

Loyola high school boy's basketball

My son Joe was a member of the *IceMen* Basketball Club for 2 years while he was participating in the Loyola High School basketball program, and during that time, I saw him improve in his overall fundamental skills and confidence.

I was especially impressed with Coach Todd Malecki's philosophy of emphasizing individual improvement within the team concept. In so many club endeavors today, players are simply looking to be the star or improve at the expense of the team, but that wasn't so with the *IceMen*.

My son has since graduated from Loyola after being a varsity member for 2 years on 2 highly recognized and successful teams. During his junior year, Loyola was the CIF Division II Quarterfinalists, and last year he became a starter and captain on Loyola's Mission League Champion & CIF Division II Semifinalist squad. Most recently, he was a walk-on candidate for the basketball team at Boston College. I am convinced that a great deal of his personal success within Loyola's team framework was honed while he played for the *IceMen*.

I can honestly say that during my 18 years as the Varsity Basketball Coach at Loyola, I would have definitely preferred all my players to participate in a club such as the *IceMen*, for I would have been assured that they were being drilled in fundamentals without having an ego stroked, and would have returned each year to our team having improved as both an individual and team player.

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Go Cubs!