



Elias Remekie

Age: 12 years old

Club: Asylum Hill

School: Annie Fisher Stem Magnet School
7th Grade

Club Tenure: 8 years

Tentative College Choice: Central Connecticut State University

Anticipated Career Choice: Professional Basketball Player

I really appreciate everyone at the Club and what has been offered to me. In the beginning of my Club experience, I didn't know who I was as a person and I would follow other kids, unaware of what I should be doing but I just wanted to be cool. Being in the Club and participating in programs such as Passport to Manhood and Healthy Habits has shaped me into a young man and given me some insight on planning for my future. Passport to Manhood shows me that it is important to be myself. Being myself will get me further than following behind other kids, trying to fit in. I noticed after years of practicing what I was taught more people were drawn to me when I was comfortable in my own skin.

As a young child, coming to the Club other kids would try to pick on me because of my small size among other things. I would laugh the jokes off and still try to be their friend. The staff here at Asylum Hill has shown me to teach people how I expect to be treated. I no longer let people step on me and bully me, I stand up to them and I let them know what I am willing to allow. With this new backbone I grew my confidence and the kids started to come along. I was no longer a target, instead I was respected. Not only was I respected but I felt like I had finally been seen for the first time.

Coming to the Club and working with our Sports & Fitness Director, Ms. Dawne has contributed to my overall greatness. The Club has helped me to see that I am not only an athlete but a Student Athlete. That title means that I am a student first and an athlete second. The sports leagues here have given me something to look forward to when walking through the doors. Over the past few years, I have grown into a young man who knows what he wants out of life. When I get older I have high hopes of being in the NBA or at least playing a game I love professionally. The teams that I play for have also given me opportunities to give back to my community. For instance, I help assist the flag football team with their practices.

Realizing what an impact I had on helping our younger members out made me seek other opportunities to assist kids in similar situations as myself. Giving back to my community and young men like to me is important. I put together some of my belongings like sneakers and clothes and donated it to those who are less fortunate. I remember there was a time where I didn't have all that I needed and if I could change that for someone else I am 100% willing to do it. The reason why I would like to be chosen as Jr. Young Man of the Year is because it will prove people wrong and open a lot of doors for me. Winning this wouldn't just be a title for me but an opportunity. I would be given the chance to help other kids like me. I would be a face and role model that would help anyone else walking in these shoes.