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# Pistons coach Michael Curry shares knowledge at UDM coaching clinic

## He stresses hard work, consistency

BY VINCE ELLIS • FREE PRESS SPORTS WRITER • OCTOBER 26, 2008

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A teenaged Michael Curry had a dilemma.

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His high school [basketball coach](#) had just told the team that the best rebounder and best defender were guaranteed starting spots.

He sized up his teammates and realized the big cat probably would be the best rebounder.

And he knew from pickup games with his buddies he wasn't the most talented offensive guy.

Hello, playing defense.

Curry parlayed his defense into a long NBA career, and that was a story the [Pistons](#) coach related to area high school coaches Saturday when he dropped in for a coaching clinic held at Detroit Mercy's Calihan Hall.

The clinic, which also featured sessions from former St. Louis and UNLV coach Charlie Spoonhour and Wayne State coach David Grier, was attended by about 170, and Curry was the headliner.

The Pistons had the day off, but it was a busy day for Curry. After the clinic, he was headed to Ann Arbor to watch his son, Deon, a [wide receiver](#) for MSU, play at Michigan.



DFP file photo

Pistons coach Michael Curry.

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But he had told UDM coach Ray McCallum in the summer he would be there when called upon, and he was a man of his word.

"It just shows he wants to be a big part of this community, and he is a big part of this community," McCallum said. "Not a lot of people do that, but I think it speaks a lot about his character."

Curry spoke about hard work, consistency and being prompt. T

he talk was sprinkled with personal anecdotes from his playing career and his short period of time leading the Pistons.

Then Curry used UDM players to demonstrate staples of his practices.

He concluded with a short question-and-answer session and then it was off to shake a few hands and pose for a few pictures -- showing off his civic pride.

"I've always enjoyed this community," said Curry, who has spent five seasons with the Pistons. "When I was a player, I came down here to U-D twice a week in the summertime to play ball with the guys down here. I've done camps in the city, and I've always enjoyed this city.

"Anytime I'm in a situation to do something -- especially something basketball-wise -- I'm there. This is great and I enjoyed it. Hopefully, when I'm available, I can do more of this."

And it was appreciated.

"He showed me and the other guys that we have to continue to preach on the little things and not just reward the guys that are athletic and are blessed with talent," Detroit Cody coach Brian Tipton said. "It's helping me to grow and see things I have to do better as a coach."

**NOTEBOOK:** After the day off Saturday, the Pistons begin preparing today for Wednesday's opener at the Palace against the Indiana Pacers.

Contact **VINCE ELLIS** at 313-222-6479 or [vellis@freepress.com](mailto:vellis@freepress.com). Check out his Pistons blog at [www.freep.com/sports](http://www.freep.com/sports).

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