



LEICESTERSHIRE'S TOP PERFORMING JUNIOR BASKETBALL CLUB

SEASON REVIEW 2025-26



WINNING SEASON

CHAMPIONS, ENGLAND CALL-UPS & 100s OF YOUNG PLAYERS



DAVE HARRIS
Head Coach
Leicester Dynamite

Every now and then, you have to take a moment and acknowledge what's being achieved - this review does that.

On the court, our U14s and U16s won their leagues and earned promotion to the North Premier division. U17 Reds were also title champions and our U17 Girls were play-off cup champions. It speaks to the dedication of the players and the coaches who give so much of their time.

Several of our players were rewarded including Asher who was called up to the England Basketball Talent Programme. Proof that our young people compete with the best.

I'm proud of all our teams - they challenged at the top end of each JNBL and YBL division we competed in. I'm also proud of our community players - and everyone who joins us, picks up a ball, and plays the game.

Getting involved is key and our philosophy remains simple: if a young person walks through our door and wants to play basketball then we will find somewhere for them to play.

That's what this club is, and what it has always been. It gets 100s of young people playing each week - from mini-leagues all the way through to national squads.



CALL-UP: Asher was invited to train with England



COMMUNITY: A Saturday session at WQE



CHAMPIONS: The Under-14 Boys squad

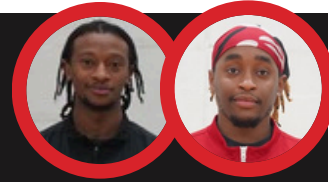


U12 MIXED

THIRD-PLACED IN REGIONAL LEAGUE I



FINISHED 3rd
WON 6
LOST 3
POINTS FOR 512
POINTS AGAINST 457



Coach Omar
Coach Richard

Having the pleasure of coaching the U12s this season has been a very fulfilling experience to say the least. We've watched friendships form and develop and the players' confidence and skills grow more and more.

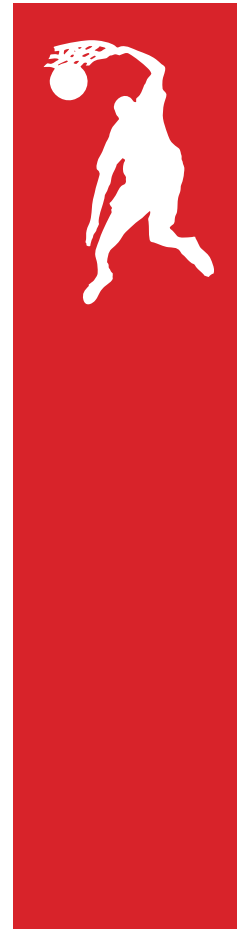
For a lot of the kids this was their first season playing for a team. And, although we had some tough losses, they always came back stronger with some very impressive wins.

Most notable was our win away at Sheffield Elite, which was when we first saw them truly come together as a team.

They each played for each other, which was a beautiful sight to see because it makes our job a lot easier.

Over the season we've been impressed with the players' work ethic and desire to become better players both on and off the court.

That's been reflected in the way they show up from training to game day. The Under-12s always brought intensity and honesty to the game - from the start of the season all the way through to the end.

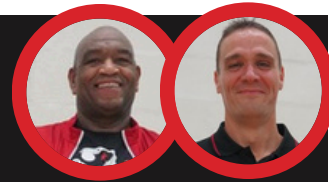


U14 BOYS

CHAMPIONS OF MIDLANDS CONFERENCE II



FINISHED 1st
WON 22 + 2
LOST 0
POINTS FOR 1956 + 130
POINTS AGAINST 915 + 99



Coach Shaun
Coach Luke

Another fantastic season for this talented U14s squad, who completed a perfect league campaign, winning all 22 games, before adding two play-off victories to secure the title.

With only half of last season's squad returning, and several new players joining, high expectations were placed on the group. They responded superbly, improving consistently and embracing every challenge. The season began against Northampton, who proved strong opposition and eventual runners-up. In the decisive return fixture, Dynamite delivered a dominant performance.

They built a commanding early lead to clinch the league title. By season's end, the team boasted the league's best offence and defence, highlighting their consistency.

In the playoffs, they overcame an unbeaten Stockport side, overcoming absences to secure a convincing win. The final saw victory away at City of Leeds, where composure and quality earned an 18-point triumph. This group has shown it is ready for Premier Division basketball and is well placed to develop further in years ahead. Teamwork, discipline, and resilience were central to the success.



U15 BOYS

3RD-PLACED IN ZONAL GROUP THREE



FINISHED 4th
WON 5
LOST 7
POINTS FOR 738
POINTS AGAINST 783



Coach Rohan

The most important function of the YBL is for the continued improvement of players and keeping them involved in the sport and connected with their friends.

The most satisfying part of coaching the U15s this season has been seeing them grow as a team and grow in confidence as individuals.

There was plenty of success to cheer about, coming 3rd in the league, and reaching the semi-final of the cup. Having played for Leicester Dynamite myself, I know how impactful having something like this to look forward to, can be, and to be able to help that happen is a great honour.


My favourite moment this season was during a game against a team, joint on points with us. We were down by 10 points at half time, being beaten mainly through our lack of energy. So I decided to switch the gameplan and play a small five, two of which who don't get as much play time as others in the team.

The result of the switch was a 3rd quarter which finished with us up by 15 points, and a win by 25 points. Seeing the players instantly adapt and gel together to mount the comeback was without a doubt one of the highlights of the season for both myself and the players.



U16 BOYS

CHAMPIONS OF MIDLANDS CONFERENCE III



FINISHED 1st
WON 14
LOST 0
POINTS FOR 1,537
POINTS AGAINST 673



Coach Dave

The U16 season began with strong commitment, as 13 players attended the first session and showed the willingness to work hard. Two players dropped out early, but the remaining group's work ethic throughout preseason set the tone for came next.

The preparation paid off with a 30-point win in our opener, followed by 6 consecutive victories. It soon became clear there were 2 standout teams, and in a highly anticipated home clash, we delivered an outstanding performance-building a 20-point lead and holding on to win by 14 in a fantastic atmosphere.

Mid-season, we faced adversity when Ethan, a key player, was injured after Christmas. The team regrouped impressively, winning every game leading into a title-deciding final fixture. Away from home, in a tense, physical contest, we battled foul trouble and a packed crowd to secure a memorable overtime victory.

We finished the season unbeaten, showing resilience, togetherness, and competitive spirit. Promotion was secured by winning both play-off games. Thanks to all our players for a truly dynamite season.

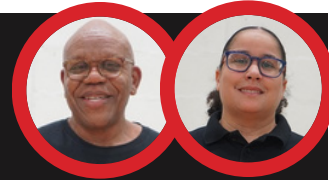


U17 GIRLS

CHAMPIONS OF UNDER-17 ALL-GIRLS LEAGUE



FINISHED 1st
WON 6
LOST 0
POINTS FOR 426
POINTS AGAINST 177



Coach Dave
Coach Mell

A fantastic season for the first ever Dynamite Girls team, which came together only weeks before the season started thanks to the efforts of Angelica and Imaan-Masoom.

Despite having little time to prepare, the girls worked hard in training and supported each other. Their effort and attitude were outstanding each week.

It quickly became clear that this group had something special. Starting the season with a win gave the team confidence, and from there they continued to improve - completing the season unbeaten.

This was an amazing accomplishment and a reflection of their dedication and hard work. The highlight of the year was winning the YBL Women's Play-Off Cup, a moment for everyone involved with the club to be proud of.

This season was about much more than just results. It marked the beginning of girls' basketball at Leicester Dynamite and created a strong foundation for the future.

We are extremely proud of every player for their commitment, teamwork, and positive attitude throughout an unforgettable season.

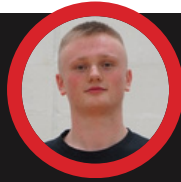


U17 BOYS (RED)

CHAMPIONS OF U17 ZONAL GROUP TWO



FINISHED 1st
WON 9
LOST 0
POINTS FOR 692
POINTS AGAINST 359



Coach Shay

The season began positively, as we won our opening three games by an average margin of 31 points. Attention turned to the cup competition, where we recorded several convincing victories against talented opposition before eventually losing to a strong Shropshire side.

The group responded with resilience and determination, using the experience as motivation in our pursuit of the league.

We reached 7–0 with 3 difficult fixtures remaining, including a crucial away game at Donisthorpe, where three of our five starters were

unavailable others stepped up, notably Seb - who contributed 17 vital points from the bench. Finishing at a well-coached Kettering side, we trailed by 12 points early on. However, the team fought back to win and take an undefeated league season. The Playoffs opened with a strong 80–36 victory over Phantoms, before we faced Kettering in the final.

We won a close contest to become Zonal Group Champions, with Delani producing an outstanding 39-point performance, including 7 three-pointers. Leadership from captain Adrian and long-serving Mo played a major role all season.



U17 BOYS (BLACK)

THIRD-PLACED IN U17 ZONAL GROUP TWO



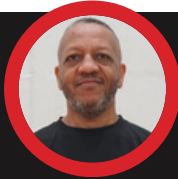
FINISHED 3rd

WON 5

LOST 4

POINTS FOR 587

POINTS AGAINST 538



Coach Tony

Of the 12 players starting the season in the Under-17 Black squad, the majority had not experienced structured basketball before.

It meant that the first challenge was to get a group of individuals to play together as a team.

As such, our primary goal in practice sessions was player development & team building. The season itself started with an unexpected victory in the Cup and a loss in the League. These early games were important in revealing the fundamentals we needed to improve upon.

These were namely defence and fitness - as a team we were competitive for three quarters but seemed to fall short in the last period.

Game-to-game, we made great improvements during the season, which culminated in a third place finish. Entering the Playoffs in the first round, the team performed a shutout of 17-0 in the second quarter.

In the semi-final we played a very competitive game - with a lot of positive actions by the team - but failed to get the win. We were super proud of the effort from our players..




U18 MEN

RUNNERS-UP IN MIDLANDS CONFERENCE II



FINISHED 2nd
WON 11
LOST 3
POINTS FOR 1,177
POINTS AGAINST 997



Coach Hilroy
Coach Tony

Over the past five seasons, the U18s have established themselves as one of the most consistent and successful teams in the league, winning four titles and finishing runners-up once. That consistency reflects the hard work, commitment, and strong culture built within the programme.

This season, however, presented arguably our toughest challenge. Unlike previous years, there were five genuine title contenders, making every game highly competitive and every result significant. The overall standard across the league was exceptionally high.

What stood out most was the team's ability to deliver in key moments. We recorded convincing wins against the two other teams who ultimately finished joint top - demonstrating the level we could reach under pressure.

We also achieved a rare feat by beating MK on their home court - they had previously been unbeaten. There was also an outstanding performance against Midlands rivals Nottingham Wildcats. This season was defined not just by results, but by resilience, character, and composure in high-pressure situations against the strongest competition in recent years.

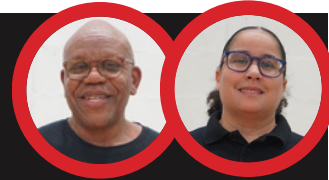


COMMUNITY

GIVING ALL YOUNG PEOPLE THE CHANCE TO PLAY BASKETBALL



COMMUNITY SESSIONS 70
CAMPS RUN 5
CAMP ATTENDEES 225
HAF PLACES 125



Coach Dave
Coach Mell

A core priority of Leicester Dynamite is its community focus, using basketball to create accessible, positive opportunities for young people across the city and county.

During the season, the club delivered 70 community sessions, including its popular open sessions every Saturday morning, as well as additional evening sessions. These provide a welcoming environment for children and young people of all abilities to get active, make friends and build confidence on and off the court.

Meanwhile, the club ran 5 holiday camps during school breaks,

giving children the chance to enjoy high-energy basketball days in a safe, structured setting. A total of 225 children attended the camps - reflecting good demand from local families.

Importantly, the club also offered 125 HAF (Holiday Activities and Food) places across these camps - meaning that young people who might otherwise miss out could also take part.

This combination of regular sessions, inclusive camps and HAF support demonstrates the club's commitment to its community.

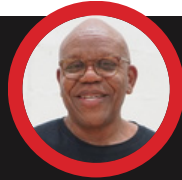


OFF THE COURT

PROGRESS BEHIND THE SCENES - AND OUR PLANS FOR 2026-27



NEW WEBSITE 1
INSTAGRAM POSTS 115
COACHES/VOLUNTEERS 16
SEASON AWARDS 1



Coach Dave

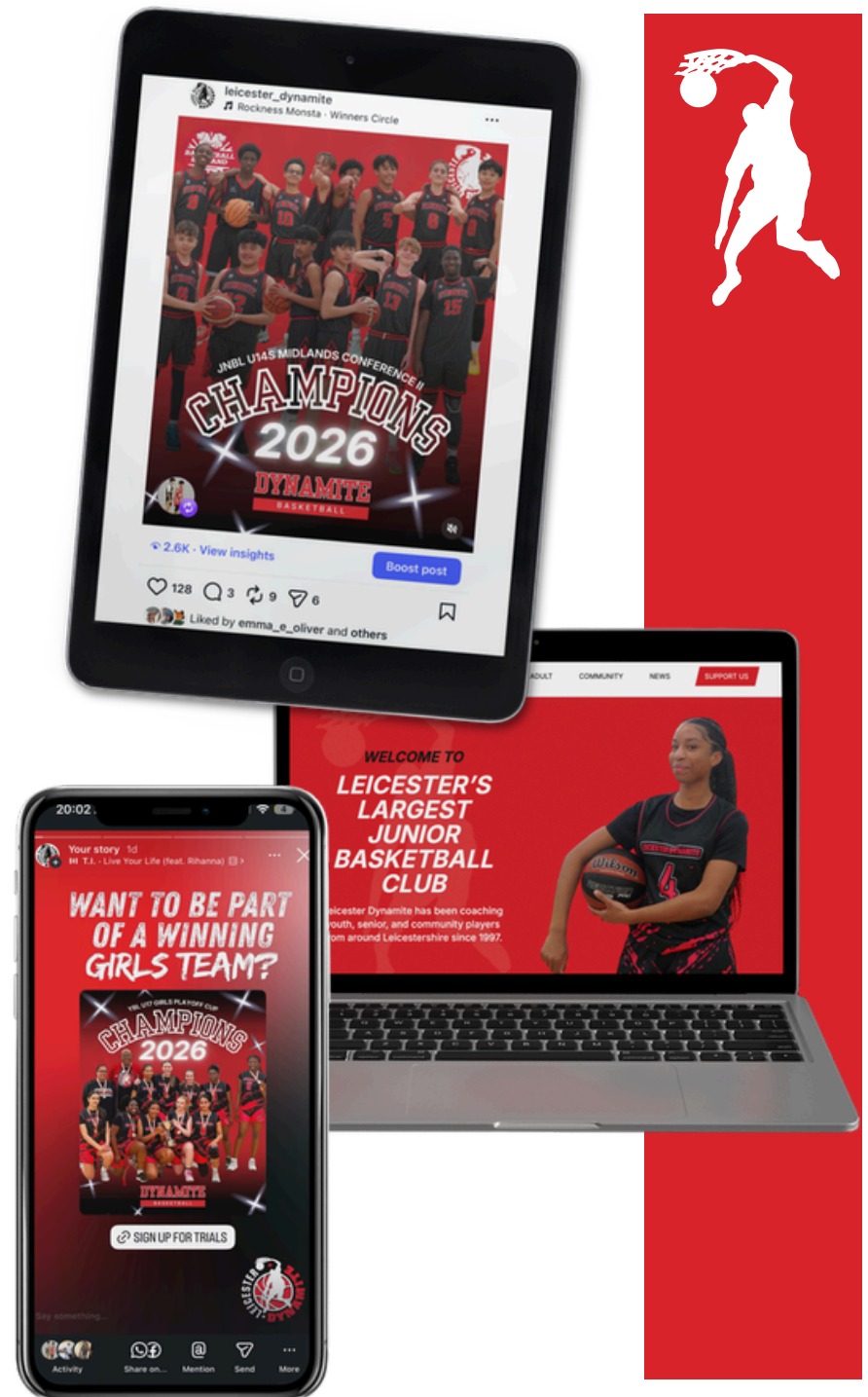
The club's focus remains on creating opportunities for player development while strengthening every area of the programme and growing our reach.

A key priority is continuing the growth of our girls' programme following the success of our first ever girls' team. We aim to build a clear girls' pathway, including an Under-16 girls' team, so players can continue progressing within Leicester Dynamite.

Across all age groups, we want to strengthen every team and keep raising standards and performances season-on-season.

Player development sits at the centre of our philosophy, but investing in the people who support the teams is just as important. Therefore, we will continue to actively develop and recruit coaches, volunteers, and table officials - ensuring that we have the structure needed for long-term growth.

Off the court, we have developed a new website and are growing our Instagram presence to raise the club's profile, attract new players, coaches and volunteers, and support the expansion of teams and the girls' pathway.



IN NUMBERS

RESULTS FROM OUR 2025-26 PLAYER SURVEY DATA

62

players across 8 teams shared their views in our annual survey

4/5

overall player satisfaction score across the club

89%

of players feel comfortable at training and games

71%

of players feel challenged at the right level in training

79%

of players enjoy their training sessions at Dynamite

61%

of players feel playing time is fair - an area for us to focus on

4.8

out of 5 satisfaction from our U12s - our highest rating from a single age group

77%

of players say the team environment is encouraging

PLAYER FEEDBACK

'The environment really feels like we aren't a team, but instead a family'

'The opportunities I have been given have helped me become better overall - not just with sports but as a person'

'Everyone is kind and the sessions have a great atmosphere'

'I feel like I have a strong connection with my teammates - despite only joining the team this season'





THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS AND SPONSORS



Interested in sponsoring Leicester Dynamite? Look out for our new pack - coming soon!

Alternatively, please email Dave Harris at

yhleicesterdynamite@hotmail.com