

Air Force Basketball Team

Lueders Park Community Center – Compton CA



First Air Force Basketball Team in 1986

BCI began a relationship with Lueders Park Community Center basketball and Coach Cartwright in the summer of 2010 through a BCI Basketball Plus Camp. The relationship has continued to grow as we partner together, providing pro basketball players an opportunity to challenge kids to be heroes in their own lives, and to acknowledge the people who step up their game in everyday life

The Air Force Basketball Team was started in 1986 with a group of 5th and 6th graders from the City of Compton. The children and their coach Anthony Cartwright wanted to establish a brand name like a few other teams in the Compton area. One day at practice a few of the players were talking about paying \$65.00 dollars for some shoes (thirty years ago that was very expensive). So the majority of the players decided to go purchase those shoes and wear them in the game to match their jerseys of red, white, and black. Those shoes were the first pairs of “Air Jordan’s”. Thus the team name was derived from wearing the “Air” Jordan’s shoes and being a “Force” to be reckoned with on the court **“Air – Force”**.

The Air Force Basketball Team has always called Lueders Park Community Center in the City of Compton their home. Coach and Founder Anthony Cartwright has promoted and taught sportsmanship, hard work, positive attitude, basketball fundamentals and philosophy, life skills, and a love and enjoyment of the game of basketball.

The Air Force Basketball program and Coach Cartwright have produced many players who have won state championships in the state of California, players that have played at all levels of college basketball, with some former players playing professionally in the United States and abroad. One of Coach Cartwright’s most celebrated former players is Demar DeRozan of the Toronto Raptors. Anthony has two sons that have played for Air Force Basketball, Bryce, who played for Fresno State and the University of Iowa and Kyron, who is a freshman at Providence College. Bryce played in the Kosovo Basketball League (Euro League).

Anthony Cartwright is still hard at work in the City of Compton developing the young talent. Players from 5 to 17 years of age can be seen in the gym going through drills with Coach

Cartwright. The Air Force Basketball Team is not an AAU or traveling team. They are just children of the community with a love and a willingness to learn the game of basketball. The children do participate in various camps and clinics for development and leagues but only as invites from other agencies through Coach Cartwright's contacts over the years. There is a charge for these events, so players and parents must pay to participate. Coach Cartwright conducts fundraisers and seeks sponsorship to help defray the cost of the children playing basketball in the City of Compton.

