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Takiya Nattiel and Steven Long show off their medal-winning form at the Percy Beard Track.

ERIC J. LARSON/Special to T

Youth program gains attention

By DAVID WASSON
Sun sports writer

Gainesville is a town naturally associated with speed — from the NHRA Gatornationals to Olympic sprinter Dennis Mitchell to the quickness in which the Florida football team scores.

Add the Gainesville Striders, especially Takiya Nattiel and Steven Long, to that list.

The Striders, a 7-year-old youth track organization that has doubled in size during the past two years, recently finished a successful season at the AAU Junior Olympics at Charlotte, N.C.

Nattiel and Long, two of the 110 runners in the organization, combined to earn three gold medals at the games — the first national victories of any kind for the Striders and the best of the 24 medals the team earned at the games.

"I want to say I was surprised (at Charlotte).

but they work so hard," Striders coach Larry Holsey said. "The whole team paid their dues in the hot weather all summer and did what it takes."

Nattiel, an 8-year-old third grader at P.K. Yonge, won the primary girls 100-meter dash in 14.39 seconds — a time that not only set a Junior Olympics record but was faster than the boys record in the same division.

"It was my first year, so I didn't think I could do it," Nattiel said. "I didn't think I could win anything my first year. But you don't know until you try."

"She didn't know how important it all was," said Tammy Williams, Nattiel's mother. "I was paranoid at first about the whole experience, because it was her first year and it was all new to both of us."



Area sports notebook, results and more. See Page 3C.

Long, an 11-year-old sixth grader at Hoy Bishop Middle School, won golds in the midjet men's 100-meter dash (12.56) and sub-midget men's 200-meter dash (26.15).

"Winning felt really great," Long said. "Staying in shape is the best part of all. I like meeting new people everywhere you go."

"That is an experience that most people their lifetime wouldn't get a chance to share," said Rodney Long, Steven's father and assistant coach.

"To be able to see a kid who isn't just an athlete but your son follow the instruction is given and reach the crowning moment is unbelievable."

Spreading the gospel of tra

The success of Nattiel and Long speaks volumes for the Striders, which began as a feeder system for the city's high schools and has grown into a program with nationally

TRACK continued on Page 3C

TRACK: Striders running strong

Continued from 1C

certified coaches accompanying athletes to several meets around the Southeast.

"We are here to teach and breed track throughout the community," Holsey said. "We really cater to the younger kids. It starts here with the 8-year-olds."

Williams said she encouraged her daughter to join the Striders last year after hearing about the program from friends.

"I think that it is a pretty good experience for the kids whether they are athletic or not," Williams said. "It keeps them out of trouble in a time of year when they don't have a lot going on."

"We try to keep their minds and their bodies in shape."

LARRY HOLSEY
Striders head coach

Holsey agrees.

"Summertime is a time when kids don't have much to do," Holsey said. "And an idle mind is a dangerous mind, because it wanders into things that it shouldn't. We try to keep their minds and their bodies in shape."

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AAU Junior Olympic Games

AAU Junior Olympic Games

July 26 - August 8, 1998



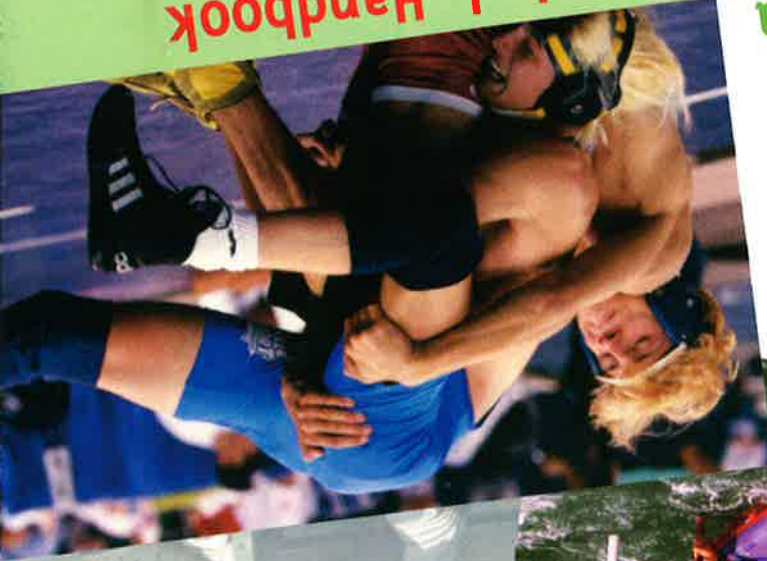
AAU USA
Athletes', Coaches'
and Parents'
Handbook



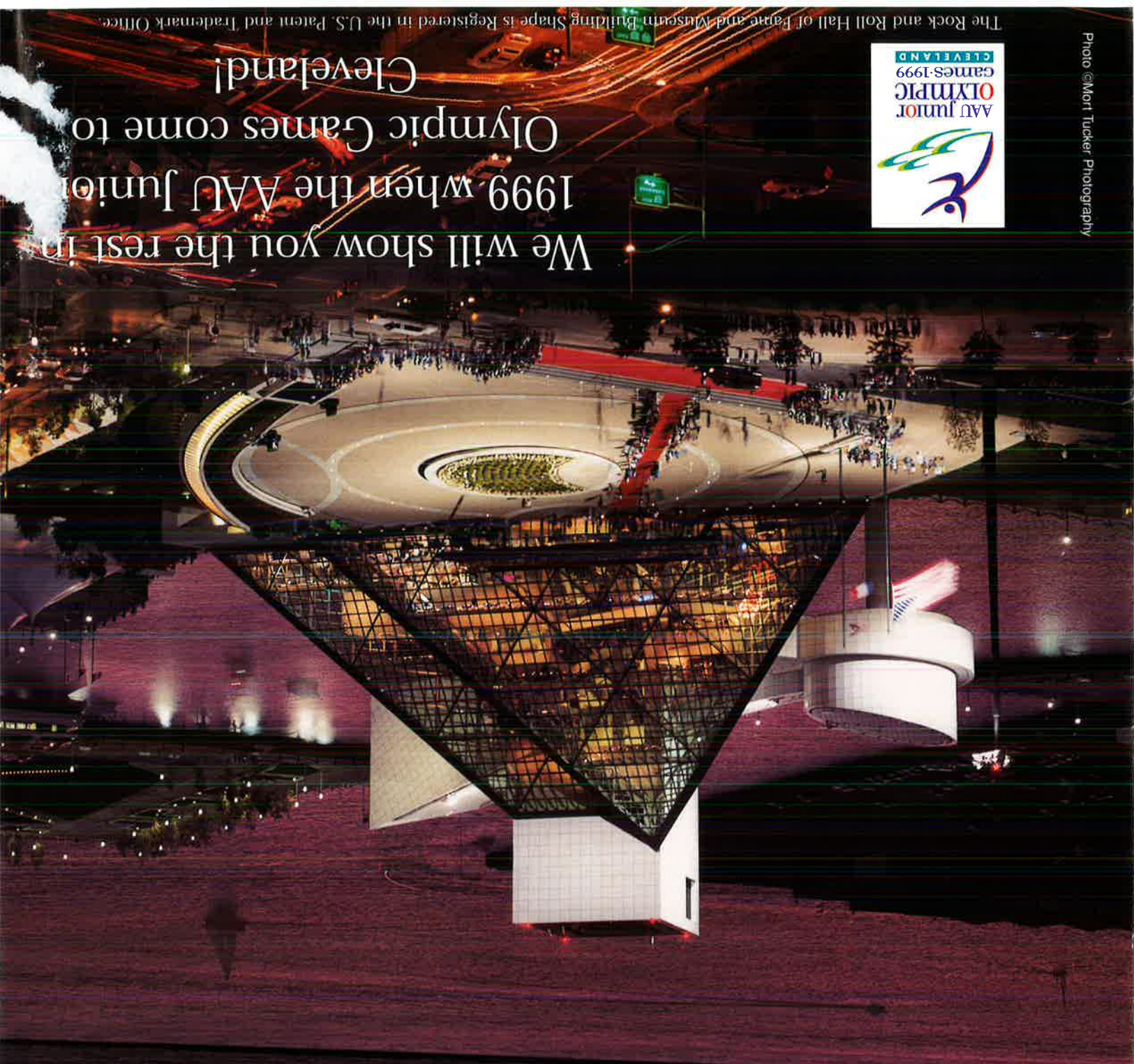
VIRGINIA
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Hampton Roads, Virginia
Athletes', Coaches', and Parents' Handbook
VIRGINIA
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The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum is just one of our many rockin' attractions.



We will show you the rest in 1999 when the AAV Junior Olympic Games come to Cleveland!



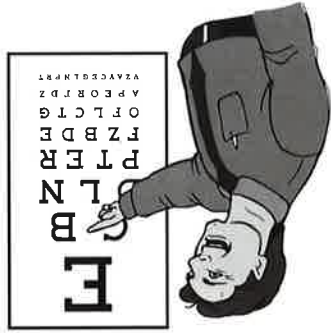
Photo ©Mort Tucker Photography

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum Building Shape is Registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.



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19-21	Information on Hampton Roads

Free Vision Screening



WHEN: Thursday, July 30, 1998
Friday, July 31, 1998
Saturday, August 1, 1998
Sunday, August 2, 1998

HOW: All testing will be conducted at check-in for athletes competing in the AAU Junior Olympic Games (no appointment necessary).

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

Indiana University School of Optometry
c/o Steven A. Hitzeman, O.D.
Director, Sports Vision Programs
803 N. Monroe
Bloomington, IN 47404
(812) 855-4979 (office)

We'll SEE you there!



**GAIN THE EXTRA EDGE
in Sports through Vision**

The American Optometric Association will be conducting the fifth annual eye screening for athletes and coaches during the XXXII AAU Junior Olympic Games. Over the last four years athletes screened showed:

- ★ 27.6% had visual symptoms that affected their athletic performance
- ★ 21% had less than 20/25 vision
- ★ 37.5% never had their eyes examined by an eye care professional
- ★ 0% wore ASTM approved protective eyewear.

WHERE: Norfolk Scope Arena
AAU Athlete Check-In

PURPOSE: Assist athletes and coaches with a service which will give hints on:

- ★ Useful Skills
- ★ How to Protect the Eyes
- ★ How to Improve your Vision Skills



American Optometric Association



Midwest Trophy has been recognizing achievers for over 25 years. We are proud of our association with AAU and the many athletes and coaches of the AAU Junior Olympics Games as the official medals sponsor.

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Bob Aston
Co-Chairman
XXXII AAU Junior Olympic Games



Bob Tysinger
Co-Chairman
XXXII AAU Junior Olympic Games

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Again, congratulations on all that you have achieved. Good luck, and rest assured that Hampton Roads is anxiously awaiting your arrival!

much more rewarding.

Of course you will be here to compete, but keep in mind that there is plenty to see and do in Hampton Roads when you get a break in the action. The Opening Ceremonies at the new Dick Price Stadium on the Campus of Norfolk State University promises to be something truly memorable. We encourage you to take full advantage of the local attractions as we are sure they will make your stay in Hampton Roads that

The AAU and the citizens of Hampton Roads have been working hard to create an event that you will remember for many years to come. We have been lucky enough to enlist the participation of the seven sister cities in the Hampton Roads area to provide top caliber venues for the competition. We have no doubt their hospitality will be evident throughout the games.

serve as your host.

On behalf of the citizens of Hampton Roads, Virginia, we look forward to welcoming you to the XXXII AAU Junior Olympic Games. Being here and competing in these games demonstrates a high level of achievement. We wish you the best of luck in your competition here as well as your efforts to attain higher and higher levels of athletic and personal achievement in the future. We are very pleased to have the chance to

Dear Athletes, Coaches and Fans,

Dear Athletes,

You are about to embark upon what America considers to be the greatest national multi-sport event for youth in the United States — The XXXII AAU Junior Olympic Games!

You'll have the opportunity to compete against 12,000 young, enthusiastic athletes from all over this great land. Make the most of this opportunity: build friendships, compete hard, but most importantly have fun! Setting your goals and striving to achieve your dreams have made you a recognized member of the AAU Junior Olympic Games family. Be proud of your accomplishments! Become a part of our roster of athletes who have competed in the Games such as:

Evelyn Ashford
 Patrick Ewing
 Antonee Hardaway
 Carl Lewis
 Jackie Joyner-Kersey

Cheryl Miller
 Shaquille O'Neal
 Kurt Thomas
 Chris Webber
 Mark Spitz

Congratulations and good luck to you all! Thank you to the athletes, coaches, volunteers, and the communities of Hampton Roads, Virginia. Without you, this event would not be possible. We are all winners! "Sports for all, forever."

Welcome to the XXXII AAU Junior Olympic Games!



Bobby Dodd
 President



Col. William Tooke
 First Vice-President



Laris Roberts
 Second Vice-President



Roger Goudy
 Secretary



Ron Crawford
 Treasurer

The Amateur Athletic Union
 c/o The Walt Disney World Resort
 P.O. Box 10,000
 Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830-1000
 (407) 934-7200 (407) 934-7242 (fax)
 www.aausports.org

Hampton Roads Local Organizing Committee	Bill Mann	Norfolk
Michael Barber	Newport News	
Buddy Wheeler	Virginia Beach	
Jeff Sias	Sports Council of Hampton Roads	AAU
Paul Butler	Portsmouth	
Warren Harris	Chesapeake	
Judy Watkins	Virginia Tourism Corporation	
David Hall	Event Manager	
Ray White	Hampton	
Cynthia Rohlf	Suffolk	

GREETINGS TO

THE 10,000 COMPETITORS

IN THIS YEAR'S

AAU JUNIOR OLYMPICS.

PLEASE COME BACK

WHEN YOU CAN *relax.*

We suspect you'll have your hands full during the competition, so put this thought in the back of your mind. Virginia for your next vacation. You'll get a good feel for the Hampton Roads corner of our state during the competition (and you'd better like water), but there's so much more to Virginia. Spectacular mountains, unparalleled history and some great theme parks and attractions. For a free travel guide or information on special vacation packages, call 1-800-248-4833 Ext. VF96 or visit our web site. www.virginia.org/vf96



TRAVEL & COMPETITION NOTES

TRAVEL PLANS:

LODGING:

EVENTS SCHEDULE:

SIGHTSEEING:

NOTES:

IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO KNOW

Read this information handbook thoroughly. Please note that information within this book may change without prior notice. It is the responsibility of the coach/athlete to verify all information upon check-in at the Norfolk Scope Arena.

Fill out all applicable individual athlete and coach's entry forms and/or team entry forms enclosed in the packet. Be sure to fill out all entry forms completely. Not entering required information will delay processing of your entry.

Include your AAU membership number, home address, home phone number, and all other sport specific information on your entry forms. Make sure all signature requests are signed.

Submit a cashier's check or money order (sorry, no personal checks accepted) for your entry fee made payable to: XXXII AAU JUNIOR OLYMPIC GAMES.

Mail completed entry packets to:

XXXII AAU Junior Olympic Games
420 Bank Street
Norfolk, VA 23510
(757) 664-2529
Note:
For Track and Field/Multi-events, send to:
AAU National Headquarters in Orlando.
(see entry forms for address)

AAU Junior Olympic Games Athlete/Coaches/Team Check-in will be held at the Norfolk Scope Arena in downtown Norfolk, VA. Please consult your sport-specific entry packet for times, dates and locations of practice (if applicable) officials and coaches meetings, and competitions.

EVENT TICKET PRICES:
Daily and weekly passes for all spectators will be available at check-in at the Norfolk Scope Arena and athletic venues for the following prices:
Adult Passport Pass: \$35 (includes entry to all venues for the entire event and Opening Ceremonies)
Adult Daily Pass: \$7
Youth Passport Pass (12 & Under): \$25 (includes entry to all venues for the entire event and Opening Ceremonies)
Youth Daily Pass: \$5

Children 5 & Under: Free (includes Opening Ceremonies)

If not purchasing a Passport Pass, tickets to Opening Ceremonies at Norfolk State University will be available for \$17 (adult) and \$14 (youth).

PARKING:
Parking fees may be charged at some venues.

For more information concerning ticket packages, contact (757)664-2529

AAU JUNIOR OLYMPIC GAMES

Five-hundred and twenty-three athletes competed in the inaugural AAU Junior Olympic Games in Washington, DC in 1967. National champions were determined in swimming and track and field. This marked the first time in the history of the AAU Youth Sports Program that two national championships were held at the same time. Eighteen AAU records in swimming and track and field were established. Since its beginning in Washington, DC, the AAU Junior Olympic Games have been conducted in 15 states and 24 cities across the United States.

The state of Tennessee is in the lead with five (5) AAU Junior Olympic Games to its credit. Florida is a strong second with four, all in different cities: Cocoa Beach, Jacksonville, St. Petersburg and Tallahassee.

In its 31-year history, the event has expanded from a total of 523 participating athletes in the inception year to last year's record total of 12,388 in Charlotte, North Carolina. In 1998, upwards of 13,000 athletes are expected to descend upon Hampton Roads, Virginia.

In the nineties alone, the Games have grown by more than 6,000 participants. The Games will continue to expand and flourish into the 21st century as the popularity of sport and the attention to the youth in America intensifies.

In 1997, the event broke all existing records for participation with over 12,000 athletes from all 50 states and several U.S. Territories and U.S. Military Bases around the world. One thing that remains consistent from year to year is the AAU's commitment to the youth of America. Sports for All, Forever!

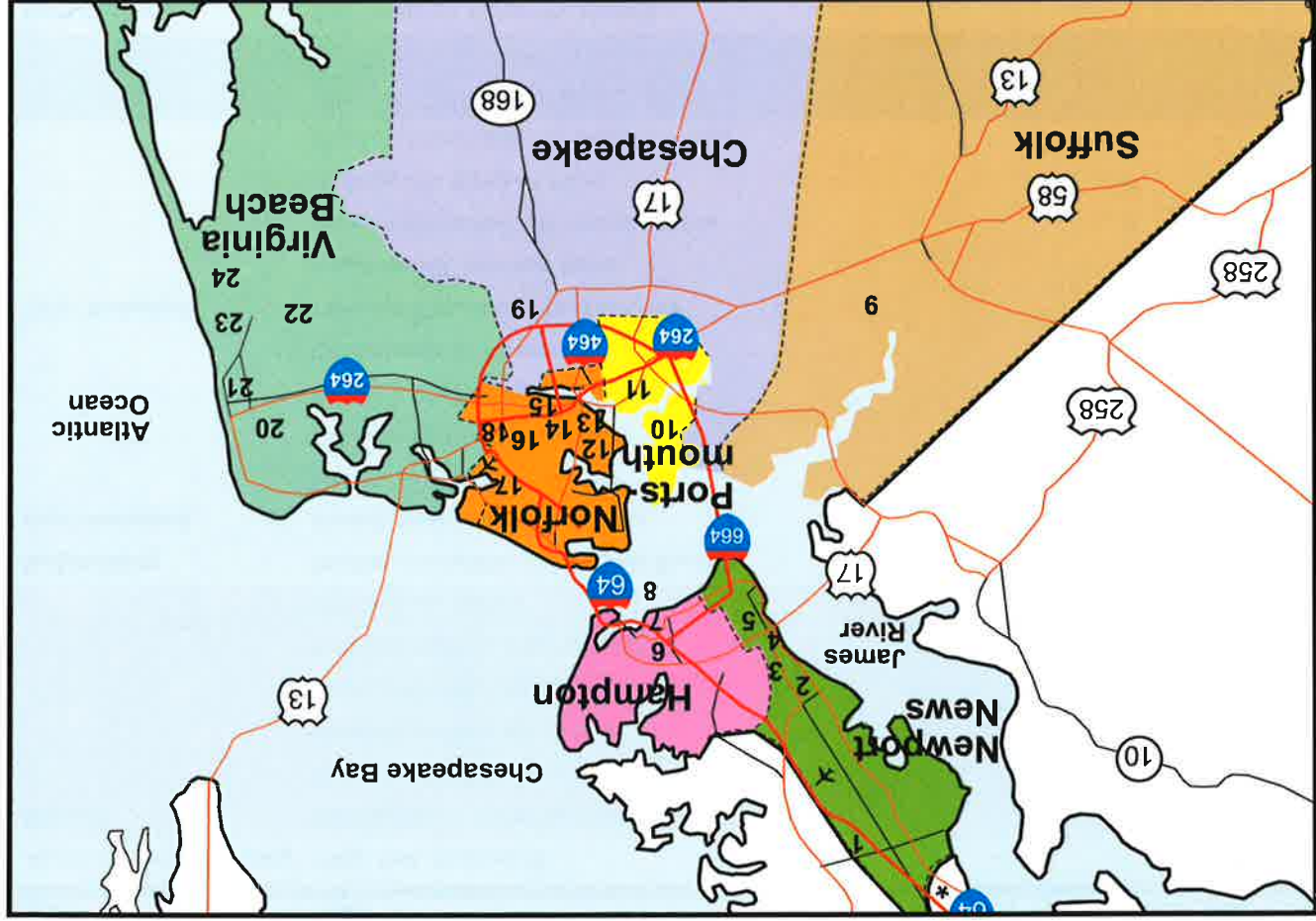
Showcasing America's talent, the AAU Junior Olympic Games prides itself with the nation's most outstanding athletes year in and year out. Evelyn Ashford, Patrick Ewing, Antonee Hardaway, Carl Lewis, Jackie Joyner-Kersey, Cheryl Miller, Shaquille O'Neal, Kurt Thomas and Chris Webber have all participated in the Games.



HAMPTON ROADS,
VIRGINIA

Chesapeake
Hampton
Newport News
Norfolk
Portsmouth
Suffolk
Virginia Beach

COMPETITION SITES



1	Woodside High School
2	Warwick Recreation Center
3	Midtown Community Center
4	Huntington Park Tennis Center
5	Heritage High School
6	Hampton Coliseum Convocation Center
7	Hampton University Convocation Center
8	Strawberry Banks
9	Nansemond River High School
10	Churchland High School
11	Willer Hall
12	Old Dominion University
13	Norfolk Scope
14	Norfolk State University
15	Harbor Park
16	Booker T. Washington High School
17	Lakewood/Botanical Gardens
18	Lake Taylor High School
19	Oscar Smith High School
20	First Colonial High School
21	Pavilion Convention Center
22	Virginia Beach Soccer Complex
23	Strawbridge Skating Center
24	Hell's Point Golf Course

Sport	Sites(s)
Aerobics/Cheerleading	11
Baseball	9, 10, 12, 15, 19, 20
Body Building	21
Boys Basketball	10, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19
Girls Basketball	11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17
Canoe/Kayak Slalom	11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17
Field Hockey	12
Golf	24
Gymnastics	5
In-Line Hockey	23
Jump Rope	10
Karate	7
Multis Events	14
Powerlifting	21
Sailing	8
Soccer	22
Swimming	12
Table Tennis	14
Taekwondo	14
Tennis	15
Track & Field	14
Trampoline & Tumbling	8
Weightlifting	21
Wrestling	19
Opening Ceremonies	14
Registration	13

1998 AAU JUNIOR OLYMPIC COMPETITION SCHEDULE

Sport Venue Sun., 7/26 Mon., 7/27 Tue., 7/28 Wed., 7/29 Thurs., 7/30 Fri., 7/31 Sat., 8/1 Sun., 8/2 Mon., 8/3 Tue., 8/4 Wed., 8/5 Thurs., 8/6 Fri., 8/7 Sat., 8/8

Sport	Venue	Sun., 7/26	Mon., 7/27	Tue., 7/28	Wed., 7/29	Thurs., 7/30	Fri., 7/31	Sat., 8/1	Sun., 8/2	Mon., 8/3	Tue., 8/4	Wed., 8/5	Thurs., 8/6	Fri., 8/7	Sat., 8/8
Aerobic Dance/Cheerleading*	Williet Hall, Portsmouth														
Baseball	Old Dominion University, Norfolk														
	Churchland HS, Portsmouth														
	Nansemond River HS, Suffolk														
	Oscar Smith HS, Chesapeake														
	First Colonial HS, Virginia Beach														
	Harbor Park, Norfolk														
Bodybuilding	Pavilion Convention Ctr, Virginia Beach														
Boys' Basketball	Norfolk State University, Norfolk														
	Norfolk Scope Arena, Norfolk														
	Oscar Smith HS, Chesapeake														
	Booker T. Washington HS, Norfolk														
	Churchland HS, Portsmouth														
Girls' Basketball	Hampton Convention Ctr, Hampton														
	Woodside HS, Newport News														
	Warwick Recreation Ctr, Newport News														
	Heritage HS, Newport News														
	Midtown Community Ctr, Newport News														
Canoe/Kayak	Botanical Gardens (Flatwater), Norfolk														
	Busch Gardens (Slalom), Williamsburg														
Field Hockey	Old Dominion University, Norfolk														
	Hells Point Golf Club, Virginia Beach														
Gymnastics	Hampton Coliseum, Hampton														
In-line Hockey	Strawbridge Skating Ctr, Virginia Beach														
Jump Rope	Churchland HS, Portsmouth														
Karate	Hampton Convocation Ctr, Hampton														
	Multi Events \ Racewalk														
Powerlifting	Pavilion Convention Ctr, Virginia Beach														
Sailing	Strawberry Banks, Hampton														
Soccer	VB Soccer Complex, Virginia Beach														
Swimming	Midtown Community Ctr, Newport News														
Table Tennis	Heritage HS, Newport News														
Taekwondo	Norfolk State University Gym, Norfolk														
Tennis	Huntington Pk Tennis Ctr/Heritage HS, Newport News														
Track & Field	Norfolk State University Track, Norfolk														
Trampoline & Tumbling	Hampton Coliseum, Hampton														
Weightlifting	Pavilion Convention Ctr, Virginia Beach														
Wrestling	Oscar Smith HS, Chesapeake														
Opening Ceremonies	Norfolk State University Track, Norfolk														
Check-In	Norfolk Scope Arena, Norfolk														

Legend: C-Competition; Cl-Checking; (Ex)-Exhibition; F-Final; (T)-Turf; P-Practice; PPK-Rowhaton Park; WI - Weigh-In