
New Hope Academy Charter School Set for Basketball Debut

By DICK VanOLINDA The York Dispatch
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Sam Sutton enjoyed living in Baltimore. It's where he went to college and played NCAA Division I college basketball at Towson University.

Plus, Sutton was doing well there in a sales job and coaching a youth basketball team.

But when an opportunity came along to work with young people in York, Sutton returned to his roots.

The former York High School star is the first head coach of the New Hope Academy Charter School boys' basketball team.

Sutton is also Dean of Students and athletic director at New Hope, which is located in the former St. Rose of Lima School at 459 W. King St. New Hope was founded by former York High boys' basketball coach Isiah Anderson.

He'll make his coaching debut on Friday night when New Hope takes on Lancaster Country Day in the second game of the Lancaster Christian Tip-Off Tournament.

"There's a high level of excitement about playing our first game, but I have butterflies, too," Sutton said. "Working with kids is my passion, and I wanted to lend a helping hand."

Young squad: Sutton's team, along with having a unique nickname (Mighty Ants), also is unique in that there are no juniors or seniors on the roster and just one sophomore. The school currently doesn't have either 11th or 12th grades.

"We have 12 freshmen, all city kids, along with one sophomore," Sutton said. "We've been really pushing the kids. A lot of calisthenics plus we've been running up Reservoir Hill.

"We're not going to have one star player,