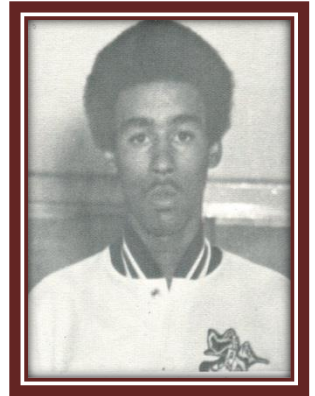


Maurice Davis



Maurice Davis was not a child growing up that was destined to be a basketball player. At the young age of ten, he would spend his time watching basketball and football at home on a black and white television. He spent much of his time at the local basketball court watching the older boys play. His first introduction to the game was one day while hanging out at the court, the guys playing did not have enough players, so they ask him to play, he eagerly joined the game even though he had never played before. His explanation of how it all turned out was, they passed me the ball and yelled for me to pass or shoot it, I threw the ball hard and high and it passed through the net. From that day forward he knew basketball was his sport.

Maurice continued to practice and work hard to get better at the game. Given the opportunity to play with and against the older boys helped him develop better fundamentals and toughness. At Amherst County High School, as a freshman, he tried out and was selected to play on the JV team. Mid-season he was called up to play on the varsity team as a center/forward. The 1-B Valley League District tournament was always hosted at U Hall at the University of Virginia. It was that tournament that Maurice considers his most memorable game. It was the championship game, at the buzzer, he scored a basket to force overtime. After three overtimes Amherst was defeated by one point. From that season on, he dominated the court, drawing respect from both his teammates and opponents. Throughout his high school career, he collected many awards. He was co-captain on the team for three years, and as a junior, he was the top scorer. Maurice acknowledges that he was surrounded by talented players, Randy Thomas, Sampson Tabb, Mutt Osborne and his brother, Wayne Davis, just to name a few. He credits his coaches, Don Thompson and Ernie Guill, for believing in him, pushing him to be the best he could be, and teaching him the finer points of the game.

After high school, Maurice was drafted into the Army, but chose to join the Marines, where he spent eight years defending our country. In the Marines, he served as Lance Corporal and then Corporal. It was in the classroom and on the basketball court at Amherst County High School that prepared him for the next stage of life. It was the life lessons he took from Amherst County into the armed forces that made him a leader.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- 1969/70 ACHS Most Improved Player.
- 1970/71 ACHS Defensive Player Award.
- District Team Honorable Mention.
- Junior year, he was the team leading scorer.
- Selected to the All-Tournament team.