

# Basketball All-Stars of the Big Screen

The ballots have been counted and the time has come to announce the BASKETBALL ALL-STARS OF THE BIG SCREEN. The votes were close at every position particularly at the wing positions. And has in the real game we all love to coach, post players were at a premium. I have again listed the criteria below that we used to debate the nominees and ultimately the decide on the final selections.

## CRITERIA:

1. Vote is based on the role the actor played. We are not selecting our team based on the abilities the actor may have displayed in real life. For example... Maris Valainis (Jimmy Chitwood from *HOOSIERS*) is not penalized because he was cut three times from his high school team.
2. Positions were determined by a consensus and once they were balloted they can not be changed.
3. We are selecting a Starting Five, a 2nd team, and a 3rd team for a grand total of a 15 player roster
4. The success of the TEAM on which they played can be considered in breaking ties if needed.

We full expect criticism and debate over our selections. Our answer is simple... MAKE YOUR OWN LIST but enjoy this one until you do...

So without further ado, it is time to unveil the 15 man roster, the coaching staff, and a few other things we need to complete our MOVIE DREAM TEAM!!!

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Starting at the point from BLUECHIPS...at 6-10... BUTCH MCRAE!!!!

The Western University Dolphin point guard was recruited by Pete Bell and was influenced by JT Walsh's character HAPPY. Played by NBA-All-Star Anfernee "Penny" Hardaway, Butch's character comes from one of the most sought after private schools. I mean LOU GOSSET was the athletic director at the fictional school... There is a great scene in which many of the games great coaches are in the stands as NICK NOLTE (Pete Bell) hustles in late to the game. Obviously the NCAA problem of buying his mother a house and arranging for her new job should be considered. But Butch is our Point Guard.



Starting at the shooting guard... at 6-4.... JIMMY CHITWOOD!!!

Although the character Maris Valainis never even made the cut for his high school varsity team, his portrayal of the sweet shooter of the Hickory Huskers earns him the starting nod on our prestigious team. Chitwood's return to the team spearheads a run through the Indiana State Tournament capped by a game winning shot in the historic State Championship game. The scene in which Coach Norman Dale gives Jimmy his "return" speech is classic... and was reportedly filmed in a single take with Jimmy not missing a single shot until Coach Dale walks away...



On the wing... at 6-5, from Lincoln, HS... The nation's #1 high school prospect... JESUS SHUTTLESWORTH

Spike Lee weaves a great plot line around maybe the most talented all-around team in movie history... Lincoln HS. On a temporary, governor pardon, Denzel Washington's character, Jake, is offered an early release if he can convince his son to sign with the governor's alma mater. The most memorable scene for me is the Public Enemy's HE GOT GAME playing over the Michael Jordan highlights. Jesus and Jake's game of 1-on-1 was another memorable scene.



Starting at power forward all the way from Winabe, Kenya... at 6-9.... #11... Saleh

Discovered, recruited, and signed by Jimmy "Shake and Bake" Dolan to play at St. Joseph's College, Saleh first leads his tribe to victory in a battle for his home land against Mingori. The high flying Saleh would be a match up nightmare against any team playing anywhere in the world. The cheesy plot line and casting of Kevin Bacon as Jimmy Dolan can't spoil the impressive performance of Charles Gitonga Maina. The 14-point halftime comeback capped by perfect execution of the SHAKE AND BAKE move for the game winner in the battle for the homeland is the definite highlight.



And the big man in.. At 7 feet 4 inches from Algiers, LA... NEEEEEEEEOOOOOONNN BOUDEAUX

Although they exaggerate Shaq's height a little in BLUECHIPS, they could not keep him from being our dominating post player on this team. After a short stint in the Army and a couple of years at a JUCO, Coach Pete Bell lures him to Western University with a little help from a new Lexus. After passing his standardized test which was "culturally biased", Neon anchors one the movies great all time teams. And although we never learn just how far the team could have gone, there was really no argument around the office when selecting our 5 player.

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Kyle Lee Watson will be backing up Butch McRae at the point and if he can bring his playground game to the gym, he could seriously challenge for a starting role. The 5-10 scoring point guard has great handles and incredible first step to the basket. He is the leader of his high school team and quickly learning how to be a leader with the mentorship of another player further down on this team (Tommy Shepherd). Kyle's play in final game of the outdoor championship is the most memorable basketball scenes in a movie that is built around the game of basketball but has many side plots. He also is called upon as a Georgetown freshmen to deliver the game winning shot. The actor Duane Martin was previously in another basketball movie WHITE MEN CAN'T JUMP as Willie Lewis (the team that faced Billy Hoyle and Sidney Deane in the finals).



Quincy McCall, played by Omar Epps, checks in as first wing off the bench. The smooth shooting 6-0 guard goes from high school star, to collegiate All-American, to NBA star in the movie LOVE AND BASKETBALL. Largely considered the best basketball movie of the generation of your players mainly because of the love story woven around the basketball plot. The one-on-one scenes in his dorm and then on the outdoor court with Monica make up the most memorable scenes of the movie. His ability to score big earn him considerable "playing time" on this team loaded with talent.



Moses Guthrie ("Dr. J" Julius Erving) is the star of THE FISH THAT SAVED PITTSBURGH. An obscure movie from 1979, Guthrie is the star player of team that is struggling until they tap into their mystical side and put together a team comprised entirely of PISCES from the astrological world. Along side of Set Shot Buford, The Reverend Jackson (Meadowlark Lemon), Benny and Kenny Rae, and Running Hawk, Guthrie leads the team to a title. The court paint is worth searching out the VHS copy at your local video store. There is also a current major Division 1 basketball coach that makes an appearance as a ballhandling phenom at the Pisces tryout. ... Email me the answer if you know it!!!



Tommy "Shep" Shepherd spends much of the movie ABOVE THE RIM as a security guard mourning the loss of a friend and trying to teach the point guard Kyle Lee Watson how to be a team player. ... But the triumphant return to the court in ABOVE THE RIM's showdown game, he absolutely dominates the game in every phase of the game... and he does it in khaki pants!!!! If we could get him in some shorts on high tops he could move up the depth chart in a hurry. The actor LEON, will always be JT in THE FIVE HEARTBEATS to me, but he has some game to him and certainly wasn't just "acting" during the basketball scenes.



Every team needs a solid back-up post player... This team gets that done with D.C. Dacey from another 1979 relatively unknown movie FASTBREAK. A one time highly touted recruit gets lost in the shuffle on the mean streets of New York but leave it to Gabe Kaplan (Coach David Greene) to seek out the best talent to take with him to Cadwalader University. Even though he is a fugitive from the law, D.C. leads the tiny school to a victory over a Top 10 national team. The character played by Harold Sylvester is a little undersized but makes up for it with savvy and explosive leaping ability. Playing along side NBA legend Bernard King, who played Hustler, a non-movie buff would assume King's character would land a spot on this coveted team, but D.C. was the main cog in this movie you should also check local video stores that still carry VHS's for.

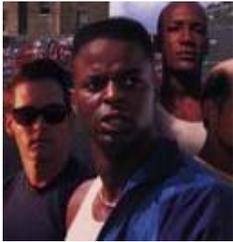
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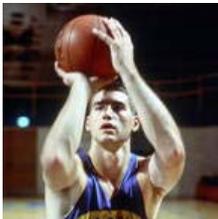
Backward painters cap, Jam shorts, Reebok Pumps and all... You can't keep Billy Hoyle off this squad. His clutch shooting and ability to read the pick and roll can not be passed upon when you're looking for a back up point guard to two high scoring ones. Someone on the coaching staff is going to have to be in charge of his per diem on road trips but we think the risk of taking a chance on him is totally worth the reward. If nothing else, he will be entertaining.



We also couldn't break up the WHITE MEN CAN'T JUMP duo... So Sidney Deane lands here as well. He is a lock down defender and although the jumper is a little unorthodox it goes in and he has certainly been tested in battle.



TRUTH HARRISON makes the team from the movie HEAVEN IS A PLAYGROUND... The star who made the successful jump from the playgrounds to the college court and ultimately into the NBA Draft. We really don't get to see his on court game as much as we'd like to have. We debated as a staff long and hard that his counterpart in the movie MATTHEW LOCKARD might should get this spot... But since he never took the challenge of going for his dreams we wanted to have a representative on the team from the movie that often gets forgotten by people talking about the great sports/basketball movies. TRUTH is a great character and had some serious game.



The third member of the heralded (illegal too) recruiting class of Coach Pete Bell at Western University... RICKEY ROE also makes the team... Played by Matt Nover, Rickey joins Butch McRae and Neon Boudeux with the Dolphins for a bag of cash and a "some farm equipment"!! A sweet jumper allows him to stretch the defense but is still strong enough to score around the basket.



Also from the movie HEAVEN IS A PLAYGROUND... LUTHER HAKIM is played by NBA Hall of Famer Hakeem "The Dream" Olajuwon... He plays the role of an NBA player who works with at risk youth during the summer on the basketball court. While the role isn't too much of a stretch he still makes the team over Lonnie Duke from HE GOT GAME and Ned "Jabberwocky" from COACH

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Despite a brush with the NCAA, with this particular collection of players we decided Coach Pete Bell from BLUECHIPS should be our Head Coach. National Championship experience won out over High School State Championships. Ironically almost every coach in big screen movies has either had incident with the NCAA or a brush with the law. We didn't count Coach Carter or Don Haskins from GLORYROAD because they are ACTUAL coaches and not CHARACTERS of the big screen.



Norman Dale was a lock for the bench as Associate Head Coach based on his ability to fire a team up with his speeches and his desire to stand up for his kids. If you REALLY, REALLY watch HOOSIERS you might argue that Coach Dale was even a good coach. He got kicked out of at least three games at Hickory, and had numerous technical fouls. He also had the ball in Ollie's hands with time running down, didn't press after he made the FT to send them to title game... have you ever noticed how close the full court shot to beat them was to going in?!?!?! Despite all that and punching his own player, he wins and he wins....



Coach Moreland Smith from the movie ONE ON ONE with Robby Benson rounds out our veteran staff. If you haven't seen this one you need to. He's old, old school and makes a very memorable character. The actual 1-on-1 scene he sets up between Henry and the teams bully. We would all be fired on the spot for this exercise in "mental warfare" but it makes for a good movie scene.



Jimmy Dolan lands a spot on the DREAM STAFF for his ability to recruit. The one time National Champion player himself at St. Joseph's University turns assistant coach under his mentor Coach Ray "Foxy" Fox. After losing a star recruit, Dolan saves the day by traveling to Africa to recruit a native Winabi tribe member. The 6-9 phenom must be lured away from a primitive culture... and who better to do that than KEVIN BACON!!! Along the way, Dolan learns there is more to coaching than just winning and not only brings Saleh back to the United States but also lands the job as Head Coach when Foxy retires. As the youngest member of THIS staff, he will undoubtedly be moving up the ladder quickly!!



OLLIE MACFARLANE from HOOSIERS goes back to his original role as team manager and relentlessly talks about his glory days!! We can also always use him in a pinch in practice if someone is injured. He beat out RADIO mainly because basketball was his primary sport of responsibility.

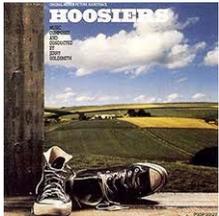
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Mickey Gordon from the movie FORGET PARIS was a unanimous selection as lead official.



Although he does not have a credited character name you can't leave Steve Welmer out of the action.



You can really take your pick for the third official. We all agreed it had to be one of the many that impacted the movie HOOSIERS.

- A. The official in the Dugger game in which Coach Dale asks him to toss him out so that Shooter had to finish the game
- B. The official from the Cedar Knob game that allowed play to get so rough that it lead to punches being thrown
- C. The official from the Verdi game that threw Coach Dale out of the game for stepping on the court



No team can be complete without overbearing parents and family... So these three were pretty easy...

Birdie (Tupac) from ABOVE THE RIM... the brother of Shep, and street leader that tries to influence Kyle Lee Watson  
Zeke McCall from LOVE AND BASKETBALL is the cheating husband, over bearing father to Quincy  
Jake Shuttlesworth from HE GOT GAME... while his motive to receive early prison release is understandable his methods weren't so pure.