

Landry promises camp will teach basketball's basics

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CARL LANDRY BASKETBALL CAMP

As one of basketball's late bloomers, former Purdue standout Carl Landry appreciated the teaching, coaching and advice he received along the way.

Now, the New Orleans Hornets' 6-foot-9 forward is giving back to the game and to the community in which he attended college by organizing the Carl Landry Basketball Camp, set for July 20-22 at West Lafayette High School.

"For me, it's about the developing of kids, and at the same time, developing at a good pace," Landry said Friday afternoon during a brief stop in West Lafayette.

"I also talk a lot about education, because without education, playing basketball is not going to be possible. I enjoyed how much people helped me, and I enjoy giving back to the young people of Lafayette and West Lafayette."

Landry, who will be assisted by several current and former Boilermaker players, uses basketball fundamentals and life skills as the central theme of his three-day camp.

"So many times, I will go to a park or just go places to watch basketball, and kids can't handle the ball or dribble with their left hand," Landry said. "One thing I stress in my camp is that without fundamentals, all the other stuff becomes harder.

"I see them not doing things the right way. It's all fun and games when you are at the park, but when you get into organized basketball, the fundamentals become very, very important. They have to learn to work on them on a day-to-day basis. I will teach that"

Landry, an NBA free agent with four years of professional basketball experience, was recruited to Purdue by former Boilermaker coach Gene Keady.

In 64 games at Purdue, Landry scored 1,175 points and hauled down 453 rebounds. He averaged 18.4 points and 7.1 rebounds as a Boilermaker from 2005 through 2007.

"When you like working with people and can create an environment where kids can develop fundamentally, I think it's Carl's way of trying to repay," Keady said. "He enjoys teaching young kids the fundamentals and the game of basketball.

"We always taught that to our players -- try to give back -- but a lot of them didn't do it. He is one of those that listened about giving back to the game. I'm proud of him."