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Youth basketball, floor hockey kick off at HAYC3

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HOOSICK FALLS, N.Y. -- A popular youth basketball program will bounce back for the winter at the Hoosick Armory Youth Center and Community Coalition, beginning this weekend.

The team sport season begins with the return of open court nights at HAYC3, featuring recreational basketball and floor hockey for families and youth of all ages.

"I think it's pretty cool," said Max Kipp, a student in the sixth grade at Hoosick Falls. "It helps me a lot with my basketball skills."

Max's mother, Marie Kipp praised the program for giving her son, 11, a great baseline for fundamental skills.

"Basketball has been pretty important in our family," said Marie, noting that Max began participating in Kindergarten and has since joined the travel team.

"He's maintained the same group of friends here also, which is great," she said, of the program run by Michael Baker, volunteer basketball coach at the youth center.

Clinics for the basketball program will begin on Saturday, participation is open to children from grades K through 8. All games and practices will be held at the 115 Church St. location. Practices are once per week and games are held Saturdays, between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m.

"Open court nights" of recreational floor hockey and basketball, featuring informal teams or pick-up games, are also starting for the season.

Family open court for basketball will be on Mondays, from 6 to 8 p.m. Men's open court (ages 15 and older) will be held Tuesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. Ladies' open court (also ages 15 and older) will take place on Thursdays, from 7 to 9 p.m.

Family floor hockey will be held Wednesdays, from 6 to 7 p.m., with adult hours following, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

The program fee for basketball is between \$50 and \$65, and includes team shirts and all games and practices for the season. The open court program fee is \$5 per person, per night, or \$5 per family.

There is no additional membership fee to join the youth center. Both programs run through Feb. 14, 2014.

For more information, or to help coach, call 518-686-9050 or visit www.hayc3.org (<http://www.hayc3.org>).

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