

'This league gives them something to do'

Nearly 300 people attend Penn Sports Complex dedication, start of CAPPAs hoops league

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As the crowd cheered, "Cut the ribbon, cut the ribbon," the new Penn's Sports Complex was officially open for some game — basketball game, that is.

Nearly 300 people attended or participated in the opening ceremony of the Community Alliance for Progressive Positive Action's (CAPPAs) summer basketball league and complex dedication Tuesday at the

Penn Vale Housing Complex in Loyalsock Township.

CAPPAs is a youth intervention and development project to encourage civic responsibility and academic excellence through sports and the performing arts.

The ceremony included an introduction of 12 basketball teams, various speakers who helped in renovating the complex, music and dance presentations.

Loni Gamble, executive director of CAPPAs, said it was a good feel-

ing to see a good turnout and support for CAPPAs and the basketball program.

"As a community, we have to be pro active and give youth choices to ponder," Gamble said.

Funds for the new sports complex were provided by the Williamsport-Lycoming Community Foundation, according to its president, Frank Concino Jr. The foundation gives grants to nonprofit organizations.

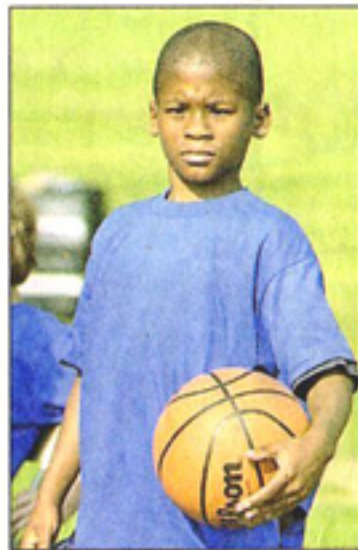
CAPPAs received \$25,000 toward

its programs, Concino said.

"It's wonderful for us to be a partner in providing opportunities for youth in the community," he said. "It's a special funding priority. CAPPAs incorporates life skills and things kids will take long into the future."

Beth Turner, executive director of the Lycoming Housing Authority, said the housing authority installed new scoreboards, bleachers and repaved a court. The complex's

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Dayvon Morrison, 10, son of Delee Morrison and Dino Bolden of Williamsport, waits until the end of the dedication ceremony by CAPPAs to get on the court with his basketball at the Penn Vale housing complex Tuesday.