

THE WINDSOR STAR

County News

FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 1993

Basketball camp nets player a job

Story and photo by Blair Crawford/County Reporter

COLCHESTER — Fitting a summer job between trips to basketball camp was difficult for Mano Watsa of Colchester South Township.

So the 17-year-old Harrow District High School student decided to use his love and knowledge of the game to earn his own money. Now in its second season, the Mano Watsa Basketball School teaches about 25 kids a week the difference between a fast break and lay-up.

"I was having a hard time finding a job because I spent so much time at basketball camp," said Watsa as his student athletes took a break from their scrimmages.

"That's when I got the idea to run my own camp. I like working with kids and I thought I might be able to teach them a bit about what I've learned."

WATSA PLACED posters in local stores and soon had his first class together. Watsa runs the school on the twin basketball courts at his parents' home on County Road 50. The school runs five mornings a week and attracts kids in grades 4 to 8 from Harrow to Kingsville.

Enrolment costs \$35 for the week — a small investment for a future Michael Jordan.

"Kids in the neighborhood used to see me shooting baskets here and they'd ask if they could join me," he said.

"We'd play a bit and I'd teach them some things about the game. It just sort of went from there."

Watsa plays point guard for his high school team and has attended basketball camps at St. Clair College and in North Carolina and South Carolina. He has also attended the Ontario Educational Leadership Camp.

Watsa, who is entering his final year of high school, hopes the school will see him through university and help train good basketball players and fans in the county.

"Right now when I walk down the street dribbling a basketball I get some funny looks," he said. "What I hope is that someday you'll see lots of kids walking down the street bouncing basketballs. I'd like to see that."



MANO WATSA, centre, instructs basketball camp students Kristy Dumouchelle, left, and Brooke Winter