

# New Castle grad Anderson makes city proud

Larry Kelly | New Castle News | November 13, 2017

"When I die, I want to leave a footprint. I want kids to say that I want to be like that guy. He lived a life that was impactful."

— Shawn Anderson

The city of New Castle isn't what it used to be. The population is less than half of what it once was in the 1960s and '70s.

The steel industry that provided so many jobs and put bread on the table for so many families is long gone.

Opportunities for young people to live and work at home are few and far between.

But notwithstanding the rust belt diminution of our community there remains a pride and determination among its citizenry. A determination to stand out; to be the best and to make a difference in their world.

When a young man or woman surfaces as a shining star — a difference maker — the whole community stands up with pride. The whole community stands a little taller.

Well, City of New Castle, you can stand tall and stick your chest out with pride because of the accomplishments of your native son — Shawn Anderson.

Anderson is not only an outstanding basketball player at the United States Naval Academy, but he also is an outstanding person.

Anderson, a senior, led the Midshipmen in scoring last season. He received second-team all-Patriot League honors last season and was selected to the Patriot League preseason first team this year.

His accolades also included being named Patriot League Player of the week, twice; Naval Academy Athletic Association Athlete of the week, four times; and Spartan Showcase Most Outstanding Player.

His coach Ed DeChellis says of Anderson, "He has a big heart. He is a quality young man and will be a great Naval Officer."

It's that last compliment — "A great Naval Officer" — that led to Anderson's selection as the captain of the Navy team this season.

Of all the accolades one can receive, there isn't a higher distinction than being named a captain of an athletic team of the U.S Naval Academy.

It recognizes that of all the great leaders that are part of the team, you are the one that the others look to for leadership. And they do.

During Navy's season opening 71-62 victory over Pitt in the Veterans Classic held at Navy, it was clear that Anderson was the one that the Middies looked to for guidance. He was a coach on the floor. He was the commander encouraging his team.

His leadership was palpable. His presence was obvious.

He scored 15 points, had nine rebounds and five assists in the victory. He made clutch free throws down the stretch and often times guarded Pitt's best player.

In short, he lead his team in all facets of the game. He was the captain.

But it isn't just his basketball ability that makes him special.

His major is quantitative economics. His coach calls him "an outstanding student."

He is not only making an impact at the Naval Academy, but also at home. He is a co-founder of Forever Red Hurricane, an organization that mentors sixth-grade students who are part of the New Castle Area school system.

The organization also runs the "Coats for Kids" program that solicits donation from the community to provide warm coats for children in need.

Anderson lives by the creed that "This life is not lived for only us. There is a purpose bigger than self."

This young Midshipman is special. If he became President of the United States one day, we shouldn't be surprised.

He's certainly living a life that is impactful. His footprint in New Castle will be well defined before he's done. Kids all over this town should be saying, "I want to be like Shawn."

Stand up, New Castle, and stick your chest out. You have a right to be proud. Shawn Anderson is on his way to special places.

# Vasiljevic leads No. 12 Miami to 89-55 victory over Navy

Associated Press | November 12, 2017

CORAL GABLES, Fla. (AP) — With Bruce Brown struggling, D.J. Vasiljevic picked up the offensive slack for Miami.

Vasiljevic scored 16 points to lead five players in double figures as the No. 12 Hurricanes beat Navy 89-55 on Sunday.

The sophomore guard shook off a sub-par shooting performance in Friday's opener against Gardner Webb when he missed 10 of his 12 attempts in the opener. He made half of his 10 shots on Sunday.

"I approached it the same way I did Friday," Vasiljevic said. "My routine doesn't change. I missed a few shots on Friday that I should have made. I stayed afterwards and this morning, went through the routine. The shots dropped today."

Vasiljevic's performance helped offset Brown's limited scoring output. Brown, projected to enter the NBA draft after the season, finished with three points on 1-of-10 shooting. Brown averaged 11 points per game as a freshman.

Dulin, Anderson lead way as Navy defeats Pittsburgh, 71-62, in Veterans Classic  
"He missed some shots but he's such a good player," Miami coach Jim Larranaga said. "For him to go 1-for-10, 0-for-3 (3-pointers) is so uncharacteristic. He just missed some shots right at the rim. Some nights you miss."

The Hurricanes (2-0) never trailed and opened the game with a 9-0 run in the first 4:27. Ja'Quan Newton's two layups and Vasiljevic's 3-pointer keyed Miami's early surge.

"I was proud of how hard we played all 48 minutes," Larranaga said. "Our defense was very good but our effort was outstanding."

Newton finished with 14 points on 6-of-10 shooting. Dewan Huell had his first career double 14 points and 10 rebounds for Miami.

Navy women get off to quick start, whip Rider  
"The first of many," Huell said.

The Hurricanes wore down the Midshipmen (1-1) in transition. Miami scored 29 points on fast break opportunities.

"They have really good speed," Navy coach Ed DeChellis said. "They get really get down the

floor. It takes them three steps; it takes us five or six steps to get to the same spot."

Hasan Abdullah scored 13 points to lead Navy. The Midshipmen split their two season-opening games against Atlantic Coast Conference opponents after their win over Pittsburgh Friday night.

**NO BLAME ON TURNAROUND FATIGUE:**  
DeChellis didn't attribute the team's late Friday game against Pittsburgh in Annapolis as a factor in Sunday's performance. The Midshipmen arrived in Miami Saturday afternoon and had a shoot-around session at the Watsco Center shortly thereafter.

"Tough turnaround but there's no excuse," DeChellis said. "We didn't handle the ball we didn't do the things we needed to do to be successful."

**BIG PICTURE:** Miami had five double figure scorers for the second game in a row. In addition to Vasiljevic, Newton and Huell, Ebuka Izundu scored 12 and Anthony Lawrence finished with 10 points. The Hurricanes only had three games last season in which five players scored in double figures.

"For us to have five guys in doubles and (Brown) not be one of them it says we've got good balance," Larranaga said.

**UP NEXT:** The Hurricanes conclude their season-starting three game homestand against Florida A&M on Thursday.

The Midshipmen play their second of a four-game road trip through different states Wednesday at Penn.

# Dulin, Anderson lead way as Navy defeats Pitt, 71-62, in Veterans Classic

Bill Wagner | Annapolis Capital | November 11, 2017

Navy entered the 2017-2018 basketball season with a veteran squad featuring eight returning lettermen, including four starters. The Midshipmen welcomed back their top five scorers from a year ago.

Same could not be said for Pittsburgh, which underwent a complete roster overhaul. The Panthers had four players graduate, five transfer and another dismissed from its 2016-2017 squad that finished .500 (16-16).

Head coach Kevin Stallings brought in 11 new scholarship players, most of any NCAA school. Pitt is one of only six programs with no returning starters and featured nine players (seven freshmen, two transfers) that had never played in a Division I game.

So it stood to reason that Navy would have an advantage over Pittsburgh in terms of chemistry and cohesion when the teams met in Friday night's season opener. That proved the case over the long haul as the Midshipmen used their experience and teamwork to notch a rare victory over an Atlantic Coast Conference opponent.

Senior guard Bryce Dulin led a balanced attack with 18 points as Navy maintained a comfortable lead most of the way in beating Pittsburgh, 71-62, in the nightcap of the Veterans Classic before an announced crowd of 3,238. Senior swingman Shawn Anderson had a solid all-around game with 15 points, nine rebounds and five assists for the Midshipmen, who won for the first time in four tries in their own season-opening tournament.

Junior point guard Hasan Abdullah added eight points and five assists for Navy, which built a 15-point lead just past the midway mark of the second half and answered several runs by Pitt. It was Navy's first win over an ACC school since it beat Wake Forest in 1971.

"I'm really, really proud of our team. I thought we played hard and I thought we executed offensively. We made timely shots and we made our free throws down the stretch, which was critical," Navy head coach Ed DeChellis said. "Defensively, I thought we were pretty good all night. They shot 41 percent so overall it was a pretty decent defensive effort."

Navy had previously lost to college basketball heavyweights Michigan State, Florida and Ohio

State in the Veterans Classic. DeChellis admitted it was meaningful for the Midshipmen to knock off a Power Five Conference opponent and get into the win column for this event.

"It's important. I'm not going downplay that. This is our fourth year and we wanted to win one," he said. "I'm really happy for our players. They've worked very hard. Our seniors are really close and this was their last go-round for the Veterans Classic. So it meant a lot to them."

Anderson agreed with that assessment: "It's huge. A win like this shows that the effort we put in during the off-season meant something and that we have the potential to be a very good team," he said.

Dulin was named to the Patriot League All-Defensive team last season. DeChellis believes the 6-foot-4, 210-pounder can become an all-conference performer by showing more consistency on the offensive end. The Missouri native was asked if he's looking to be more of a scorer as a senior.

"Honestly, not really. I'm just trying to do whatever I can to help the team. Hopefully, that's scoring. Hopefully, that's continuing to be a good defender," he said. "I pride myself on guarding the other team's best player. If scoring comes with that, it does."

Anderson said Dulin naturally has a defensive mindset and joked that his alter ego, which teammates call Bruce, wants to score points.

"You didn't see Bryce Dulin tonight, you saw Bruce. He was aggressive and had a swagger about him. It was incredible," Anderson said. "We need guys to have that kind of mentality, night in and night out. If (Dulin) can do that and still be the defensive player he is, the sky's the limit."

Junior forward Jared Wilson-Frame scored 20 points to lead Pittsburgh, which led the contest for just 3 ½ minutes. Wilson-Frame is a transfer from Northwest Florida State, where he tallied almost 1,000 points in 56 games. Senior forward Ryan Luther, one of only two returning lettermen, totaled 14 points and eight rebounds for the Panthers.

"That was a good, solid, veteran team we played tonight. They did what they do better

than we did what we want to do," Pittsburgh head coach Kevin Stallings said. "We got out-physicaled and we got out-toughed."

Pittsburgh was doomed by a woeful offensive performance to start the second half. The Panthers missed 14 straight field goals and also committed three turnovers over the opening 10:17 in falling behind by 15 points.

Pitt's lone point during that decisive stretch came off a free throw. The Panthers did not make their first field goal of the second half until Shamiel Stevenson followed his own miss at the 9:43 mark.

"We have to be better than a team that scores one point in 10 minutes," Stallings said. "That was really the game right there."

Anderson canned a 3-pointer and also scored off a driving layup as Navy outscored the visitors 17-3 to take its largest lead of the game. Lacey followed a missed free throw with a tap-in to give the Mids a commanding 56-41 advantage with 9:15 to go.

Pitt showed some signs of life with Wilson-Frame capping an 8-0 run with a layup that cut the deficit to seven and forced Navy to call a timeout with 7:03 remaining. A steal that led to a follow dunk by Luther got the Panthers within five at 56-51, but the Mids quickly regained control.

Dulin scored off a driving layup and drew a foul in the process for a three-point play then swished a 3-pointer on the following possession as Navy pushed the lead back to 11 with 4:35 remaining. Dulin was proud to see the Mids display some mental toughness down the stretch.

"That's huge for us right now, knowing that we have a veteran team and knowing we have a lot of seniors and juniors on the floor. That really helps," he said.

Anderson and senior forward Tom Lacey both made both ends of one-and-one free throws in the final 1:21. DeChellis was pleased with the way responded when Pitt made a couple runs toward the end.

"I just think we had a little more experience at the end and we made some plays. We made some shots and some free throws," DeChellis

## Dulin, Anderson lead way as Navy defeats Pitt, 71-62, in Veterans Classic (Cont...)

Bill Wagner | Annapolis Capital | November 11, 2017

said. "I thought our seniors really came through and did a nice job and that's very important."

Navy does not have time to celebrate as it plays at 13th-ranked Miami on Sunday afternoon. DeChellis has convened a Saturday morning practice to install a game-plan for the Hurricanes, who routed Gardner-Webb, 77-45, on Friday night.

"We have to move on tomorrow and start preparing to play Miami on Sunday. Now we'll get Miami's attention and I'm sure we'll get their best effort," DeChellis said.

Navy out-rebounded Miami 39-30 with Dulin and Lacey grabbing eight apiece. Junior forward Mo Lewis, who played a total of 16 minutes in five games last season, came off the bench to give the Mids a lift by making 3 of 4 field goals and grabbing four rebounds.

Dulin knocked down a pair of 3-pointers in scoring 11 points as Navy took a 39-38 halftime lead. Anderson and junior Kiernan contributed six points apiece for the Midshipmen, who led for almost 15 of the 20 minutes.

Wilson-Frame drained three shots from beyond the arc in netting 13 points for Pittsburgh, which committed nine turnovers. Carr went 3-for-3 on 3-pointers in adding 12 points as the Panthers rallied from an early deficit to tie the score five times and take the lead once.

Chemistry was the difference early on as the Midshipmen had five different players reach the scoring column in taking an eight-point lead with just over seven minutes elapsed.

Stallings insists he has recruited quality ACC talent and that showed soon enough as the Panthers responded with an 11-2 run to move ahead. It was back-and-forth the rest of the first half with Navy taking another seven point lead on a 3-pointer by Dulin with 2:12 remaining. Wilson-Frame swished a three of his own in the final seconds to cut the deficit to one at intermission.

# Navy tops cold-shooting Pittsburgh 71-62 in Veterans Classic

David Ginsburg | Associated Press | November 11, 2017

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) — It didn't matter to Navy that Pittsburgh is coming off a losing season and woefully lacking in experience.

Any win over an Atlantic Coast Conference team is something to savor, especially when it comes at home in the season opener.

Bryce Dulin scored 18 points, Shawn Anderson added 15 and Navy topped the cold-shooting Panthers 71-62 Friday night in the season-opening Veterans Classic.

"It was huge. A win like this shows we have the potential to be a very good team," said Anderson, who had nine rebounds and five assists in a team-high 33 minutes.

The Midshipmen opened the second half with a 13-1 run to take a 52-39 lead and held off a late run by the Panthers in the closing minutes.

Pittsburgh missed its first 14 field goal attempts after halftime. Over the first 13 minutes of the second half, the Panthers were 5 for 20 from the floor and 0 for 9 from 3-point range.

"We have a slew of things to work on," coach Kevin Stallings said.

Navy finished with a 39-30 rebounding advantage.

In their defense, the Panthers are extremely inexperienced. They lost all five starters from last season's team and their only two returning scholarship letterwinners — Ryan Luther and Jonathan Milligan — had three starts between them.

Pitt closed to 66-62 with 1:31 left but didn't have enough poise to complete the comeback.

Jared Wilson-Frame was at the free throw line with a chance to get the Panthers within a basket, but he missed both shots. Anderson subsequently made two free throws on the other end, and three more Navy foul shots sealed it.

"We might not be able to get the ball in the basket," Stallings said, "but they will continue to play hard."

Wilson-Frame led Pittsburgh with 20 points and Luther had 14.

After Dulin scored 11 in the first half to help Navy take a 39-38 halftime lead, Hasan Abdullah began the second half by hitting successive 3s for a seven-point cushion.

Shamuel Stevenson sank a free throw for the Panthers before Anderson connected from beyond the arc and Mo Lewis added a jumper to make it 50-39.

## BIG PICTURE

Pittsburgh: It could be a rough run for the Panthers in the ACC. Their inexperience was painfully evident against Navy, and the Midshipmen are not to be confused with the Tar Heels or even the Demon Deacons.

Navy: Games like this serve as a confidence-boost for a team that last season reached the Patriot League semifinals for the first time since 2001.

## HARD TIMES

The Panthers figured there would be tough times this season. They weren't counting on it happening so soon.

"We were hoping adversity would come a little later," Stallings said. "But it came tonight."

## UP NEXT

Pittsburgh: The Panthers host Montana on Monday night in the Legends Classic.

Navy: The Midshipmen face another ACC foe, Miami, on the road Sunday afternoon.

# Navy men's basketball adjusts to new-found respect

Bill Wagner | Annapolis Capital | November 10, 2017

Navy men's basketball finds itself in an unusual position going into this season.

Throughout the seven-year tenure of head coach Ed DeChellis, the Midshipmen have played with a chip on their shoulder after being predicted to finish at the bottom of the Patriot League.

Things have changed going into the 2017-2018 campaign as Navy has been picked third in the Patriot League preseason poll. That is the program's highest position since being tabbed to place second prior to the 2001-2002 season.

"I think it's different for this program in terms of the Patriot League. The target is on our back a little bit and we're going to get everyone's best shot," DeChellis said. "It's a unique position in the sense we're going to be the hunted now. We spoke to our players about that in terms of mindset. We're not sneaking up on anyone anymore. That's a different kind of pressure for our players."

Indeed, there is new-found respect for Navy after it finished in sole possession of fourth place in the Patriot League last season. The Midshipmen also advanced to the semifinals of the Patriot League Tournament for the first time since 2001.

Navy has increased its win total within the Patriot League every year under DeChellis, who owns a 68-119 overall record in Annapolis. The Midshipmen posted a 10-8 conference record last season.

"It's nice to finally get some respect and be appreciated. That being said, preseason rankings in this league don't really mean much," Navy senior captain Shawn Anderson said. "We've definitely put the program out there to the point that people know what Navy basketball is all about. We hope to keep moving forward. I think we have the pieces to be a 20-win team this season. It just comes down to sticking to the process and doing the little things every day."

Navy returns four starters from last season's team that finished 16-16 overall with center Edward Alade the lone loss to graduation. The Midshipmen bring back eight lettermen overall, including their top five scorers.

"I think we have a talented group, a pretty veteran group and a very competitive group,"

DeChellis said. "I think we have the pieces to be a pretty good basketball team. We've got some veterans, some leadership. We have some young guys that I think will mold into our squad pretty nicely. Now we just have to put those pieces together."

Anderson was a second team All-Patriot League selection last season after leading Navy in scoring with 12.2 points per game while ranking second in rebounding (4.4 average), assists (88) and steals (37).

"Shawn Anderson has shown he's one of the best players in this league. He's a tough kid that comes to work every day, has a great attitude and is an outstanding leader," DeChellis said. "We need Shawn to show great consistency. He has the ability to step up his game on both ends of the floor."

DeChellis wants Anderson to be assertive on the offensive end without feeling he needs to be a volume scorer. He believes the 6-foot-4, 215-pounder can become more of a lockdown defender.

Anderson is the team captain, a role that brings additional responsibilities around the academy and within the Brigade of Midshipmen.

"On the court, I think it's important for me to understand where the team is at. Sometimes you need to push the guys more, other times you need to back off. Sometimes you need to challenge guys, other times you need to pull them aside for a pep talk," Anderson said. "That's been the biggest challenge. Having the pulse of the team. I'm trying to go back to when I was a freshman and sophomore and remember what people are going through. My job is to help all my teammates get through the season."

Navy's other returning starters are senior power forward Tom Lacey, senior wing forward Bryce Dulin and junior point guard Hasan Abdullah. Dulin enjoyed a breakout campaign a year ago, averaging 9.3 points and 4.1 rebounds while being named to the Patriot League All-Defensive team.

DeChellis believes Dulin can become an All-Patriot League performer by developing into a more dangerous scorer and creator.

"I think Bryce Dulin has really stepped up and

become more of a vocal leader," DeChellis said. "Bryce is our best perimeter defender, but I think he has the ability to do more on the offensive end."

Lacey led Navy and ranked third in the Patriot League in rebounding with 7.1 per game. The rugged 6-foot-7, 235-pounder grabbed 100 offensive rebounds, the second-highest total in program history since the statistic was first tracked in 1987.

"We need Tom Lacey to expand his offensive game, to get on the low box and score a little more," DeChellis said. "Tom brings a lot of energy and emotion, which is infectious for the whole team. He plays with a lot of physicality, whether it's rebounding, defending or setting picks."

Abdullah took over as the starting point guard as a sophomore and got better as the season went along, winding up with averages of 8.8 points, 3.3 assists and 1.9 steals. The 6-foot, 195-pounder led the Mids in assists, steals, 3-pointers made (48) and minutes played (28.4).

"Hasan is more mature, more comfortable in a leadership role. He has become a more vocal leader and is telling the younger guys what to do," DeChellis said. "Hasan can break down defenses and get to the basket. He can shoot the ball from the perimeter and really pressure the ball on the defensive end. He has great quickness and gets his hands on a lot of balls."

Abdullah has been bothered by a hip flexor that forced him to miss eight days of practice recently. The Alabama native returned to the court this week, but his status for Friday's opener against Pittsburgh in the Veterans Classic is questionable.

Nourse Fox, a steady and reliable senior, would likely start at point guard if Abdullah cannot go. That would put pressure on sophomore Matt Cullen and freshman Cam Davis to perform in a backup role. Cullen did not see varsity action last season while Davis is a direct-entry recruit from Battlefield, Missouri.

As of Tuesday, DeChellis was still undecided about the fifth starter with sophomore Evan Wieck and junior George Kiernan the most likely candidates to replace Alade in the front-court. The 6-foot-8, 235-pound Wieck is a more

## Navy men's basketball adjusts to new-found respect (Cont...)

traditional post player while Kiernan (6-7, 225) prefers to face the basket and is one of Navy's best jump shooters.

"Evan Wieck has made a lot of improvement. He's doing a better job of catching the ball in the post and scoring," DeChellis said. "George Kiernan showed last season that he can really shoot the basketball. He had some big scoring games."

DeChellis indicated the style of game along with matchups could determine whether Kiernan or Wieck gets the most minutes as they are vastly different players.

"Evan is a defensive center, a rebounder, a physical kid who hedges ball screens well. Kiernan can play on the perimeter and stretch the floor offensively," he said. "So it all depends on what type of game is being played and what we need at that point in time."

Navy needs to develop a bench and DeChellis is eager to see which players step up. Junior Ryan Pearson has flashed some offensive talent in terms of shooting, but needs to improve as a defender. Junior Mo Lewis (6-6, 240) has looked like the program's most improved player during preseason and provides a physical presence in terms of rebounding and setting screens. Junior Dom Antonelli (6-1, 190) has shown he can make some outside shots.

Navy has brought in 10 freshmen, most of whom will spend this season developing on the junior varsity. DeChellis thinks Davis and forward Tyler Riemersma (6-8, 215) could be ready to contribute right away.

"We're looking for that second wave off the bench. As a staff, we're trying to figure out who is going to help this team in a reserve role," he said.

Navy has only enjoyed one winning season (19-14 in 2015-2016) under DeChellis, who left Penn State in May, 2011 to take over the struggling program. That is why the coaching staff is cautioning the players to not get too confident about being picked third in the Patriot League.

"That's always a concern, but my feedback to the players is 'What have we done?' We haven't done anything. We really haven't accomplished our goals at all," DeChellis said. "Some days I think we've put this thing together well

enough to have a chance to get something done. This is the first year that I can say we have a team that is capable of capturing the championship. I think we do have a chance if things fall into place."

# Veterans Classic teams soak up visit to the Naval Academy

Bill Wagner | Annapolis Capital | November 10, 2017

Tubby Smith grew up in Lexington Park, Maryland, and remembers taking school field trips to Annapolis to see the State House and other historic sites in the capital city. However, Smith had never stepped foot on the campus of the Naval Academy until Thursday.

Smith, a legendary college basketball coach, was just as awestruck as his Memphis players while touring the Naval Academy on Thursday.

"Wow! What a great place this truly is," said Smith, who was born in the St. Mary's County town of Scotland. "Obviously, I've heard so much about the Naval Academy over the years. To be able to spend this morning walking around and seeing it up close and personal was really special."

Memphis is one of three visiting teams participating in the fourth annual Veterans Classic, being held on Friday night at Alumni Hall on the Naval Academy campus. Memphis will take on No. 25 Alabama in the first game at 6:30.

Smith and the Tigers were joined on Thursday's tour by players, coaches and support personnel from Alabama and Pittsburgh.

It was an eye-opening experience for the basketball players, most of whom had never visited a service academy and had little understanding of what such an institution was all about. Smith, like every other head coach that has brought a team to the Veterans Classic, said the three-hour morning tour was the highlight of the trip to Annapolis.

"When you come to a place like the Naval Academy you learn about the discipline these midshipmen must display every day as part of the mental, moral and physical training they go through," said Smith, in his 38th year as a college basketball coach. "We are trying to get our players to understand that nothing good happens without discipline, in any aspect of life."

Smith has a valid excuse for having never visited the Naval Academy until now, noting that he left Maryland at the age of 17 to attend High Point College. The 1969 graduate of Great Mills High was a standout basketball player and originally signed with the University of Maryland.

However, Maryland fired head coach Frank

Fellows and his successor did not think Smith was good enough to play there. That coach who rescinded the scholarship offer to Smith was none other than Charles "Lefty" Driesell.

At the time, High Point had a fairly new head coach in Bob Vaughn, who had led Surrattsville High in Clinton, Maryland to a state championship. Vaughn recruited the greater Washington, D.C. area hard after getting hired at High Point and landed such standouts as Smith, Gene Littles and Joe Colbert.

Smith wound up earning a degree in health and physical education at High Point and also met his wife Donna at the North Carolina school.

Orlando Smith was the sixth of 17 children born to Guffrie and Parthenia Smith, who were sharecroppers in southern Maryland. His father was a World War II veteran who was wounded in combat. Several uncles and brothers also served in the armed forces, which is the route Smith was planning to follow.

"I signed up to join the Air Force out of college and was all set to report to Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro, North Carolina," Smith said. "I was home for the summer after graduating college and that is when I heard the basketball head coaching position was open at Great Mills."

Smith, who had his teaching certificate in hand, was in the right place at the right time to get a full-time job at the age of 21.

"I tell that story to my players because it speaks to the importance of preparation," Smith said. "I was prepared to take advantage of that opportunity that was presented. Now, 44 years later, I'm still doing what I love doing – coaching and teaching."

Smith spent four years at Great Mills, teaching physical education while coaching football, basketball and baseball. In order to make ends meet, he worked at the Harry Lundeberg Seaman's School during the summer months.

"Being back here in Maryland brings back a lot of memories for me," Smith admitted.

Smith still has a slew of relatives living in southern Maryland and many will be in attendance at Alumni Hall when Memphis meets

Alabama in the opener of the Veterans Classic. Cecil Short, Smith's ninth grade coach at George Washington Carver School, is coming to the game.

Integration finally reached St. Mary's County when Smith was a sophomore and he finished high school at Great Mills – playing basketball there for Coach Gene Woods. Smith also personally invited Woods to the Veterans Classic.

Smith got into college basketball coaching as an assistant at Virginia Commonwealth University for J.D. Barnett, who was his second head coach at High Point. Smith became a head coach at Tulsa in 1991 and has also directed the programs at Georgia (1995-97), Kentucky (1997-2007), Minnesota (2007-2013) and Texas Tech (2013-2016).

The 66-year-old reached the pinnacle of the profession when he led Kentucky to the 1998 NCAA Division I national championship.

Smith has criss-crossed the country during his Hall of Fame career and seemed genuinely honored to add the Naval Academy to the long list of college campuses he has visited. Memphis players climbed aboard a Yard Patrol boat, sat in the cockpit of a Navy helicopter and checked out a dormitory room in Bancroft Hall among various other stops during the academy tour.

"This has to be one of the greatest teaching tools I've ever experienced. I think this will really resonate with our players and help them appreciate the commitment and dedication these midshipmen show in their daily lives," Smith said. "We talk about values such as honor, loyalty and respect – those are the basic tenets of an institution such as this."



# At Veterans Classic, Paul Evans' loyalties lie with Navy

John McNamara | Annapolis Capital | November 9, 2017

As a basketball coach, Paul Evans won at Navy then won at Pittsburgh, too. In fact, he made multiple trips to the NCAA Tournament with both schools.

But when those two teams meet Friday night in the second game of the fourth annual Veterans Classic at Alumni Hall, Evans made it clear where his loyalties lie.

When asked which team he'd be rooting for, he replied, "Navy, for sure."

The Navy-Pittsburgh game is slated to tip off at about 9 p.m. The first game of the doubleheader, which will pit Alabama against Memphis, is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m.

It was during Evans' six-year tenure (1980-86) at Navy that he made his coaching reputation. Even though his time at Pitt (1986-94) was technically longer, he retains a special fondness for the academy and the city of Annapolis.

"It was a great six years," said Evans, 72, who now spends most of his time in western Florida, near St. Petersburg. "I had some good players in the program and we seemed to get better every year."

Evans went 119-60 at Navy, including a three-year span during which the Mids went 80-19, the best such stretch in school history. Evans and the Mids also ended a 25-year NCAA Tournament drought in 1985 and advanced to the Elite Eight of the NCAA Tournament in 1986.

Evans will return to the academy this week for a series of events honoring him and some of the players who helped him create that success.

Evans and former players Kylor Whitaker, Cliff Rees and Carl Liebert will be among the guests of Naval Academy Superintendent Vice Admiral Ted Carter at a Veterans Classic reception Thursday. They also will be introduced at a timeout during Friday night's basketball game and again at Saturday's football game. In between, a meeting room in Halsey Field House (where Navy played basketball in Evans' day) will be named in the ex-coach's honor.

Evans' success at Navy made him a hot commodity for higher-profile, higher-paying jobs and he ultimately left Annapolis to take over the program at Pitt, where he guided the Panthers

to a 147-98 record and five NCAA Tournament appearances from 1986-1994.

"Everyone at some point wants to branch out and try that," he said. "It was fun. I enjoyed it in Pitt as well. But it was a tough situation to leave (at Navy). It was such a quality campus and such a quality group of guys."

Evans recruited and coached five of Navy's top 20 scorers, including All-American center and future NBA Hall of Famer David Robinson (No. 1), forward Vernon Butler (No. 2), guard Rob Romaine (No. 10), Whitaker (No. 16) and Rees (No. 19).

Navy's fortunes were fortified when Robinson morphed from a 6-foot-7 fringe player into a dominant seven-foot center. Robinson went from playing 13 minutes a game and averaging 7.6 points and 4.0 rebounds as a freshman to averaging 23.6 points and 11.6 rebounds as a full-time starter.

"David was a great find," Evans said. "He hadn't played much basketball in high school. He came in at 6-foot-7 and we thought he'd be (a small forward). The next thing you knew, he was five inches taller and he was center."

With Robinson and the rugged 6-foot-8 Butler up front, Navy could compete with anyone. In the 1985 NCAA Tournament, the Mids beat an LSU team that featured future NBA players John Williams and Jerry Reynolds before throwing a serious scare into a Len Bias-led Maryland squad. The next year, Navy beat Syracuse – in the Carrier Dome – before losing the regional final to Mike Krzyzewski's first Duke team to reach the Final Four.

"I had great players," Evans said. "Everybody talks about David, but there were an awful lot of other players who had a part in the program succeeding. You don't get many honors as a coach if it isn't for the players."

But it was Evans who recruited those players and molded them into a cohesive unit.

The fiery Evans cut his players little slack – even though they had to deal with the rigors of service academy life that their competitors didn't.

"I remember him really demanding excellence from us and pushing us beyond our limited

capabilities," recalled Butler. "He pushed us to levels we didn't even know we had in us."

Butler said he was pleased to see his old coach being recognized.

"I only knew winning underneath him," Butler said. "It's unique in the (academy) environment today to see that kind of success. No other service academy has come close to that."

# Navy's Shawn Anderson, a New Castle alum, to play against Pitt

Stephen Nesbitt | Pittsburgh Post-Gazette | October 27, 2017

When the Brooklyn Nets arrived in Annapolis, Md., last month for their training camp at the U.S. Naval Academy, forward Rondae Hollis-Jefferson was approached by the captain of the Navy men's basketball team. The player, Navy's top scorer the past two seasons, introduced himself as Shawn Anderson, from New Castle. Hollis-Jefferson smiled. He knew New Castle.

"You really think y'all boys could have beat us?" Hollis-Jefferson asked.

Anderson laughed and replied, "Yeah." In 2013, his senior year at New Castle High School, the Red Hurricanes' dream of an undefeated season died with a 67-63 loss to Lower Merion in the PIAA Class AAAA state semifinal. Awaiting Lower Merion in the championship game was two-time defending champion Chester, led by Hollis-Jefferson, a consensus five-star recruit.

"Weren't y'all undersized?" Hollis-Jefferson asked Anderson.

"We were," Anderson said, "but there was something about that team."

Even now, four years later and 300 miles from New Castle, Anderson can't help but reminisce about his Red Hurricane days. Playing for coach Ralph Blundo, Anderson paired with Malik Hooker, now a safety for the Indianapolis Colts, to secure back-to-back WPIAL basketball titles. Both times, in 2012 and 2013, they defeated rival Hampton in the league final.

So imagine Anderson's intrigue this spring when he discovered who led off Navy's 2017-18 schedule. The news came via a text message from a Navy assistant coach: The Midshipmen would open Anderson's senior season Nov. 10 by hosting Pitt in the Veterans Classic. For Anderson, it meant one last tilt against Pitt's Ryan Luther, his high-school friend and Hampton rival. Anderson relayed the message to his father, Shawn Sr., and said, "Here we go again!"

"What more could I ask for than to open up my last first college game against Ryan Luther?" Anderson said in a phone interview last week. "It's cool because it's Pitt, but this goes back to our New Castle and Hampton days. This is going to be a cool experience. ..."

"What more could you ask for as a hometown

guy? I didn't have the opportunity to go [to Pitt], but I'm at another program, we're doing well, starting to build up to potentially bringing a championship here, and we're opening up against a team I've watched since I was a little kid. It should be a good time."

Anderson, named to the five-player preseason All-Patriot League team earlier this month, said he has fielded many ticket requests the past few weeks, and he expects a large New Castle contingent at Alumni Hall when Pitt comes to the academy. Navy has another WPIAL product on the roster — sophomore guard Matt Cullen, a Latrobe graduate.

Anderson was a Pitt fan growing up and dreamed of playing Division I basketball. Not there, necessarily, but anywhere. Navy wasn't on his radar until they began recruiting him. Anderson went on a campus visit, and thankfully, he said, his father "had the foresight that 17-year-old Shawn Anderson, Jr., didn't have." Shawn Sr. encouraged his son to seriously consider Navy.

Back in New Castle, Anderson said, peoples' eyes widened when they heard he had an offer to attend the U.S. Naval Academy. Anderson said the reactions helped him recognize the prestige of the place. After a year at the Naval Academy Preparatory School in Newport, R.I., Anderson relocated to Annapolis and started working toward a degree in quantitative economics. He will graduate next spring and intends to serve on a ship somewhere as a Surface Warfare Officer.

Still, New Castle remains close to Anderson's heart and mind. Three of his four siblings live there, as does his father. His mother, Angeli-que, lives nearby, over the Ohio border.

"You can never replace home," Anderson said. "You can't replace those friendships, those memories."

Anderson and New Castle classmate Mike Geramita started a nonprofit organization called "Forever Red Hurricanes" to benefit the local community. Anderson currently is planning their fifth annual coat drive. Another initiative is a "Transitioning to Success" program where college students mentor middle schoolers, showing show them their options for the future. The Forever Red Hurricanes founders hope to soon start funding a few college

scholarships each year.

Whenever Anderson returns home, he said, one of his first destinations is the gym at New Castle High School. He flips on the lights, scans the familiar surroundings and picks up a ball.

"I go into the field house by myself and just shoot," Anderson said. "I'll never be able to replace that. I'll never put on that uniform again, with the crowd there, but whether you think New Castle is a good place or a bad place, that's home. That's family. That's love."

# Maryland-Navy to resume men's basketball series at 2018 Veterans Classic

Bill Wagner | Annapolis Capital | October 17, 2017

Len Bias and David Robinson were the star players the last time Maryland and Navy met in men's basketball.

Bias led the way with 20 points and eight rebounds as the Terrapins beat the Midshipmen, 64-59, in the second round of the 1985 NCAA Tournament at Dayton Arena in Ohio. Bias did a solid job of defending Robinson, who totaled 22 points and eight rebounds in the loss.

It marked the 58th meeting between the intra-state rivals. The Terps and Mids have not shared the same basketball court ever since.

Naval Academy athletic director Chet Gladchuk revealed on Saturday that the series will resume following a 33-year hiatus. Maryland has agreed to play in the 2018 Veterans Classic and will face the host team in the nightcap of a doubleheader.

"We are very fortunate because the Veterans Classic has been an outstanding event that has drawn a lot of attention and interest," Navy head coach Ed DeChellis told The Capital during the Baltimore Basketball Media Day at Towson University. "We are very excited to be able to secure Maryland for 2018. I really have to thank Mark Turgeon for that."

Such heavyweight programs as North Carolina and Michigan State have appeared in the Veterans Classic since it was established in 2014. This year's edition, slated for Friday, Nov. 10, will feature Alabama versus Memphis and Navy against Pittsburgh.

DeChellis said he's had several conversations with Turgeon about getting the Terrapins to participate and the timing worked out for next year.

"Mark Turgeon thought it would be great for Maryland to come down to Annapolis and participate in the tournament. He didn't have to do that and the Maryland administration didn't," DeChellis said. "Mark made the decision that he wanted to play the game and I'm really appreciative of his willingness to come over and compete with us."

Navy and Maryland played almost annually from 1924 through 1980, meeting 55 times during that span. There were only three seasons (1940, 1971, 1978) during that time frame the Midshipmen and Terrapins did not play. The

last regular season game between the schools came on Jan. 31, 1983.

Paul Evans and Charles "Lefty" Driesell were the respective head coaches when Navy and Maryland ceased playing during the regular season in 1984.

DeChellis has committed to playing in-state opponents since becoming head coach at Navy in 2011. Navy has played Mount St. Mary's, Towson, Loyola, UMBC and Maryland-Eastern Shore over the previous six seasons and will face Coppin State for the first time ever this season.

"Maryland is the one local school we haven't been able to play so I'm glad that is finally going to happen," DeChellis said. "I know it's good for Navy and I hope it will be good for Maryland. I know Mark is looking forward to the military experience and I think his players will enjoy that."

As part of the Veterans Classic, participating teams tour the Naval Academy and observe the midshipmen in their daily regimen.

# Could a Baltimore-area college basketball showcase be close? Coaches hope so

Jonas Shaffer | Baltimore Sun | October 17, 2017

In the 1960s and '70s, it was called the Baltimore Metro, a three-day, season-opening tournament of games between seven local men's basketball programs. One of the schools, the University of Baltimore, no longer has a team; another, Johns Hopkins, competes in Division III.

From 1998 to 2003, it returned as the Battle of Baltimore Classic, a four-team, two-round competition sponsored and televised by Channel 2. UMBC won three titles, Loyola Maryland two, and Towson, Coppin State and Morgan State none.

On Tuesday, as head coaches from the five Division I programs within 10 miles of downtown Baltimore gathered at Towson's SECU Arena for the first Greater Baltimore Basketball Media Day, there was pride in the renewed state of Baltimore basketball but a longing to be more like Philadelphia, to bring back the old days. Up Interstate 95, the city's "Big 5" — Pennsylvania, La Salle, Saint Joseph's, Temple and Villanova — play every year.

In Baltimore, there's no consensus on what it might be called the next time the local schools play under the same banner. Only that it needs to happen sooner than later.

"I would hope that we could come up with a more creative name than the Big 6 or 7," Morgan State coach Todd Bozeman said, alluding to the possible inclusion of Navy and Mount St. Mary's. "I just think it's time."

There would have been no better time than this season.

Towson has what coach Pat Skerry calls his deepest roster of his Tigers tenure, well positioned to improve on last season's third-place finish in the Colonial Athletic Association.

UMBC returns four starters from a surprising team that led the America East Conference in points per game and 3-point shooting.

Loyola senior Andre Walker became the first Greyhound to earn first-team All-Patriot League honors since the school joined the conference before the 2013-2014 season.

Morgan State, which finished tied for third in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference in 2017, counts two first-team all-conference performers

among its 10 veterans.

And Coppin State — well, the Eagles have Juan Dixon as coach and all the new hope that that promises.

"A lot of the programs are on strong upticks right now," Skerry said, "and it'd be good timing to get that going again."

Not that the schools are avoiding one another. In fact, the opposite: Each Baltimore-area team will meet at least one other this season. Coppin State and Morgan State will face off twice, as they regularly do in MEAC play.

But there is no showcase for the area's intercollegiate battles. Coaches said Philadelphia's Big 5 model, a round-robin tournament to determine a champion, would impose too much on their scheduling needs. ("Guarantee games," early-season matchups between a high-major team and a lower-level foe earning a significant paycheck to hit the road, are important to a program's bottom line. And money talks, often more loudly than civic pride.)

Restoring the early-season tournaments of yore, though — something like that would be more palatable. Coaches suggested a tripleheader, maybe around Thanksgiving or the winter holidays, the venue rotating among the participating schools.

"We'd have a day of college basketball, and you get all the teams here represented and maybe you play a different team each year," UMBC coach Ryan Odom said. "It would require some sacrifice in terms of not having it at your arena. ... But I think, all in all, it would definitely be a positive."

"It would give us an opportunity to keep some of our prospective student-athletes here at home," Dixon said. "If they can witness Towson and UMBC and Morgan and Coppin and Loyola, these schools here, on the same floor, competing, it's going to bring out all the local talent. Bring out AAU teams, the coaches, the high school coaches. And they get to witness high-level basketball right here at home."

"Any type of exposure that has us going against each other, no matter if you win or lose, people are going to know about it," Loyola coach G.G. Smith said. "Well, did Coppin beat Morgan today? Did Loyola beat Towson?

Did Towson beat whoever?" Just that type of discussion is going to be great for all of our programs. It's great for branding."

Smith has heard these calls to action before. When he was an assistant under Jimmy Patsos, the former Greyhounds head coach worked with Bozeman to create an annual Baltimore basketball competition, something that would minimize travel costs and bolster media and fan interest. It never came together. "It's just so hard," Smith acknowledged. Coaches have their own interests; athletic directors have theirs as well.

If area teams are ever to come together again, Smith said, they have to start planning now — even if they're for games held after the next presidential election. Baltimore's Big 5 sounds good in theory, but practically, there are issues that need sorting out. Who would host, and when? Which Maryland team would be the sixth in a tripleheader? How would tickets be allocated?

And just what it would be called?

"It's something that is going to be unique," Smith said, "if we can get it done."

# Previewing the 2017 Veterans Classic Field

NavySports.com | October 10, 2017

College basketball practices are in full swing and the annual Veterans Classic doubleheader is set for one month from today on November 10. Alabama will play Memphis in the opener at Alumni Hall at 6:30 PM and Navy will host Pittsburgh at 9:00 PM. Both games will be televised on CBS Sports Network.

Tickets for the Veterans Classic are available and the Navy ticket office is currently running a special that features four games for \$40. The four games are the two Veterans Classic games and the Army-Navy men's and women's basketball games on January 14. Click here to buy tickets.

Prior to the 2014-15 college basketball season, CBS Sports Network and the Naval Academy partnered to create a new college basketball event, the Veterans Classic, an annual showcase bringing together top teams from across the country in celebration of Veterans Day. The Veterans Classic enters its fourth edition in 2017-18.

The inaugural event was Friday, Nov. 14, 2014 with No. 15 VCU playing Tennessee and Navy hosting No. 18 Michigan State. CBS Sports televised the doubleheader and had on-site pre-game, halftime and post-game studio coverage, live from Alumni Hall in Annapolis. The second edition featured No. 1 North Carolina, Temple, Florida and Navy, while the 2016 event consisted of Marquette, Vanderbilt, Ohio State and Navy. Alabama will play Memphis and Navy will host Pitt in 2017.

Each year, the three visiting schools receive a glimpse of what life is like as a midshipman at the Naval Academy. The teams tour the 'Yard,' watch noon meal formation and eat lunch with the Brigade at King Hall. The teams board a yard patrol ship, go into a ship simulator, tour a MH-60S helicopter and a Marine Corps humvee.

The teams are immersed in the culture and tradition of the Naval Academy as the event includes a number of other unique experiences, including military demonstrations, receptions and guest speakers.

CBS Sports produced a 30-minute 'Hoops Confidential' documentary on each of the first three events and will do so again in 2017.

• Alabama was 19-15 in 2016-17 and 10-8 in

the SEC. The Crimson Tide participated in the NIT, falling to Richmond in the first round. Head coach Avery Johnson is 37-30 in two seasons at Alabama. Johnson played in the NBA for 16 years and won an NBA Championship with the San Antonio Spurs along with Naval Academy graduate David Robinson in 1999. Johnson also coached in the NBA and led the Dallas Mavericks to an appearance in the NBA Finals in 2006. Alabama is the fourth SEC team to compete in the Veterans Classic, following Vanderbilt (2016), Florida (2015) and Tennessee (2014).

Alabama Head Coach Avery Johnson: "The Alabama basketball program is honored to be a part of the 2017 Veterans Classic. As a program, we have great respect for all members of our armed forces and how they dedicate their lives to protecting our country. We look forward to being involved in every aspect of this great event. Not only will we have the opportunity to see the Naval Academy in person, but it also gives us the chance to personally thank the men and women of Annapolis for their daily efforts to keep our country safe. Most importantly, this will serve as a tremendous educational experience for our student-athletes and one they will remember for the rest of their lives."

• Memphis was 19-13 in 2016-17 and 8-9 in the American Athletic Conference in head coach Tubby Smith's first season at the school. Smith served as the head coach at Kentucky for 10 seasons and led the program to a national championship in 1998. Smith has also been the head coach at Tulsa, Georgia, Minnesota and Texas Tech. Memphis will be the second AAC team to compete in the Veterans Classic after Temple in 2015.

Memphis Head Coach Tubby Smith: "It is an honor to be participating in the Veterans Classic to be held at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, and I want to thank CBS Sports Network for inviting us to play in this event. I grew up in Southern Maryland, and am quite familiar with the rich traditions of the Naval Academy. I'm excited to be a part of this event -- it is a wonderful opportunity for our players to show their appreciation and to learn more about the young men and women that serve our country, and the great tradition of the Naval Academy."

• Navy had an overall record of 16-16 in 2016-

17 and was 10-8 in Patriot League play. Under sixth-year head coach Ed DeChellis, Navy increased its conference win total for the fifth straight season and finished in fourth place in the Patriot League. Navy advanced to the Patriot League Tournament Semifinals for the first time since 2001, where the team lost to eventual league champion Bucknell, 70-65. Shawn Anderson was named to the All-Patriot League Second Team and Bryce Dulin was named to the Patriot League All-Defensive Team.

Navy Head Coach Ed DeChellis: "We are very proud to once again host the Veterans Classic. We have a great group of teams joining us this year with the University of Pittsburgh, the University of Alabama and the University of Memphis. The Veterans Classic will be held the night before Veterans Day and once again, we will honor our nation's veterans with this event. As part of the Veterans Classic experience, we will give the visiting teams an in-depth look of the life of a midshipman and immerse them in our culture here at the U.S. Naval Academy. We thank CBS Sports Network for their continued support of the Veterans Classic, as both games will be televised nationally."

• Pittsburgh was 16-17 overall and 4-14 in the ACC in head coach Kevin Stallings' first season at the school. Senior forward Michael Young was named the All-ACC Third Team and senior guard Jamel Artis received All-ACC honorable mention recognition. Stallings arrived at Pitt after spending 17 seasons at Vanderbilt, where he became the program's leader in coaching wins (332) and took the school to the NCAA Tournament seven times. Pittsburgh is the second ACC team to compete in the Veterans Classic after North Carolina in 2015.

Pittsburgh Head Coach Kevin Stallings: "We are honored to compete against Navy in the 2017 Veterans Classic. The opportunity to interact with and observe the dedication and drive of the men and women in the United States Naval Academy will have a lasting impact on our young team. We have an unbelievable level of respect for those who protect our country and it will be invaluable for our guys to witness their selfless service."

# DeChellis pleased with 2017 Veterans Classic lineup

Bill Wagner | Annapolis Capital | April 26, 2017

Navy head coach Ed DeChellis is quite pleased with the lineup for the 2017 Veterans Classic, which will once again kick off the college basketball season on Friday, Nov. 10 at Alumni Hall.

DeChellis, who does a lot of the organizational legwork for the event himself, has landed Alabama, Memphis and Pittsburgh for the fourth annual installment.

"I think it's a really good field. We're going to have good exciting basketball featuring high-level athletes," DeChellis said in a telephone interview last week.

Alabama will meet Memphis in the opening game (6:30 p.m.) while Navy will take on Pittsburgh in the nightcap (9 p.m.). There is an interesting theme with this year's Veterans Classic as all three visiting programs are rebuilding under high-profile coaches.

Avery Johnson is entering his third season at the helm of Alabama, which placed sixth in the ultra-competitive Southeastern Conference in 2016-2017. The Crimson Tide finished 19-15 overall after losing in the first round of the National Invitational Tournament.

Alabama is expected to be much improved next season as Johnson has signed a five-man recruiting class that is ranked fourth nationally by Rivals.com and sixth by ESPN.com. Guard John Petty, a five-star prospect and Alabama's Mr. Basketball, is the jewel of the class. Collin Sexton, another guard, played in the McDonald's All-American game.

Martin leads the way for Navy offensive line Alabama is hoping to retain Braxton Key, an SEC All-Freshman team selection who has declared for the NBA Draft, but has not hired an agent. The 6-foot-8, 225-pound forward led the Crimson Tide in scoring last season.

Johnson played 16 seasons in the NBA and was the starting point guard for San Antonio when it captured the 1999 championship. He spent three seasons as head coach of the Dallas Mavericks and directed the first Western Conference championship club in franchise history.

Tubby Smith is beginning his second year as head coach at Memphis, which went 19-13 and did not play in the postseason in 2016-2017. The Tigers recently suffered a blow when brothers Dedric and K.J. Lawson transferred to Kansas.

The Lawson brothers had originally committed to Memphis during the tenure of head coach

Josh Pastner, who had hired their father as an assistant coach. Smith demoted Keelon Lawson to director of player development, a move that directly led to the his sons' decision to transfer.

Dedric Lawson was a first team All-American Athletic Conference selection while K.J. Lawson made the All-Rookie squad. Memphis also lost junior guard Markel Crawford, who has transferred to Mississippi.

Memphis also has a strong recruiting class led by Kareem Brewton and Kyvon Davenport, both of whom were named first team All-Americans by the National Junior College Athletic Association. Davenport, a 6-foot-8 forward, is a transfer from Georgia Highlands College while Brewton, a 6-4 guard, comes in from Eastern Florida State College.

Smith is also bringing in three true freshmen with combination guard Jamal Johnson the highest-touted. He is the son of former NBA standout Buck Johnson.

Smith is an iconic figure in college basketball, having compiled a 595-302 record in 27 seasons as a head coach. Smith guided Kentucky to the 1998 NCAA championship and is a three-time National Coach of the Year. He is the sixth of 17 children who grew up in the town of Scotland in Southern Maryland.

Kevin Stallings is another second-year head coach, having replaced Jamie Dixon (Texas Christian) at Pittsburgh. Stallings enjoyed tremendous success during a 17-year run at Vanderbilt and boasts a 496-300 career record.

Pitt struggled to a 16-17 record in its first season under Stallings, who dismissed one player (Justice Kithcart) from the team and had three others (Corey Manigault, Crisshawn Clark and Cameron Johnson) transfer at season's end.

Those departures cleared room for a talented four-man recruiting class that is anchored by 6-foot-10 center Peace Ilegomah.

"You are talking about three veteran coaches that have a great understanding of how to put programs together," DeChellis said of Johnson, Smith and Stallings.

In developing the 2017 Veterans Classic, DeChellis initially contacted Stallings to gauge Pittsburgh's interest in participating. Stallings was responsible for Vanderbilt playing in the 2016 edition, but departed for Pitt and did not attend himself.

"Kevin originally signed the contract when he

was at Vanderbilt so I knew he had an interest in the event," DeChellis said. "So I went back to Kevin and he agreed to come and play."

Navy athletic officials are hopeful the Pittsburgh basketball fans will make the roughly four-hour trek to Annapolis to attend the Veterans Classic. "We think the Pittsburgh people will travel and generate some excitement for the event," DeChellis said.

DeChellis then approached Alabama through assistant coach John Pelfrey, who is a close friend. DeChellis had Jerry Pelfrey as an assistant while at East Tennessee State and has known his younger brother for years.

"Avery Johnson has built a really good program at Alabama. They are getting close to having an NCAA Tournament team," DeChellis said. "Avery has some outstanding freshmen coming in so we thought Alabama would be an exciting addition."

CBS Television, which partners with Navy on the Veterans Classic, helped lure Memphis. CBS broadcasts American Athletic Conference basketball and that is the connection there.

"We were able to get Memphis through CBS and that worked out pretty well because Tubby is originally from Maryland so this will be sort of a homecoming for him. He is excited to come back to the area," DeChellis said.

DeChellis has been a college basketball coach for more than three decades and has developed a slew of friendships. His ability to pick up the phone and call a prominent head coach or athletic director has been crucial to creating quality matchups for the Veterans Classic. A pair of legendary head coaches — Tom Izzo and Roy Williams — brought Michigan State and North Carolina to the 2014 and 2015 Veterans Classic, respectively.

"You get the ball rolling with relationships. If you can call a friend in the business and get an opportunity to explain what the Veterans Classic is all about, that's the starting point," DeChellis said. "I sell this event as a unique 48-hour experience. I tell the head coaches that their players are going to experience things they can't experience anywhere else."

Every coach who has participated in the Veterans Classic has raved about the day spent touring the Naval Academy. Players from the three visiting schools get an inside look at the institution while getting an opportunity to climb aboard a Yard Patrol vessel, operate a ship simulator and walk through Bancroft Hall.

# Pitt basketball to open 2017-18 season at Navy

Craig Meyer | Pittsburgh Post-Gazette | April 10, 2017

Pitt's 2017-18 men's basketball season will set sail Nov. 10 with a game at Navy in Annapolis, Md., as part of the 2017 Veterans Classic, the school announced Monday.

The event, which is in its fourth year, will also feature Alabama and Memphis, who will play at 6:30 p.m., with Pitt and Navy following with a 9 p.m. tipoff. Because it's not a tournament, Pitt will match up only against the Midshipmen and neither of the two other participating programs.

"We are honored to compete against Navy in the 2017 Veterans Classic," Pitt coach Kevin Stallings said in a statement. "The opportunity to interact with and observe the dedication and drive of the men and women in the United States Naval Academy will have a lasting impact on our young team. We have an unbelievable level of respect for those who protect our country and it will be invaluable for our guys to witness their selfless service."

Both games will air on CBS Sports Network, which will also broadcast a half-hour feature on the schools' visit to the Naval Academy.

The Midshipmen just completed their sixth season under former Penn State coach Ed DeChellis, who has compiled a 68-119 record in that time. His teams have gone 35-30 the past two seasons, including a 16-16 mark last season, one in which it went 10-8 in the Patriot League and finished fourth in the 10-team conference.

New Castle graduate Shawn Anderson, a former Post-Gazette Fab Five honoree, led Navy in scoring last season as a junior, averaging 12.2 points per game. The Midshipmen have a second WPIAL product in Latrobe graduate Matt Cullen, a freshman guard who competed on the school's development team last season.

The game will be the first taste of Division I action for many members of the Panthers, who will feature at least seven freshmen or junior-college transfers next season. Following the news last week of guard Cameron Johnson's decision to transfer, Pitt returns no starters and just four players, a quartet that averaged a combined 9.3 points per game last season.

Tickets for the event are \$75 for the lower level of 5,710-seat Alumni Hall and \$50 for the upper level. They can be purchased online.

NOTE: Former Pitt guard Jamel Artis will participate in the Portsmouth Invitational, an annual tournament in Portsmouth, Va., for college seniors looking to showcase themselves to NBA and European scouts.

As a senior last season, Artis averaged 18.2 points per game while shooting 47.5 percent from the field and 39.2 percent from 3-point range, all while making the move to point guard from small forward, where he played his first three years at the school. Fellow senior Michael Young, who finished second in the ACC in scoring at 19.6 points per game, was not listed among the players competing in the tournament.

# Memphis to face Alabama in 2017 Veterans Classic

Tom Schad | Memphis Commercial Appeal | April 10, 2017

The University of Memphis men's basketball team will play Alabama in this year's Veterans Classic in Annapolis, Maryland, the school announced in a press release Monday morning.

The Tigers and Crimson Tide will face off in the first game of the event's doubleheader on Friday, Nov. 10, with a scheduled tip-off time of 5:30 p.m. CST. Navy and Pittsburgh, the other two teams participating, will play one another at 8 p.m. Both games will be broadcast by CBS Sports Network.

"It is an honor to be participating in the Veterans Classic to be held at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, and I want to thank CBS Sports Network for inviting us to play in this event," Tigers coach Tubby Smith said in a statement. "I grew up in Southern Maryland, and am quite familiar with the rich traditions of the Naval Academy. I'm excited to be a part of this event — it is a wonderful opportunity for our players to show their appreciation and to learn more about the young men and women that serve our country, and the great tradition of the Naval Academy."

As part of the event, players from Memphis and the other two participating schools will be invited to tour the campus at the U.S. Naval Academy and eat lunch with the Brigade, among other experiences that will give them a sense of life at the academy.



# Tide will open season in Veterans Classic vs. Memphis

Chandler Rome | Montgomery Advertiser | April 10, 2017

TUSCALOOSA — The most anticipated Alabama basketball season in nearly a decade will open in patriotic fashion.

The Crimson Tide will open its season against Memphis at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 10 – college basketball's opening day – as part of the 2017 Veterans Classic at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Pittsburgh and Navy will play the second game of the four-team event.

"The Alabama basketball program is honored to be a part of the 2017 Veterans Classic," said Crimson Tide coach Avery Johnson in a news release. "As a program, we have great respect for all members of our armed forces and how they dedicate their lives to protecting our country. We look forward to being involved in every aspect of this great event."

As part of the event, all four teams will be "immersed in the culture and tradition of the Naval Academy," including touring the campus and observing military demonstrations.

"Not only will we have the opportunity to see the Naval Academy in person, but it also gives us the chance to personally thank the men and women of Annapolis for their daily efforts to keep our country safe," Johnson said. "Most importantly, this will serve as a tremendous educational experience for our student-athletes and one they will remember for the rest of their lives."

Buoyed by the best recruiting class in program history and the return of its three leading scorers, the Crimson Tide is a trendy offseason pick to return to prominence in 2017.

It ranked no lower than No. 23 in five preseason polls released shortly after the national championship game and ESPN bracketologist Joe Lunardi pegged Alabama as a No. 10 seed in his first bracket projection.

Headlined by McDonald's All-American Collin Sexton and two-time Alabama Mr. Basketball John Petty, the Tide's top-10 recruiting class will join rising sophomores Braxton Key and Dazon Ingram on a team primed to take the next step in Johnson's third season.

# Tide basketball to take part in four-team Veterans Classic

Charlie Potter | Bama Online | April 10, 2017

The Alabama men's basketball will officially participate in the 2017 Veterans Classic, it was announced Monday.

The Crimson Tide will join Memphis, Pittsburgh and host Navy in the annual college basketball showcase that brings together teams from across the country in celebration of Veterans Day. The fourth annual event at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., tips-off Friday, Nov. 10 -- the opening day of the 2017-18 college basketball season.

Alabama will play Memphis at 5:30 p.m. CT, followed by Pittsburgh-Navy at 8 p.m. CT on the CBS Sports Network. Tickets are \$75 for lower level reserved, \$50 for upper level general admission and \$40 for group tickets in the upper level.

"The Alabama basketball program is honored to be a part of the 2017 Veterans Classic," head coach Avery Johnson said in a release. "As a program, we have great respect for all members of our armed forces and how they dedicate their lives to protecting our country. We look forward to being involved in every aspect of this great event.

"Not only will we have the opportunity to see the Naval Academy in person, but it also gives us the chance to personally thank the men and women of Annapolis for their daily efforts to keep our country safe. Most importantly, this will serve as a tremendous educational experience for our student-athletes and one they will remember for the rest of their lives."

Word of the matchup with Memphis on the hardwood was leaked last month by Tigers' head coach Tubby Smith.

Alabama is also poised to face Texas in its non-conference slate for the upcoming season, one that carries an immense amount of promise with the Tide's latest recruiting haul.

The Crimson Tide currently boasts the No. 4 class in the nation with five signees, including five-star point guard Collin Sexton. and four-star shooting guard John Petty. The duo will compete in the 2017 Jordan Brand Classic on Friday, April 14, in Brooklyn.

# Alabama, Memphis and Pittsburgh Join Navy for Fourth Annual Veterans Classic

NavySports.com | April 10, 2017

ANNAPOLIS, Md. - Alabama, Memphis and Pittsburgh will join host Navy in the 2017 Veterans Classic on CBS Sports Network, an annual college basketball showcase that brings together teams from across the country in celebration of Veterans Day. The fourth annual event at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. tips-off on Friday, Nov. 10, the opening day of the 2017-18 college basketball season. Alabama will play Memphis at 6:30 PM, ET, followed by Pittsburgh vs. Navy at 9:00 PM, ET.

The three participating schools will also have the unique opportunity to get a glimpse of life as a midshipman at the Naval Academy. The visiting teams will be immersed in the culture and tradition of the Naval Academy, including touring the 'Yard,' watching noon meal formation, eating lunch with the Brigade at King Hall, as well as a number of other special experiences, including military demonstrations and receptions. CBS Sports Network will also televise a 30-minute all-access show that provides a look at the schools' visit to the Naval Academy on HOOPS CONFIDENTIAL: VETERANS CLASSIC.

CBS Sports Network is available across the country through local cable, video and telco providers and via satellite on DirecTV Channel 221 and Dish Network Channel 158. For more information, and to access the CBS Sports Network channel finder, go to [www.cbssports-network.com](http://www.cbssports-network.com).

Tickets are \$75 for lower level reserved, \$50 for upper level general admission and \$40 for group tickets in the upper level.

The 2016 Veterans Classic presented by Northwestern Mutual featured Navy, Ohio State, Vanderbilt and Marquette. Navy, Florida, North Carolina and Temple participated in the event in 2015 and the inaugural event in 2014 featured Navy, Michigan State, Tennessee and VCU.

(ON PARTICIPATING IN THE 2017 VETERANS CLASSIC):

Navy Head Coach Ed DeChellis:

"We are very proud to once again host the Veterans Classic. We have a great group of teams joining us this year with the University of Pittsburgh, the University of Alabama and the University of Memphis. The Veterans Classic will be held the night before Veterans Day and once again, we will honor our nation's veterans

with this event. As part of the Veterans Classic experience, we will give the visiting teams an in-depth look of the life of a midshipman and immerse them in our culture here at the U.S. Naval Academy. We thank CBS Sports Network for their continued support of the Veterans Classic, as both games will be televised nationally."

Pittsburgh Head Coach Kevin Stallings:

"We are honored to compete against Navy in the 2017 Veterans Classic. The opportunity to interact with and observe the dedication and drive of the men and women in the United States Naval Academy will have a lasting impact on our young team. We have an unbelievable level of respect for those who protect our country and it will be invaluable for our guys to witness their selfless service."

Alabama Head Coach Avery Johnson:

"The Alabama basketball program is honored to be a part of the 2017 Veterans Classic. As a program, we have great respect for all members of our armed forces and how they dedicate their lives to protecting our country. We look forward to being involved in every aspect of this great event. Not only will we have the opportunity to see the Naval Academy in person, but it also gives us the chance to personally thank the men and women of Annapolis for their daily efforts to keep our country safe. Most importantly, this will serve as a tremendous educational experience for our student-athletes and one they will remember for the rest of their lives."

Memphis Head Coach Tubby Smith:

"It is an honor to be participating in the Veterans Classic to be held at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, and I want to thank CBS Sports Network for inviting us to play in this event. I grew up in Southern Maryland, and am quite familiar with the rich traditions of the Naval Academy. I'm excited to be a part of this event -- it is a wonderful opportunity for our players to show their appreciation and to learn more about the young men and women that serve our country, and the great tradition of the Naval Academy."

Team Capsules

• Navy had an overall record of 16-16 in 2016-17 and was 10-8 in Patriot League play. Under sixth-year head coach Ed DeChellis, Navy increased its conference win total for the fifth straight season and finished in fourth

place in the Patriot League. Navy advanced to the Patriot League Tournament Semifinals for the first time since 2001, where the team lost to eventual league champion Bucknell, 70-65. Junior Shawn Anderson was named to the All-Patriot League Second Team and junior Bryce Dulin was named to the Patriot League All-Defensive Team.

• Pittsburgh was 16-17 overall and 4-14 in the ACC in head coach Kevin Stallings' first season at the school. Senior forward Michael Young was named the All-ACC Third Team and senior guard Jamel Artis received All-ACC honorable mention recognition. Stallings arrived at Pitt after spending 17 seasons at Vanderbilt, where he became the program's leader in coaching wins (332) and took the school to the NCAA Tournament seven times. Pittsburgh is the second ACC team to compete in the Veterans Classic after North Carolina in 2015.

• Alabama was 19-15 in 2016-17 and 10-8 in the SEC. The Crimson Tide participated in the NIT, falling to Richmond in the first round. Head coach Avery Johnson is 37-30 in two seasons at Alabama. Johnson played in the NBA for 16 years and won an NBA Championship with the San Antonio Spurs along with Naval Academy graduate David Robinson in 1999. Johnson also coached in the NBA and led the Dallas Mavericks to an appearance in the NBA Finals in 2006. Alabama is the fourth SEC team to compete in the Veterans Classic, following Vanderbilt (2016), Florida (2015) and Tennessee (2014).

• Memphis was 19-13 in 2016-17 and 8-9 in the American Athletic Conference in head coach Tubby Smith's first season at the school. Smith served as the head coach at Kentucky for 10 seasons and led the program to a national championship in 1998. Smith has also been the head coach at Tulsa, Georgia, Minnesota and Texas Tech. Memphis will be the second AAC team to compete in the Veterans Classic after Temple in 2015.



**Brooklyn Nets Hold 2017-18 Training Camp at the United States Naval Academy**

# Brooklyn Nets bring training camp to Naval Academy

Bill Wagner | Annapolis Capital | September 25, 2017

Jeremy Lin was the hottest commodity in the National Basketball Association in 2012.

Lin, the first American of Chinese or Taiwanese descent to play in the NBA, was thrust into the starting lineup due to injury and unexpectedly led the New York Knicks to a dramatic turnaround. The 6-foot-3 guard sparked a global craze known as "Linsanity."

Basketball fans might spot Lin around Annapolis this week as he will be in town with his current NBA team, the Brooklyn Nets. In what has been a very well kept secret, the Nets will conduct their training camp at the Naval Academy this week.

Lin, the starting point guard, is the most recognizable member of the Nets. Wing guard D'Angelo Russell, the second overall pick in the 2015 NBA Draft by the Los Angeles Lakers, is the team's other star player.

"It will be neat for our players to have a chance to rub elbows with Jeremy Lin and D'Angelo Russell," Navy men's basketball coach Ed DeChellis said.

Fans hoping to get a glimpse of the Nets will be disappointed if they go to the Naval Academy. All practices are closed and there will be security to ensure no one wanders into the Halsey Field House gym.

Jordan Ott, an assistant coach with the Nets, served as the video coordinator for Penn State men's basketball when DeChellis was head coach there. Ott reached out to DeChellis and asked about the possibility of Brooklyn holding training camp at the academy.

DeChellis obtained permission from Athletic Director Chet Gladchuk and other Naval Academy administrators. Having gotten the green light to proceed, the Nets sent two staff members — Director of Player Performance Zach Weatherford and Director of Player Personnel Ryan Gisriel — to the Naval Academy to inspect the basketball facilities.

Weatherford had previously worked as human performance manager at the Naval Special Warfare Command. DeChellis believes it was that military experience that prompted Weatherford to suggest to superiors the idea of moving training camp to the Naval Academy. Apparently, Head Coach Kenny Atkinson was

gung-ho about the idea.

"I think Coach Atkinson is trying to bring a military flavor to training camp," DeChellis said. "Weatherford has a military background and spearheaded things on Nets end. They were looking get away and do something different and felt coming to the academy would be unique and a good bonding opportunity for the team."

Brooklyn is following the lead of its crosstown rival, the New York Knicks, in conducting training camp at a service academy. The Knicks spent three years having their training camp at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

The Naval Academy Athletic Association recently renovated the basketball practice facility at Halsey Field House. In addition to upgrading the gymnasium, NAAA also improved the weight room, training room and film room the men's and women's basketball teams use.

"Zach and Ryan were impressed with our facilities and felt they were up to par for an NBA team's needs," DeChellis said.

DeChellis believes Brooklyn executives made the final decision to take training camp to the Naval Academy sometime in June. However, there was no formal announcement by either the NBA franchise or the Naval Academy.

NBA rules preclude the Nets from publicizing or promoting the fact they are having training camp in Annapolis because it is within the marketing territory of the Washington Wizards. Neither the Nets nor Navy were allowed to solicit media coverage of the training camp, which will be held Tuesday through Saturday.

Gladchuk said the Nets will only be paying for expenses incurred while visiting the Naval Academy, including janitorial services, meals and similar items. Allowing the Nets to use Halsey Field House does not result in any extra cost to the academy, Gladchuk said.

DeChellis said the Nets do want their players to experience the Naval Academy as much as possible. Academy officials have set up lunch at King Hall and time at ship simulators in Luce Hall. Additionally, the players and coaches will attend Navy football practice on Wednesday at the invitation of Head Coach Ken Niumatalolo.

The Nets' entourage traveled from Brooklyn by train and was scheduled to arrive in Annapolis Monday. Cmdr. Henry Gourdine, deputy director of athletics at the Naval Academy, was scheduled to speak to the team during dinner Monday.

DeChellis said the Nets would practice at Halsey Field House during the morning hours, which would not interfere with the activities of Navy men's and women's basketball. He was hopeful the Navy basketball players would have an opportunity to stop by Halsey Field House during lunch time to watch an NBA practice.

"Hopefully, the Nets have a great experience here. We're going to do everything we can to make them feel welcome and at home," DeChellis said. "I thought this was another neat thing we could do to help enhance our program. It's a great opportunity to bring an NBA franchise to your campus. I think it's a win-win for both the Brooklyn Nets and Navy basketball."

# Nets coach wants team to see what Navy experience 'is all about'

Brian Lewis | New York Post | September 27, 2017

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — The Nets don't leave the state of New York during the preseason, but they opted to hold training camp at the U.S. Naval Academy. And they're hoping to get more out of the experience than just basketball.

"I really want the guys to get out of here not just with the basketball experience, but what is this all about," said coach Kenny Atkinson, who faced Navy when he played for Richmond, and whose uncle died in a ship fire on the USS Saratoga. "We're going to go to formation and see that, hopefully mingle. We're not going to just do basketball. The coaches, we're going to mingle with their football coaches and see what's going on there. Who knows? Maybe we'll pick up some things.

"Above all, their self-discipline, just how difficult it is, time management. It's a lot of habits, a lot of the same stuff we talk about. But to be in that environment, and on top of that in a beautiful little city, and close to New York — it wasn't a 10-hour ride — I'm thrilled. It's the first day, but this was a home run."

The Knicks held training camp at West Point during the Phil Jackson regime, while the Spurs held camp at the Air Force Academy while Nets general manager Sean Marks was with San Antonio. With eight new faces, Marks felt getting away to bond would be helpful.

The Nets scrimmaged four or five times Tuesday, but mixed and matched personnel, and likely will scrimmage more than in last year's camp.

Timofey Mozgov didn't scrimmage due to how much work he got this summer playing for Russia.

Caris LeVert has shot better in practice, and Mozgov looked surprisingly smooth from the stripe and on mid-range jumpers, encouraging Atkinson that he — and perhaps Tyler Zeller, who hit a couple of corner 3s in open gym recently — can extend beyond the arc.

For the second straight year, Jeremy Lin bought suits for all his teammates.

"It's just something that, especially the rookies, 'Let's get them a nice, fresh suit going into the season so they can have one,'" said Lin, using a tailor he knew from Houston. "He can custom

the inside with pictures, so if you want pictures of your family, significant dates, you can create the inside of your jacket however you want.

That's what some of the players are doing. It's a fun little thing, making sure everyone starts off the season looking good."

Spencer Dinwiddie will auction off game-worn signed items to raise money for a four-year scholarship program.

"To my knowledge it'd be the first to its kind. I'm hoping to actually have my teammates buy into that as well," Dinwiddie said.

# Nets get a lesson from 'big-time' Navy admiral

Brian Lewis | New York Post | September 27, 2017

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — With the Nets holding training camp at the United States Naval Academy, a visitor stopped by practice — Vice Adm. Walter E. Carter Jr., superintendent of the academy.

Carter joined the Nets at practice to talk about the academy, and in turn coach Kenny Atkinson presented him with a custom Nets jersey with No. 81 on it. Carter Jr. graduated from the Naval Academy in 1981.

"The admiral of the Naval Academy, that's pretty big time," Atkinson said. "It was great for our guys to listen to him. The guy's had more than 2,000 aircraft landings — I think he has the record for the history of the military. That's pretty impressive.

"Talking about all the things the Naval Academy is about, the moral fiber, sacrificing for each other. It's very similar to what we're trying to preach here in our team mentality. That was really special. And the athletic director also came, said hello. That means something."

Carter safely accompanied pilots in 2,016 carrier-arrested landings, which is the mark among all U.S. Naval Aviation designators, active or retired. Thursday the Nets are expected to watch formation at the academy.

"We have a saying, there's no tenure in naval aviation," Carter said. "No matter how senior you are that deck can reach up and kill you. So you're only as good as your last pass, I imagine the same is true for you here. You have to be at your very best every day."

Sweet-shooting swingman Allen Crabbe has a sprained left ankle after rolling it late in practice. The 25-year-old underwent X-rays, which were negative. There was no grade of severity given nor was there a timetable for his return.

Crabbe had foot surgery in May to repair a stress reaction of the fifth metatarsal in his left foot.

The Nets actually signed Crabbe to a four-year, \$75 million offer sheet in the summer of 2016 that Portland matched. Brooklyn traded for him this summer, taking on the last three years of that deal.

Wednesday's practice was both long and grueling, even for the players familiar with Atkinson.

"[The theme was] compete. This is a high-intensity day," Atkinson said. "We competed in a lot of drills. Between teaching, fundamentals and live play, we broke it down 3-on-3 stuff and finished up full-court. It was hard. DeMarre [Carroll] came up to me and said that was one of the hardest practices. That was the plan."

# Kenny Atkinson hoping Naval Academy rubs off on his Nets

Greg Logan | Newsday | September 26, 2017

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Nothing is more important to Nets general manager Sean Marks and coach Kenny Atkinson than growing a positive organizational culture, which explains why training camp is being held at the U.S. Naval Academy. In effect, Marks said on Tuesday that he was taking a page out of his old playbook with the Spurs, who trained at the Air Force Academy.

Last season, the Nets held training camp at their Hospital for Special Service practice facility when it opened in Brooklyn, but with five new veterans on the roster Marks thought it would be good to get away from home. “It was the right time,” Marks said. “It’s a chance to build trust and camaraderie. They can’t go home and have dinner with the wife. We’re all here. This is a special place.”

The GM and Atkinson said the team has planned activities to allow the players a chance to meet the midshipmen and to sample Academy life. Atkinson said he felt a connection to the Navy after playing against them in college and because he had an uncle who died in a fire on the USS Saratoga.

“Great respect for what goes on here is what it’s all about,” Atkinson said. “I thought it was a great thing. I really want the guys to get out of here not just with the basketball experience, but what is this all about. I think we’re going to go to formation and see that, hopefully mingle. We’re not going to just do basketball.”

Clearly, the Nets are hoping the sense of discipline and dedication to mission at the Naval Academy will rub off on their organization.

“Their self-discipline and time management, it’s a lot of habits, a lot of the same stuff we talk about,” Atkinson said. “To be in that environment, and on top of that, in a beautiful little city, I’m thrilled. It’s the first day, but this was a home run.”