July 29, 2012

Letter of recommendation for Andrew Persin

To Whom It May Concern,

I’m writing this letter of recommendation for Andrew Persin with great pleasure because I am so grateful for all that Andrew has given to my twin boys through his positive coaching skills. Andrew has an innate talent for coaching kids; he was truly born to be a basketball coach. Andrew stresses fundamentals and learning how to play the game the “right way.” As a result the kids truly learn the game of basketball. Andrew also teaches skills that are invaluable on and off the court.

My twin 6 year old boys took Andrew’s Elite Future Basketball Camp this summer and it was an incredible experience for them. First of all, Andrew treats each child as a player and therefore the kids see themselves as players and the experience is raised to a whole new level. This was not an hour of amusing kids by letting them run around a basketball court, this was real coaching, truly teaching the game of basketball and running these kids through real drills. Andrew respected the kids and therefore they respected him.

My two boys are twins but they are very, very different. My son Max is strong and athletic but impulsive. Sam is very quiet, shy and lacks some athletic prowess. Andrew recognized the differences in my sons right away. While Max could shoot 17 baskets on day two, Sam struggled to make his five, but Andrew stayed with him and coached him and encouraged him until he accomplished his goal. By the end of the practice Sam made his baskets and all the mothers were leaping off their seats cheering for him. I was cheering for Andrew because I know most coaches would have given up on Sam or told him to go home and practice. Andrew stayed with him, worked with him, encouraged him and found his own pride in Sam which Sam could feel. Sam’s whole summer turned around because of Andrew. Sam spent hours dribbling around the block and reading books on basketball because he was so encouraged by Andrew and Andrew’s belief in him. Andrew was also able to play on Max’s strength’s and talk to him about the importance of listening, practicing and paying attention to his teammates – an invaluable lesson.

Andrew has a unique way of incorporating basketball skills with life lessons and even brings in academics. My sons have taken many camps, i.e., t-ball, soccer, tennis, but this is the first time they were treated with the respect of a player. This is the first time they took the sport seriously and were able to take the lessons they learned on the court and relay them to their life. It truly was an incredible experience for them and for me as a parent. I was in awe of Andrew’s ability to engage the kids and coach them as a true coach, not someone trying to humor little kids.

There are two major incidents which stand out for me when I think about our time with Andrew. One is when Sam got very upset because all the kids had mastered a skill he was not able to get just yet. Andrew pulled him aside after practice and told him that there was always going to be a player better than him so he could not focus on what the other kids were doing, he had to focus on himself and what he could accomplish. He reminded Sam that on day one he could not even dribble five times in a row and now he could go up and down the court all day long dribbling. Andrew told Sam that the dribbling was his accomplishment, he owned it. It was a very inspirational speech. The second speech that Andrew gave my son Sam is one that I will personally be forever grateful to him for. Sam is allergic to peanuts and needs to wear a bracelet but he has always refused to do so and he would take it off and hide it. I shared this with Andrew and one day Andrew talked to the kids about his own bracelets that he wore and that they all said something about who he was and that is how he shared with people a little about himself. He talked about it as being a cool way to share with others who you are. Sam went home that day and put on his bracelet and has not taken it off. Andrew is a not just a basketball coach, he is a coach in every sense of the word and he cares about the kids and they know it. The kids relate to him, they look up to him, they are inspired by him and want to do their best for him. Again, Andrew Persin was born to be a coach.

I have never felt so much pride in writing a letter of recommendation because Andrew Persin is an amazing young man with a talent for coaching that exceeds any coach I have ever met in my life. He loves what he does and it shows. When I told Andrew how much his words meant to my boy, Andrew put his hand on his heart and said, “and that is what it is all about for me.” Andrew Persin has the talent, the enthusiasm, the heart and then that extra special thing that is only seen in a handful of great coaches. It is with great pleasure that I recommend Andrew Persin as a coach he is a gift and will greatly change the lives of the kids he coaches.

If you would like any additional information please feel free to contact me at lhlowsky@gmail.com or 970-927-3977

Sincerely,

Lisa Lowsky