



COMBINE ACADEMY

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A Successful Summer Start at Combine

After May's graduation, coaches, teachers, and staff said their goodbyes to the 2024 graduates. It was a bittersweet time for the Combine family. While the community will miss these young men, Combine is so proud of their academic and athletic endeavors. From Notre Dame and University of Kansas to Seton Hall and Creighton University, Combine is excited to observe the 2024 graduates' accomplishments in the years to come. Even though the dorm rooms were quickly cleared, the classrooms were packed, and Nana closed the kitchen, campus has been busy.

In June, both baseball and basketball coaches hosted summer residential training camps on campus. Coaches, Jeff Birkhofer and Dre Gleeson, facilitated baseball camps for the community, and Steve Jecewiz hosted basketball programs. Students from across the country attended, and there were several international groups who also participated. All programs were a great success

Then, special guests arrived the second week of June. A group of ten young athletes from Hyderabad, India visited and spent a week enjoying their love of basketball, sharing their curiosity about life in the states, and traveling to play in a few competitive games across the Carolinas. These young men lived the lives of Combine students during their visit, and they were excited to hear from General Manager, Kurt Wessler, about the opportunities Combine offers, as well as Mat Williamson, showcasing Combine's facilities.

Moreover, Combine's National Basketball team has traveled to northern Virginia multiple times to participate in the DMV Hoops Live events. The athletic community was looking forward to seeing the National team for the first time with their new coaching staff: Ben Betts and Madison Williams. Yes, also in exciting news, Combine has officially and publicly welcomed the new National team basketball coaching staff. After an extremely successful 2023-2024 season, the community looks forward to seeing their continued growth and development in the coming year. These summers events have been a wonderful opportunity to start the season off with their new staff and players.

To conclude the month of June, Combine welcomed Seros, a local sports and entertainment agency. They hosted a three-day residential camp for its athletes. Seros and Combine Academy offered training sessions, facilitated media experiences, and hosted guest speakers for the players.

These first couple of weeks of July have also been tremendously busy. Combine welcomed teams from all over the world, specifically Belgium, Switzerland, France, Dubai, and Portugal. In addition to Combine's own AAU team, these athletes will travel the state and play other North Carolina teams in what will be a larger state-wide tournament and other live events. They will also see the NC sites and get some exposure to life in the U.S.

The Combine community is definitely ecstatic about the summer accomplishments, as well as the predictions for a successful 2024-2025 academic school year, and it is only halfway through summer. Campus is actively preparing for the fall return! It is less than 30 days until check-in on Sunday, August 11th. Students are currently selecting elective courses, and the academic team is working on scheduling and staffing. Coaches are finalizing rosters and schedules. The excitement for the 2024-2025 school year is high!

Continued communication about Combine's events, achievements, newcomers, plans, etc. will be shared throughout the coming months. Look forward to a monthly newsletter this year for more information about our students and school!



A group of 13-14 year old young men from Keystone Basketball Academy in Hyderabad, India visited Combine Academy.

NEW!

[Visit Combine's Academic Webpage Here](#)

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IMPORTANT DATES

1

- Aug 1st: Deadline for Transcript Upload & Course Selection Form
- August 11th: Campus Opens/Student Check-in (10am-4pm)
- August 12th: Student Orientation
- August 13th: Student Seminars
- August 14th: First Day of Classes



[Click Here for the Full 2024-2025 Academic Calendar](#)

SCHOOL PREPARATION CONSIDERATIONS

2

- If requiring an airport shuttle/pick-up for the Fall 2024 start of school, please complete the transportation form prior to August 1st.
 - [Transportation Form: Pre-Approved](#)
 - [Transportation Form w/ Fee](#)
- New Students: Submit all required documents found in the acceptance email: **health insurance card, immunization records, and athletic physical exam (including Sickle Cell Trait test results)** either to admissions@combineacademy.com or bring official paperwork to check-in.

Important Action Items for Students By August 1st

✓ Transcripts

All incoming Fall 2024 student athletes need to submit an updated transcript. Regardless of prior submission, please email your most recent transcript, one that reflects all high school credits through Spring 2024. A transcript audit will occur in Fall 2024 to ensure all students have updated paperwork for NCAA requirements. Please submit by Aug 1st.

Send transcripts to the following email address: transcripts@combineacademics.org.

✓ Course Selections

Students will need to complete the online course selection form for their 2024-2025 electives. Choosing classes in this form does not guarantee enrollment into the particular course, but this will help administration prepare students' academic schedules for the year. Please complete by Aug 1st.

Complete this [Course Selection Form](#) in order to select your academic classes. If you do not complete, administration will place you according to available seats.

✓ Student Information Form

As Fall approaches, Combine would like to confirm student athlete/family information. Please complete this [Student Information Google Form](#) to allow the school to cross reference all contact information that is currently on file. Numbers and email addresses, at times, change, so please complete the following form. Once this form is completed, new students will receive their school email and grading platform login invitations, and returning students will have the ability to confirm information prior to the new school year.

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Combine is thrilled to announce its newest Goats.

NEW STAFF

4



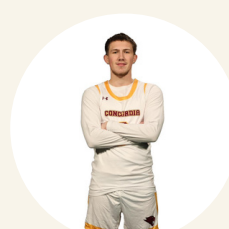
BEN BETTS

*National Basketball
Head Coach*



MADISON WILLIAMS

*National Basketball
Assistant Coach*



BEN GORDOS

*Basketball
Video Coordinator*



CHRIS WILLIAMS

Lead Maintenance Technician

Coach Betts coached at the D1 level for over 30 years. From his head coaching position at SC State to numerous assistant coaching positions across the country, Coach Betts has had 5 NCAA tournament appearances and has coached notable players, like Blake Griffin, Robert Covington, and John Konchar. Coach Betts played at Roanoke College, and he originally grew up in Madison Heights, VA.

Coach Williams is a former Illinois State athlete, playing guard as a Redbird. After his time at Illinois, Williams found himself as assistant coach at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He spent three years there before joining the Combine Goats in June of 2024. Coach Williams is from Augusta, Georgia.

Originally from London, England, Coach Gordos spent his pre-teen and teen years playing basketball in Trafford and Manchester. He played for Manchester Magic for 4 years before moving to Myerscough College where he earned his B-Tech 1. He played for the Wales National team in Andorra, and once he turned 18, he headed for the States. He started in CA but ended up at Concordia University in Chicago. His team won an NACC Conference Championship and graduated with a BA in Communications and Media.

Born and raised in Hickory, Chris has spent 30 years practicing his passion in HVAC and related trades. He even owned his own HVAC business for quite some time. Chris speaks four languages: Mandarin, Cantonese, Spanish, and English. He also plays guitar, bass guitar, piano, drums, and he sings.

Chris attended CVCC for Music Theory and Electronics Engineering and earned certifications in HVAC and refrigeration.

