



“THE LEAGUE” 2009 NBDL Division Final Recap

NBDL PLAYOFFS: UPSTART RED CLAWS AND D-FENDERS ADVANCE TO CHAMPIONSHIP GAME!!!

If you watched them play, you wouldn't be able to tell they were only in eighth grade. I'm sure if you asked their opponents, they wouldn't believe it either. The Red Claws, led by NBDL MVP Milik Yarbrough stormed all the way to the tournament title, defeating a talented D-Fenders team in the Championship game. The Red Claws road was not an easy one, as they defeated a strong Flash team in the first round, a Mad-Ants team that had a great deal of success throughout the league in round two, and then the top-seeded Vipers in the semi-finals. Jonathan Johnson was a big key to the strong tournament run, as were guards Erick Locke and Peter Lazic.

NBDL ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM:

Milik Yarbrough (Red Claws, Zion)
Mark Bennett (Vipers, Barrington HS)
Xavier Guitart (Skyforce, New Trier HS)
Reggie Richert (D-Fenders, Waukegan HS)
Dijon Ross (D-Fenders, Waukegan HS)
Erick Locke (Red Claws, Chicago)
Jackson Wegner (Vipers, Barrington HS)
Donte' Stephenson (T-Birds, Evanston HS)
Edward Stack (Vipers, Barrington HS)
Curtis Cook (Flash, Zion-Benton HS)
Kyle Williams (D-Fenders, Waukegan HS)
Matt Lahey (Energy, Maine South HS)
Anthony Gutierrez (66ers, Round Lake HS)
Stas Banas (Skyforce, New Trier HS)
Jonathan Johnson (Red Claws, Chicago)

“THE BUZZ” FROM COURTSIDE:

Few players had a better league season than **Xavier Guitart** of the Skyforce. He is long, athletic, explosive, and plays hard....Speaking of guys who play hard, **Reggie Richert** of the D-Fenders has a non-stop motor, rebounds and defends well, and can finish consistently around the basket....Although he missed the last couple games due to sickness, the Mad-Ants' **Jonathon**

Sirus really put together some nice performances inside, and controlled the paint for his team...**Chris Myjak** of the BayHawks also turned in several strong performances for his team. He is big, and strong, and has good footwork for his size....The Bighorns also turned in a strong league season. Led by **Daniel Ramas** and **Quinn Hackyl**, they were a force to be reckoned inside and out....The Energy had a big first round win in the tourney, before bowing out to the Vipers. **Nick Calabrese and Matt Lahey** both turned in strong efforts for their team....No team had a better season than the Vipers. Although they lost in the semi-finals, several players contributed to form a strong TEAM, something that was refreshing to see. 6'4 wing **Mark Bennett** really has a chance to become a factor up the road. Point guards **Jackson Wegner** and **Brad Zaumseil** also showed steady flashes of promise, as did 6'2 wing **Edward Stack**.

Thanks again to all who participated...We look forward to an even bigger and better league next year!