

# CT STARTERS JOIN BLUE STAR BASKETBALL



*October 2019*



**The Connecticut Starters AAU girls' basketball organization is proud to announce a new multi-year partnership with Blue Star Basketball. As an official Blue Star Travel Team member, the Starters will enhance our ability to showcase our athletes who seek college basketball opportunities. The club is the only one in the state that is a Blue Star club, and one of only 3 in New England.**

The partnership with Blue Star/USJN joins together the Blue Star directive of finding programs with consistent college level prospects that can compete on a national stage, along with programs that have decades of history in girls' basketball. The Starters began in 1988 and have helped develop hundreds of athletes who have played at the college level.

CT Starters players will now have greater exposure to some of the top basketball evaluators in the country. Blue Star is also affiliated with the U.S. Junior Nationals (USJN) and we'll see greater opportunities to compete head-to-head against some of the best teams in the country. Joining forces with Blue Star/USJN will also create new opportunities for our program as our older teams will continue to travel annually to National Harbor (MD) to compete in the USJN National Championships, as well as other USJN-affiliated tournaments throughout the East.

CT Starters Co-Directors Joe Ticotsky and Nick Economopoulos are excited to have an official partnership with Blue Star, one of the most respected organizations in girls basketball. Ticotsky stated, "As we head into our 33rd year as a program, we have always looked for ways to improve the player experience and this will certainly take us to another level." Economopoulos, who also coaches our Class of 2024 team, added, "This partnership will help our teams continue to compete against top tier competition, and also gives our players great coverage from Blue Star's well-connected team of evaluators. It puts our program back on a national stage to display the talents within Connecticut."

## The following statements are from Blue Star Basketball:

Since the 1980's, Blue Star has been one of the most influential organizations in selecting and advising such publications rankings and listings as found in the Sports News, USA Today, Naismith Trophy & All-America Committees, Gatorade Circle of Champions, and McDonald's All-American Team (multiple committee members), just to name a few. These rankings and evaluations are part of the national Blue Star Report available to media and colleges across the country. It's the longest running girls' basketball service in the country. [www.bluestarbb.com](http://www.bluestarbb.com)

Blue Star uses over 30 former college coaches across the country as consultants. Men and women who have sat in the stands and stood on the sidelines for at least five years as college coaches at various levels making scholarship decisions now give their input on evaluations of players for the Blue Star College Report. [www.bluestarbb.com/bluestarconsultants.php](http://www.bluestarbb.com/bluestarconsultants.php)

There are over 100 active college coaches across the country that were former Blue Star Evaluators/Consultants. There is no one in the industry as tied to the WBCA and college coaching community as Blue Star Basketball. [www.bluestarbb.com/bluestaralumni.php](http://www.bluestarbb.com/bluestaralumni.php)

U.S. Junior Nationals is one of the longest running organizations in girls' basketball operating travel team tournaments across the country since the mid 1980's. **USJN has been sponsored by Nike for nearly 20 years.** Over the course of the past three years USJN has organized nearly 150 travel team tournaments covering over 20 different states. During that span over 11,000 teams competing in their events, and over 10,000 college coaches of all levels were in attendance. [www.usjn.com](http://www.usjn.com)

In 2011 we were proud to announce the launch of Blue Star Media. The non-for-profit serves as an entity of our operations to provide columns, event coverage, recruiting guidance, etc. for the grassroots basketball community to visit. We are continuously striving to enhance the site with the most updated and relevant information. We hope you will become a daily visitor as we continue to bring the authentic grassroots basketball coverage to the forefront of the sporting world. [www.bluestarmedia.org](http://www.bluestarmedia.org)