



Summer 2015

ZOOM in on america

By the U.S. Missions of Austria and Poland

Volume VI. Issue 7.

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ALL THAT BASKETBALL



Photo State Dept.

In this issue: Basketball

Zoom in on America

Charles “Bo” Outlaw & Nicole Kristen Powell in an Interview

Exclusively for Zoom in on America

Basketball is a universal game with a universal language. Two former NBA and WNBA players, Charles “Bo” Outlaw and Nicole Powell, proved this statement true while, as American Sports Envoys in Poland, they participated in basketball camps for youth and kids organized by the most famous Polish basketball player Marcin Gortat (now with the Washington Wizards) in July 2015. They taught the game to young Poles 9-17, including a group of children in wheelchairs. Outlaw played and Powell was a coach in an all star-game featuring Gortat Team vs. Polish Army which has become an annual event at Krakow Arena. They both say that giving back to others is their priority now that they have retired from playing professionally.



Zoom: A career, or a lifestyle, or both? What is basketball for you?



Nicole: Basketball has become a career, but it is really my lifestyle. It's given me numerous opportunities to travel across America, to travel across the world. It's given me education. It's given me many friendships. And I'll always be grateful to the sport.



Bo: Yes, it started off as a ... probably, a lifestyle, then it turned into a career because the journey changes, too. When you are a little kid, you play a sport, your life is what you do then. When you get older, it's a career. Once you finish, it's back to a lifestyle cause it takes you to so

many places. It's part of me. Basketball will be part of me wherever I go. It doesn't matter where. Anywhere in the world. I see someone else doing it - that's what I know and that's what I will try to help someone else to learn. You come across a lot of different people in this game, a lot of different places. I appreciate everything it has done for me.



Zoom: How did your adventure with basketball begin?



Nicole: I began playing basketball when I was very young, but just at school, in PE class, in Physical Education class. You have basketball, of course, everywhere outside and I would just play outside. Like everywhere else. That's how I started.



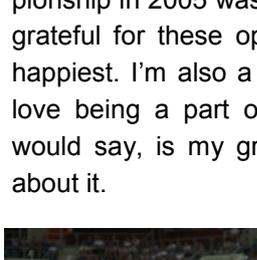
Bo: I started young, probably like about the sixth grade. I didn't play basketball seriously until I got to a high school. When I was young I played basketball, football, ran tracks, I swam. I did everything. As I got older, I just strictly played basketball.



Zoom: What do you consider your greatest achievement in basketball?



Nicole: It's changed. I had a lot of achievements. The biggest thing that changed my life was to allow me to go to Stanford University. I never would have been able to have that chance if it weren't for basketball. Then, as a professional, being able to win the WNBA championship in 2005 was an amazing feeling. But now I'm just grateful for these opportunities. This is what makes me happiest. I'm also a coach, a coach in college and I just love being a part of the game. Even now, coaching, I would say, is my greatest achievement. I'm very happy about it.



Bo: My greatest achievement? When I was playing, I would say being a winner, winning conference championships. But since I finished playing the game, my biggest achievement would be to travel out of the country, spread the knowledge of basketball to kids, to give them opportunities to better themselves. It's not really about my success, but about what I do for others. The greatest achievement of basketball is helping others out.



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Zoom: You are sport envoys. What are your duties?



Nicole: My experience here in Poland has been about a week. I got a chance to travel around the country, to Lublin, to Bochnia, to Krakow obviously. Just doing camps with kids, teaching the game, also talking about life skills, importance of team work, having a positive attitude, enjoying what you do, having fun, but also working hard. It's just great meeting people. We were able to go to a hospital and visit the children. We've just been building relationships with all kinds of people here in Poland, here in Krakow, It's just been wonderful.

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Teaching basketball has given us an opportunity to form these relationships. And that's the best part.



Bo: Sports Envoys is a great experience for me. Coming over here I was a little nervous because I was like "OK, what to expect? What do I got here...? I have been working here for seven days. The best thing is just giving back to others. The work is about giving basketball knowledge, information and, as Nicole says, we went to the hospital and just gave our time. This was great to see the smiles on the kids' faces and even on the parents'. So for the hour or so we were there, just changed their lives a little. They just forgot about things and had fun with us. It's unbelievable. Just changed their lives a little bit. So I'm just honored to be a part of this envoy program.



Zoom: How important is learning the language of a country you play in?



Bo: I would say communication is very important, but basketball is a universal game so you can play the game and not know the same language, but when you work as a coach, to get your message across, you are going to have some language barriers. But you have to be able to learn the language enough to get your point from one person to the next. It's building relations. It's teamwork. The language is important, but on the court, if you know the game, you know how to play without the same language.



Nicole: I would say basketball really makes the world smaller. So even though I played here in Poland, I had teammates from all over Europe and Australia and in every team I've been, everywhere I played, everybody speaks English, you know. When I was in Poland, my coach was actually from Spain and he spoke English. We also have translators, but like Bo said, when you play the game, the game is universal, it goes beyond English. It's really an incredible sport and it's just wonderful to play and wonderful that people all over the world play the same game.



Zoom: What advice would you give to young people who want to pursue a career in sport?



Bo: It's going to be a lot of work, whatever you choose. If you want to have an easy, overnight success, it won't happen. If it's basketball, if it's a school, if it's a doctor or a lawyer, whatever you want to do you can't be afraid to fail. If you don't fail, it means you didn't try. So you have to try it to know if you can do it or not. So give yourself a chance, a try. Opportunities are there. They're few and far between and you have to take advantage of opportunity when it comes. You have a small window, but if that's what you want to do, try. You never know what comes out of it.



Nicole: Yes, my advice for anyone who wants to pursue a career in sport. I think when you're young, do a lot of sports just like Bo did. I did a lot of sports, too. It's important to try different things because you have a different aptitude for different things. You don't know unless you try. And

it's OK if you're not good at it. It's normal. But you should try lots of things, you should have lots of fun. It will make you a better athlete in general, different things. Do basketball. Do volleyball, hockey, whatever. You also have to continue to work hard because to be great at anything, even if it's not just sports, you have to really practice a lot. So you have to find something that you're passionate about, something that makes you feel good, makes you feel happy and that will give you the motivation to keep doing it. It takes a lot of work.



Zoom: Bo and Nicole, thank you!



Bo Outlaw teaches basketball to children in wheelchairs. Photo State Dept.



Nicole Powell explains the game to teenagers at one of the basketball camps. Photo State Dept.



Gortat Team vs. Polish Army game on Sunday, July 19, 2015 at Tauron Arena in Krakow. Photos State Dept.

Nicole Powell



Nicole Kristen Powell (born June 22, 1982 in Sierra Vista, Arizona) graduated from Mountain Pointe High School. She set Mountain Pointe school records with 2,478 career points and 1,760 career rebounds. She was named a WBCA All-American. She also was named a 2000 Parade Magazine First Team All-American in 2000 and the Arizona Player of the Century. Powell participated in the 2000 Phoenix Women's Basketball Coaches Association High School All-American Game. She was selected as a Nike Camp All-American and participated in the Blue Star Elite Camp. *USA Today* named her as the top junior in the nation in 1998-99 and she was selected as the top sophomore in the country by the same publication in 1997-98. As a junior she was named the Arizona Girls Basketball Player of the Year and Arizona Female Student Athlete of the Year as she led Mountain Pointe to the state final.

Apart from basketball, she successfully engaged in other sports: she was an all-region selection in tennis and track; won state badminton singles championships in 1997, 1999 and 2000; won the state discus title in 2000; and was an Arizona 5A doubles runner-up in tennis in 1998.

Throughout her university education at Stanford, Powell pursued urban studies, and continued to do sports. She played the forward position for Stanford University women's NCAA basketball team and led Stanford to the Elite Eight as a senior. During her tenure there, she broke many school records, was named an All-American three times, and won numerous awards.

Powell's WNBA career started in 2004 when she was picked no. 3 overall by the Charlotte Sting in the WNBA Draft. In 2005 she was traded to the Sacra-

Charles "Bo" Outlaw



Charles "Bo" Outlaw (born April 13, 1971 in San Antonio, Texas) is a retired American professional basketball player. Outlaw was known for his sub-par free-throw shooting (.521 for his career). He played for the Los Angeles Clippers, Orlando Magic, Phoenix Suns, and Memphis Grizzlies.

In 1989 Outlaw graduated from John Jay High School, where he led the Mustangs to the Texas state finals before they were defeated by Houston Clear Lake High School. After graduation he played for South Plains College and the University of Houston. During his time in Houston, he averaged 14.0 points per game (ppg) and led NCAA Division I with a field goal percentage of .684.

His professional career began in the Continental Basketball Association (CBA), where he played for the Grand Rapids Hoops. In 1994, Outlaw started his NBA career with the Los Angeles Clippers, recording 13 points and 7 rebounds in a 100-89 win over the Los Angeles Lakers. He played three full seasons for the Clippers, who made the playoffs in 1997 but were defeated by the Utah Jazz in the first round.

After Outlaw left Los Angeles he signed a two-year contract with the Orlando Magic where he started in 76 of 82 regular season games and recorded what would remain career-high averages in every statistical category except for assists.

On April 17, 1998, Outlaw recorded 25 points, 13 rebounds, and 10 assists in a 121-109 win over the New Jersey Nets. After the game, reporters asked him how he felt about his first triple-double, to which Outlaw

Nicole Powell and Charles Bo Outlaw. Photos State Dept.

mento Monarchs. It turned out to be a breakout year for Powell, who was named the recipient of that year's WNBA's Most Improved Player award. She played an important role in the Monarchs' 2005 WNBA Finals victory over the Connecticut Sun.

In 2009 Powell was the best free throw shooter in the WNBA with 97.9% of attempts made. She also participated in the 2009 WNBA All-Star Game, where she scored 21 points off the bench.

In 2010 Nicole Powell appeared and started all 34 games for the New York Liberty and stayed with them until 2013 when she started playing for Tulsa Shock. She appeared in 32 games. Her average score was 6.4 points per game, 3.7 rebounds per game, 1.3 assists per game and 22.3 minutes per game.

Powell's NBA awards include: WNBA Champion (2005), Most Improved Player (2005) and All-Star (2009).

Powell was a member of the USA Women's U18 team, which won the gold medal at the FIBA Americas Championship in Mar Del Plata, Argentina.

Powell was named to the USA Women's U19 team which represented the USA in the 2001 U19 World's Championship, held in Brno, Czech Republic in July 2001. She helped the USA team to a 6-1 record and the bronze medal.

In 2003, Powell helped the United States women's national basketball team win a silver medal at the Pan American Games in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. She also helped the national team win a bronze medal (in the Czech Republic) and a gold medal (in Argentina) at two other international tournaments.

Her international career includes seasons she played for Fenerbahçe, the Turkish women's team, CSKA Moscow, Perfumerias Halcon Avenida in Spain, Basket Spezia in Italy and a Polish team – TS Wisła Krakow.



Coach Nicole Powell at Gortat Team vs. Polish Army game on July 19, 2015 in Krakow. Photo State Dept.

famously replied "What's that, some kind of hamburger?".

On a court Bo Outlaw was known for his versatility, persistence in pursuing rebounds and loose balls. His personality, a broad smile he was wearing in and outside court, earned him the hearts of basketball fans early in his career.

In November 2001 he joined the Phoenix Suns and after one and a half seasons with them, he left for Memphis. After one season there he returned to Phoenix. In the 2005-06 season, he returned to the Magic.

Over his NBA career (914 games) he averaged 5.4 points and 4.9 rebounds. Outlaw's NBA career lasted 15 years and he played his last NBA game in 2007.

But that is not the end of his adventure with basketball. He continues to be active in the community. He travels as a Sports Envoy to show kids and young basketball players that sport really makes a difference.



Charles Bo Outlaw at Gortat Team vs. Polish Army game on July 19, 2015 in Krakow. His player's number was 45 most of the time. Photos State Dept.

Activity Page

Exercise 1: Read the text below about the beginnings of basketball and write a paragraph or two about the beginnings of your favorite sport and its major rules.

The beginnings of basketball go back to 1891, when a physical education instructor at a YMCA Training School in Springfield, Massachusetts, James Naismith, developed a new indoor game. The game consisted in throwing a large ball into elevated boxes. The height of the basket has not been changed since the invention of the game.

The new game was taught by students at YMCAs across the United States and Canada and spread rapidly. The instructors learned from the rules that were published in 1892. Many of the original rules such as a prohibition from carrying the ball, but rather bouncing or throwing it, remain unchanged to this day. Another such rule is that the ball is awarded to the opposite team from the one touching it before it went out of bounds.

Exercise 2: Look at the words and expressions connected with basketball listed below 1 - 9 and match them with their meanings a - i.

1. bounce
 2. free throw
 3. dribble
 4. assist
 5. basket (as used in basketball)
 6. rebound
 7. backboard
 8. personal foul
 9. slam dunk
-
- a. a free shot taken from the free throw line as the result of a foul
 - b. to rebound the ball after hitting a surface
 - c. a pass to a teammate that leads directly to a goal
 - d. to bounce the ball repeatedly with one hand while running or walking
 - e. a net which is fixed on a hoop and used as the goal
 - f. a board behind the basket, off which the ball may rebound
 - g. a foul which involves illegal physical contact such as blocking, charging, elbowing or holding
 - h. to get control of a ball that has come off the rim or backboard after a failed shot attempt
 - i. a high jump shot in which the ball is thrust down through the hoop

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