics and enjoys helping middle school age students build the fundamental skills they need to have fun and be competitive in basketball. [skesten33@gmail.com](mailto:skesten33@gmail.com)

**Michael Sodos:** Michael will be assisting Sam. He is a student at San Jose State University studying business finance and also played basketball for Fremont High School. He is the Program Coordinator for Sunnyvale's Fun on the Run and looks forward to teaching the youth of our community.

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**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls: Jim Frazier:** Jim has been very active coaching, playing and officiating basketball over the past 30 years. Jim played at Cal Poly SLO and officiated high school basketball for 15 years in the Bay Area after college. Jim has coached 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade boys and girls at St. Nicholas since 1995 and has been coaching NJB basketball in Palo Alto and Foothill Chapters for the last 11 years, taking multiple teams to the National Tournament and winning the National Title. [jimfrazier@covad.net](mailto:jimfrazier@covad.net)