

DECEMBER 2016

Team Jam is a 501 c-3, non-profit organization .

GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM:  
West Hill Baptist – Akron  
Medina 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist  
Hope Community - Hudson

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President, Lazarus on the Rise  
Co-Dir.-*Guardians of the Game*

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Co-Dir- *Guardians of the Game*

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IN MEMORIUM



John E. Saucier Dec. 10, 2009



Dave Sorenson (vs. Dan Issel).  
Heavenward July 9,2002

# TEAM JAM... Jesus' Athletic Ministry

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## A BANNER YEAR !

MANY TEAM JAM ATHLETES WERE ON TOP OF THE SPORTS WORLD IN 2016. In particular, men we have ministered to played in the World Series AND the NBA Championship. Though frustrated for 6 of our friends with the Cleveland Indians we were happy for LeBron, Damon Jones, and Ben Zobrist

Most people enjoy being the center of attention – not many can handle it. These men face tremendous expectations, scrutiny, and public criticism after every move. Nothing is private. No one can comprehend or prepare for the craziness that often erupts around them "overnight".

These men have exceeded our original vision of potential influence with their accomplishments, privileges, and platforms. Not all ministry looks the same, and it's not God's design for it to always be centered around the initial ministry worker. These men have a heart for people, but are used differently, reaching worldwide. By assisting THEIR work, God's broader purposes are accomplished rather than TEAM JAM's limited pursuits. And though none of us are where God ultimately desires us to be spiritually, God still uses all of us to somehow meet needs, be a blessing, inspire or lead others to Christ.

These stories began 15 or 20 years ago and many of you have assisted us in being used along the way. Enjoy noting and pray for what the greater things these men are doing with their influence OFF the court or field.



Ben (left) celebrates his go ahead RBI in the 10<sup>th</sup> inning of game 7 vs. Cleveland. LeBron and family (center) with the 2016 World Championship trophy. Ben , Julianna (right) and their three children.



LeBron (left) on the computer with students who benefit from his foundation. The Zobrists (middle) released their 2<sup>nd</sup> book. (Right) LeBron with many of the 5000 children he took to Cedar Point in 2016.

In 2015, LeBron partnered with Akron U. to provide a guaranteed four-year scholarship to the school for students in James' "I Promise" program, covering tuition and fees, for 1,100 kids, a total of \$42 million investment at the school's current rates. The students are required to graduate within Akron's public high school system, achieve standard testing requirements and fulfill a community service obligation. THIS summer, LeBron hosted 5000 Akron students at Cedar Point to announce additional incentives, celebrate the championship, and reward them for their school year efforts. Meanwhile Ben and his wife have released another book and another inspirational album.



(Left) Ben celebrating during the K.C. Royals 2015 World Series title. (Middle) Ben meeting w/fans outside his downtown Chicago home the day after the 2016 championship. (Right) Julianna's latest Christian album.



**VICTOR SOUTO  
AKRON U**



Those who went to school with Victor and watched him become one of the top 50 senior players in the country for Akron's #1 ranked soccer program (at the beginning of 2016) will be surprised to see him associated with a ministry!



Vince was once known more for living the typical life of a high profile athlete, being aloof, & frustrating his Coach.

**ay Akron Zips Soccer vs Michigan**

**2015 Season Statistics**

- ▶ 24 starts
- ▶ 8 goals
- ▶ 3 assists
- ▶ Hat Trick on October 21
- ▶ MAC All-Tournament Team
- ▶ Academic All-MAC

**Victor Souto**  
Senior, Midfielder

This led to his expulsion from Akron's team in 2016 and in need for answers & hope.

Through a mutual friend, Victor met John, who taught him salvation through Jesus Christ and Christ has changed Victor's heart. By the end of Dec. he was also offered a pro soccer contract w/Pittsburgh. Add't blessings include meeting coaches and players with **Ambassadors (a soccer ministry)**. Their help was complimented by learning that his two new coaches are **former Messiah college coaches!!** God's hand in all this is undeniable!!

# MINISTRY TO PROFESSIONAL ATHLETES

## GAME PLAN FOR LIFE – PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME IN CANTON.



(left) Game Plan Event Tix. (center).Dante Booker with his one-time coach Tony Dungy.(right)Dante w/Joe Gibbs.. Each yr during Hall of Fame week in Canton, Ohio, the Pro FB Hall of Fame hosts Joe Gibbs and his Game Plan for Life ministry as a "kick-off" event. Over 1000 area fans join Hall of Famers and pros in hearing these greats talk about their relationship and love for Christ. This yr, **Shawn Lazarus & Dante Booker** invited ex-NFLer's and then met privately with them to encourage and assist in connecting them to resources that aid those players outreach efforts.

## SHAWN LAZARUS, NETWORKING, AND THE "GREATER" MOVIE



Shawn has partnered with the Burlesworth family ([www.brandonburlesworth.com](http://www.brandonburlesworth.com)). The late Brandon Burlesworth was the subject of the 2016 movie "Greater". Shawn also has relationships with many FB leaders and also has had brief access to people like Mark Whitacre, the subject of Matt Damon's movie "The Informant" ([www.markwhitacre.com](http://www.markwhitacre.com))

## CLEVELAND INDIANS BASEBALL



(L to R) Coach Mike Sarbaugh. Rookie Centerfield Tyler Naquin. Relief Pitcher Shawn Armstrong)

As a result of John's 10 years as a minor league chaplain for the Indians and Shawn's seven, there are many relationships throughout the baseball world, including now with the major league club. Third base coach Mike Sarbaugh, rookie sensation Tyler Naquin, relief pitcher Shawn Armstrong and catcher Chris Gimenez are just a few.

## CANTON CHARGE (PRO BASKETBALL)



(Left to Right) Head Coach Nate Reinking. Promo logo. Nate Reinking guarding LeBron in international play.)

While the Cavaliers won an NBA championship, their Canton Charge was in the D-League playoffs. The Charge continues to use John as their chaplain. Past head coaches **Alex Jensen** (Utah Jazz front office), **Steve Hetzel**, (asst w/Charlotte) and **Jordi Fernandez** (asst with Denver) and assistants **James Posey** and **Damon Jones** (asst's with the Cavs) are all in the NBA. Several players have played or are currently in the NBA. Current head coach, **Nate Reinking** is a strong believer who also coached the Great Britain national team. The Cavs chaplains are Rev. Jerry Birch (Abundant Grace Fellowship) and Cleveland FCA director and former Cleveland Brown Steve Sanders..



# COLLEGE MINISTRY - Akron U mens basketball and Ashland U football



(Top left) Akron U captains **Jake Kreitzer & Reggie McAdams** unashamedly led their team after every game and practice in prayer. (Right Center) Akron U. player and Bible study leader **Mark Noble**. Basketball, football, women's basketball, track, men's & women's soccer and volleyball players attend the studies. (Top right) **Mark Noble, Josh Saucier,** and Team Jam intern **Josh Eichleberger** during a trip to Camp Patmos.



(Top left) **Brandon Gency's** testimony card. (Center) The Bible study that Brandon teaches with his football teammates. (Upper right) Captains of the Ashland U football team **Brandon** and QB **Travis Tarnowski** with "Miracle on Lucky Street" author **Bob Williamson**.

## HIGH SCHOOL OUTREACH - And it starts all over again !!



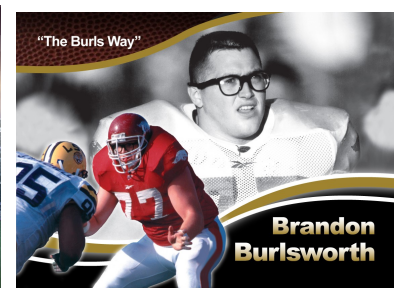
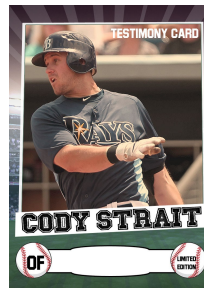
(Top left) Team Jam Intern **Josh Eichleberger** (Summit U., Pa.), **Josh Saucier**, and star Streetsboro HS basketball player and actor **Braden Tucker** at the Cleveland Cavs "Watch" party during the playoffs. (Center) Streetsboro HS's FCA leaders dressed like a pirate at 5:30 am to get free Krispy Kreme donuts for their club !! **Kayla Flick, Brianna Saucier, & Josh Saucier**. Kayla is Streetsboro's valedictorian, a 3 sport star, and Homecoming Queen. Brianna is 5<sup>th</sup> in her class, soccer captain and an all-conference player. Josh is the freshman QB and has a 4.2 gpa. (Right) The area's top basketball players, including **Braden, Noah Benson, Nehemiah Benson, Dan Sapp (California U.), Sloan Sapp,** and **Mario Caywood** met 3x a week all summer long, early in the morning for devotions, prayer and workouts. **Josh Eichleberger** assisted.



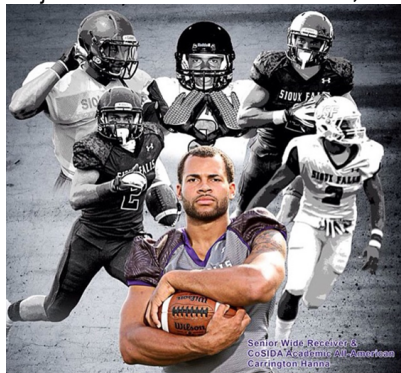
(Left) **Brianna** (front row, 3<sup>rd</sup> from right) was selected as Streetsboro's representative at the American Legion's Buckeye Girls State. She's pictured here with the other students who were also chosen. (Center) **Josh Eichleberger** with **Josh Saucier** and two of his football teammates (**Miguel** and **Cameron**) at the Hall of Fame game in Canton that was ironically cancelled. (Right). FCA leader **Hannah Saucier** (front center) with her **Western Reserve Academy FCA** club and their guest speaker, star Akron U basketball player **Antino Jackson** (far left side of pic).



# SERVICE AND MINISTRY



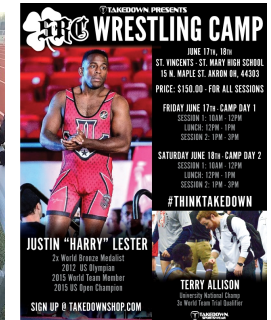
This year's testimony cards included **Mario Marset** (Spain), former major leaguer **Anthony Lerew**, professional baseball player **Cody Strait** and the subject of the feature film "Greater", the late **Brandon Burlsworth**, a movie that models the power of someone who lives for Christ in sport.



(Left) United States World Champion Gold Medalist (and also Arena League champion) **Carrington Hanna**, substitute teaches in the off season and helps with Team Jam. (Left,center) **Quaison Osborne** (Hudson, Akron U fb) was a football coach for Hudson HS and substitute teacher in the area. Former Team Jam teammate **Cameron Mack** (right, center) is an Akron fireman (like Dante Booker). (Far right), former NFL head coach and current defensive coordinator for Ohio State shares his testimony throughout the country.



(Left) The **Flippen Flyers track club** in the **Chicago** area, run by **Josh Bostick** and his wife. Josh's sons are national place winners. (Right). Former Team Jam baller **Adrian Crawford** (Firestone HS, Florida State basketball), and his family successfully pastor in Florida.



(Left), **Brandon Sweeney** is author of "When you love the game but the game doesn't love you back" and an outreach speaker. (Center, Left) **Matt Futch** is back at Akron U working in admissions and coaching. (Center, Right) **Elisha Akins** runs Sprinter Elite track club near KC, Missouri. Over a dozen of his runners became followers of Christ this season. His daughter was national runner up and national indoor champ in the 200 meter run. Elisha used to run for TEAM JAM's track team. (Far right). Olympian **Harry Lester** hosts John as spiritual mentor to his SVSM High School team.

**WRAP UP:** *God is still blessing us with great experiences despite there being NO EMPLOYEES working for TEAM JAM. Still, there are expenses that we all incur in the process of obtaining resources to help families and young people. This ministry enjoys being a blessing to many of these servants who faithfully imitate what was done for them years ago when they were part of TEAM JAM. Help us help them to continue reaching out with small financial gestures, resources, volunteer time, prayer, and encouragement. Meanwhile, be encouraged by what your current involvement has already helped us achieve for the Lord !*