

# Building Basketball Skills at Walt Whitman

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The All Island Basketball Camp is off to a strong start, with 160 young athletes participating in the first week of camp and many extending their registration through this week, Session II.

Camp Co-Director Tom Fitzpatrick, who coaches Whitman's boys varsity team, said he received "very positive" feedback from parents and students, the latter of which shows a 70 percent return rate from last year.

Fitzpatrick and co-director Tom Diana, of the Uniondale school district, stress strengthening fundamental skills and building team chemistry during each of the weeklong [sic] sessions. Shooting, ball handling, passing, rebounding and team defense skills are stressed, and in addition to such training, campers are treated to guest lectures from college coaches and professional trainers.

But above all else, Fitzpatrick and Diana are stressing teamwork. "We teach them the importance of being a team player," Fitzpatrick said. "It's not important to score all the points."



*Long Islander Photo/Aliza Israel*

Along with area coaches, such as Whitman girls varsity coach Dan Trebour, current college players are also part of the coaching staff. Hofstra University player Antoine Agudio is one such player lending a hand this summer, offering his experience as a Whitman alumnus who has chosen for this summer's Empire State Games.

"It's a great role for role modeling...they came from Long Island, and they worked hard at their game and were able to play at the college level," Diana said.

Registration is still open for Sessions III (July 31 to August 4) and Session IV (August 7 to August 11). A \$275 tuition payment will provide campers with training from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and for an extra \$75, campers can receive transportation.

For more information call 631-543-2801 or visit [www.allislandbasketballcamp.com](http://www.allislandbasketballcamp.com).