



MPSSAA Student-Athlete Leadership Conference Workshop and Presenters



Thurl Bailey



Thurl Bailey understands what it means to be a champion. In the 1983 NCAA Basketball Tournament, Thurl and the rest of the North Carolina State Wolfpack team, accomplished the seemingly unthinkable. It is considered by many, one the greatest Cinderella stories in the history of sports. ESPN ranks it as "the most improbable title run ever with perhaps the biggest upset in tournament history."

North Carolina State, coached by Jim Valvano, won the national title with a 54-52 victory in the final game over the University of Houston. The ending of the final is one of the most famous in college basketball history, with a dunk at the buzzer off an airball shot from 30 feet. The final dunk and coach Valvano's running around the court in celebration immediately after the game have been staples of NCAA tournament coverage ever since. As a senior and co-captain of that championship team, Thurl went on to enjoy a 16 year professional basketball career, 12 of those in the N.B.A. with the Utah Jazz, and the Minnesota Timberwolves and 4 years in the Greek and Italian Leagues.

Since retiring from Professional basketball in 2000, Thurl has been leading a busy life as an inspirational speaker and entertainer, a basketball analyst for Utah Jazz TV and the owner of two successful companies, Big T Bailey Productions: Producing uplifting music and programs for kids and adults and Elegant Apparel: A custom clothing line for business executives and professional athletes.

When you meet Thurl Bailey you first notice the 7 foot athlete. But he is a man of as much depth as height. From the youth to the corporate world, Thurl Bailey inspires others to win whatever the odds or disappointments. Master storyteller and accomplished speaker and singer, he inspires companies and individuals to focus on what matters most; to persevere, to be team players, to encourage peak performance, to develop leadership, and discover opportunity in change and adversity.



NOTHING CAN STOP YOU: HOW I OVERCAME TOURETTE'S SYNDROME The Jason Michaels Story A Self Esteem and Bullying Program

For the past decade, Jason Michaels has performed magic and illusion on stages in China, Las Vegas, London and on cruise ships in the Caribbean. Known for his ability to engage and interact with his audience with a warm smile and infectious energy, Jason creates unforgettable performances that involve everyone.

However, since being diagnosed with Tourette's Syndrome as a child, Jason has struggled with the neurological disorder. In this poignant and inspiring presentation, Jason focuses on how he has been able to deal with the many frustrations associated with the condition and how he, ultimately, has overcome it to become an internationally award-winning magician and professional entertainer.

In Nothing Can Stop You, Jason celebrates the beauty of being a unique individual. By sharing his unlikely personal journey of becoming a professional entertainer all while dealing with the daily irritation and alienation that comes with living with Tourette's Syndrome, Jason connects with each and every student. Jason shares the message of tolerance and respect for others. He explains how bullying can destroy lives. And he drives the point home that by being original and by embracing our own personal strengths, we can change the world around us.

Captains Program - Athletic Administrators

The Captains Program will identify characteristics of being a team captain and leadership components involved. Students will interactively participate in discussions about making good decisions, their experiences with being a team captain and identify the best ways a team captain can be a leader. This course will be facilitated by area high school athletic administrators.

Group Dynamics – Athletic Administrators

This session focuses on Group Dynamics by bringing awareness to the participants on understanding how groups work. Students will be able to assess a group's level of teamwork, understand the elements of teamwork and how they can encourage their teams and groups to function at higher levels.

Team Building - Athletic Administrators

Team Building will provide students with an interactive session on forming groups into a cohesive team. Students will work and discuss what it takes to be a team and how an individual can make the difference on whether teams are successful. This course will be facilitated by area high school athletic administrators.

Arrive Alive Game Show sponsored by The Allstate Foundation

The Arrive Alive Game Show sponsored by the Allstate Foundation is a fast moving trivia-based event. This game show is utilized to pit students against each other, via an elimination round-style program. The trivia will consist of questions focusing on being a student-athlete in Maryland, distracted driving as well as pop culture and current events so that students are kept involved and active throughout the entire show. Using this program, allows us to educate students about the subjects that are important in a fun, team-building, and educational manner. Arrive Alive—Game Show will impact students on multiple levels like never before. This is done in such a way as to leave students with a lasting impression of the topic at hand.