

WIN WITH TEAMWORK

If you stroll the bustling New York City neighborhoods, you'll find a park every few blocks. Some parks have jungle gyms, some have open grass and swings, but nearly every park has one thing—a basketball court. This is where kids in New York City develop a strong love for basketball, and it's where Phinette, our first kid-athlete, first picked up a ball and started dribbling.

Phinette is 13 years old and plays for the Brooklyn Comets, a competitive all-girls team. She plays Point Guard, which means she dribbles the ball down the court each play. When the other team tries to take the ball, she has to dribble around them, pass to her teammates, or make the shot. *SWISH!* Phinette and the Comets practice twice a week at an old elementary school. The gym has giant glass windows and shines yellow light onto the dark wooden floors. This is

where the Comets become a team. And this is where the coach, Coach Phree, who is actually Phinette's father, challenges the team to get better, work together, and have fun. Because for the Comets, basketball is about teamwork.

TEAMWORK IS ALL ABOUT USING OTHER PEOPLE'S STRENGTHS TO WIN TOGETHER.

All of the Comet players show teamwork, but Phinette might be the best at it. Because she's the Point Guard, she has to know what makes each player special. For example, her friend Nat is very tall, very good, and likes the ball passed on her right side. So, Phinette would need to dribble, dribble, then pass to Nat's right. Nat would then catch the ball and make an easy shot over the other team's head. *SWISH!*

The Comets travel all over the northeastern United States, playing the best girls teams out there. Because each Comet player hopes to play basketball for a long time—in high school, in college, and some even have dreams to play in the WNBA! Phinette and the Comets have big dreams, but they also know that when the games get hard, when traveling is tiresome, they are a team. In fact, they are a family. Coach Phree has a saying every time the girls huddle up and put their hands in—“If you *aint* touching, you *ain't* family.” The girls crowd a little closer and shout, “Go team!”

PHINETTE WINS WITH TEAMWORK.

CHARACTER PLAY

Every year the NBA team the Brooklyn Nets hosts a basketball camp called “DRIBBL.” Guess what it's focused on? Yep, teamwork.

www.dribbl.com

DID YOU KNOW?

The Comets also practice at Brooklyn Bridge Park, right under the shadow of the Brooklyn Bridge. From the park you can see the East River, the Manhattan skyline, and the Statue of Liberty.

ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT

Phinette's nickname is “Buckets.” In basketball, a “bucket” means you scored.

WORLD WORDS

Phinette's favorite slang word is “yeet.” It's short for “yeah, right.” As in, “I shot the basketball from across the street and made it!” “Yeet” (yeah, right).



BROOKLYN
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CHARACTER QUESTIONS

1. What teams are you a part of?
2. As a class, how do you work together as a team?



CHARACTER COUNTS!

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL DOMAIN - SELF MANAGEMENT TRAITS AND SKILLS

Students demonstrate self-management skills to channel and control their emotions in a manner that helps them achieve school and life success.

Even when Phinette's team gets tired from traveling or is discouraged because they're losing a game, they know it's important to control their emotions and focus on putting the team first.

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL DOMAIN - SOCIAL & RELATIONSHIP TRAITS & SKILLS

Students demonstrate emotional intelligence and employ interpersonal and social skills to guide appropriate behavior and maintain positive relationships with classmates, peers and adults and meaningful connections to their teachers and school.

In order to be an effective point guard, Phinette has to build a strong relationship with each player on her team. She knows each player's strengths and uses their skills to make the team work together.

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL DOMAIN - LIFE SKILLS AND ATTITUDES

Students develop and demonstrate social and emotional attitudes and skills to achieve personal happiness and school and life success.

Coach Phree, Phinette's coach, reminds the players before each game that they are a family. This family attitude helps remind the girls that they support one another, always working together for the benefit of the group.

CHARACTER DOMAIN - TRUSTWORTHINESS

Students recognize both the moral and practical significance of trustworthiness as an essential ingredient in meaningful and lasting relationships and career success. They strive to earn and maintain the trust of others by consistently demonstrating the ethical virtues of integrity, honesty, promise-keeping and loyalty.

Phinette's team trusts her to control the offensive strategy. She's the one that initially handles the ball and makes decisions that are best for the team, like whether to pass, shoot, dribble, or call a play. The team knows it's important to trust each player and focus on their role. This trust makes the entire team better.

