

Former PHS Star Ettin Puts in a Long Day But Ends Up on Short End in Summer Hoops

It may be summer vacation time but Skye Ettin didn't take it easy last Monday.

The recent Princeton High graduate started his day by putting in six hours at Community Park as a counselor at Camp Carter summer hoops camp.

From 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Ettin took part in a practice for the East squad at Robbinsville High in preparation for this Thursday's Sunshine Classic all-star football game.

Ettin capped off his marathon day by heading back to Community Park to play for University Radiology Group in the Recreation Department Summer Men's Basketball League.

Although University Radiology fell 45-39 to SMB, Ettin still managed to smile after his 10 hours of sports in the sweltering 95 degree heat.

"I am trying to breathe a little bit," said a grinning Ettin. "It was a long day but a good one."

In other summer hoops action last Monday, The Princeton Sports Bar and Grill (4-1) posted a 61-53 win over the Running Rebels (0-5) and the Pennsylvania Blue Devils (3-1) cruised to a 61-36 triumph over Princeton Youth Sports (0-4).

University Radiology looked like it was going to be among the winners as it got off to a good start, built an early 15-5 lead. A scrappy SMB fought back to take a 20-17 lead at the half.

With Ettin hitting some big shots, University tied the game at 29-29 and was within a basket at several points after that but couldn't get over the hump in falling

to 3-2 on the season. Josh Robinson scored a game-high 21 points for SMB as it improved to 3-2.

"In the beginning, we had the tempo that we wanted, we were dictating the pace," said Ettin. "We stopped boxing out and making shots. We had to go zone on defense and that slowed the tempo down; that really killed us."

Ettin did his best to kill SMB from the outside as he hit several jump shots in the second half.

"I felt like I had a mismatch when they put a smaller guard on me," said Ettin, who ended the evening with 12 points.

"I was trying to get the ball and have them double and then kick it out or do whatever I could."

With University's roster made up entirely of PHS grads, Ettin is getting a kick out of playing with classmates and former teammates.

"It is absolutely fun," said Ettin of the team which is making its debut in the summer hoops league and includes such PHS stalwarts as DeQuan Holman, Brian Dunlap, A.J. Dowers, Thatcher Foster, Jordan Metro, and Devon Holman.

"We know each other so well. We have played with each other so long; we don't have a problem explaining things. It is great for me to play with them again because we had such a great time in high school. I am going to miss it a lot with graduation. To get everyone back together is great."

It has also been great for Ettin to be on the gridiron with a bunch of former teammates as the East squad prepares for the Sunshine Classic.

"It is double-sided," said

Ettin, who is joined on the team by such Little Tigers stars as Mike Olentine, Josh Gordon, Joe Kirkenir, Nick Miranda, Trevor Barsamian, and Brian Vieten.

"Putting on the pads again is a little weird but I enjoyed playing at Princeton High to the fullest. Playing everyday with my teammates was fantastic. We have a lot of guys on the team so playing with them again is fantastic."

For Ettin, being in the action is great preparation for the challenges he will face this fall when he heads to Guilford College (N.C) to

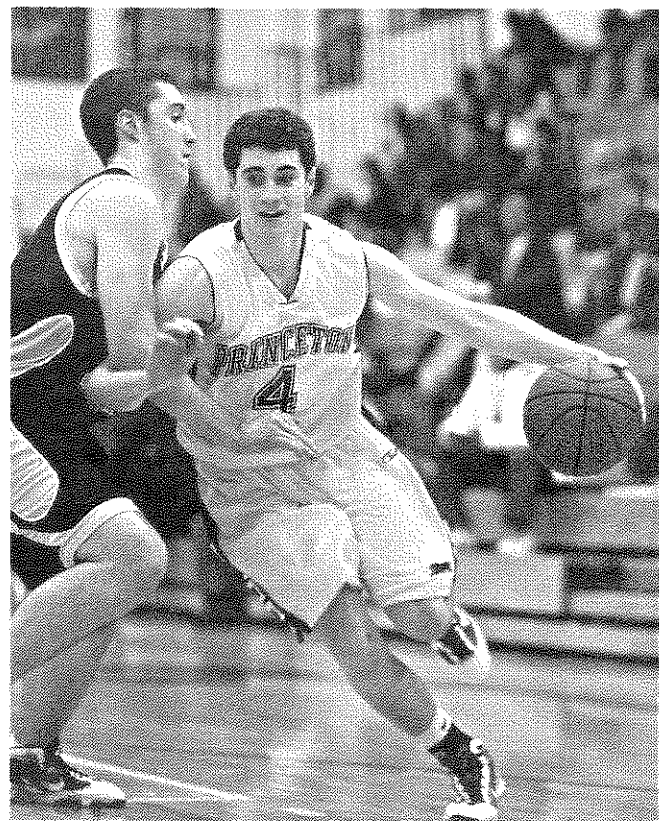
join its men's basketball program.

"I am just trying to stay in shape by running and lifting; anything I can get that is real live exposure always helps," said Ettin, who was attracted to Guilford by its basketball tradition and well-known sports management program.

"They have a real successful basketball team, they went to the Division III Final Four last year. I am going to a winning culture and trying to play. I have got to keep working to see the court."

This past Monday, Ettin certainly proved he has no problem with some hard work.

—Bill Alden



FULL DAY'S WORK: Skye Ettin heads to the basket in action this winter for the Princeton High boys' basketball team. Last Monday, recent PHS grad Ettin was a whirlwind, serving six hours as a counselor at Camp Carter, practicing for the East squad in preparation for this Thursday's Sunshine Classic all-star football game, and ending the day by starring for the University Radiology Group squad in the Recreation Department Summer Men's Basketball League. The Guilford College-bound Ettin scored 12 points as University Radiological fell 45-39 to SMB.

(Photo by David Gonsky)

33 • TOWN TOPICS, PRINCETON, N.J., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30, 2010

