

Spartans celebrate 1st and 2nd place wins for 3rd and 4th grade boys basketball teams

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The Minnesota Youth Athletic Services (MYAS) Gopher State Spring Basketball Tournament was held in Prior Lake on May 3 and 4.

The Spartans 3rd grade team was seeded first in the division 1 tournament and went undefeated to win first place. The team also took second place in the NY2LA Swish Dish Invitational Tournament held in Milwaukee in April and took first place in the King of the Courts Classic held in Urbandale, Iowa this past week. The 4th grade team was seeded fourth with one loss and took second place honors.

Many of the Spartan players are from the Northside. The team is coached by Jerome Williams, Sr. whose coaching philosophy revolves around defense. Williams played basketball in high school and college and has years of experience coaching at the AAU and high school level.

Leading the way for the Spartans 3rd grade team were six 2nd graders, Jerome Williams, Jr., Demari Larkins, Zashon Rich, Casmir Chavis, Elijah Huerta and Tameron Ferguson along with 3rd graders, Tommy Humphries, Courtney Ohara, Jessye Lewis and Antonio Fondren.

Leading the way for the Spartans 4th grade team were Jamez Garner, Terrence Roberts, Roosevelt Lett, Terrence Matthews, Trevon Howard, Isagani Stevens, Avon Carter and Jasean Glover.

Outstanding defense, great rebounding, hustle, dedication and heart were the key to the Spartans success.

"Our players are understanding that defense is the key to championship," said Jerome Williams, Sr.