

# **Bank OZK JV Holiday Classic TOURNAMENT HISTORY**

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Since its inception in 1999, the Bank OZK JV Basketball Holiday Classic has continued to grow. When the tournament began in 1999, only seven teams competed at the Randolph-Asheboro YMCA. While the tournament was a success, there was definitely room for growth. By the 2002-2004 seasons, the tournament was host to 16 teams. As word spread about the tournament, more and more teams came in to participate in this after-Christmas event.

By 2005, the tournament had grown to 32 teams and the event took place at two locations: the Randolph-Asheboro YMCA and Southwestern Randolph High School. 2006 was the largest tournament yet, hosting 47 teams from 12 different counties. A third location was then added: Southwestern Randolph Middle School. In 2008, the tournament grew to 50 teams which meant another gym had to be added: Randleman High School. In 2017, 44 teams from 12 different counties participated which means the Bank OZK JV Holiday Classic is the largest JV tournament in the United States. Due to the high school limitation of being able to only play three games in a week, the tournament is divided into Red, Green, White, and Yellow Divisions. Six champions will be crowned over the three-day tournament.

"The JV Tournament is a great experience for younger players," said Brian Nance, Asheboro High School's varsity basketball coach. "It gives them a chance to continue to compete during the holidays. And with the addition of several outstanding teams from around the state, the level of competition has increased dramatically over the years."

The success and growth of this event can be attributed to the experience and dedication of the organizers. Nance stated that the Bank OZK JV Basketball Holiday Classic is one of the most organized holiday tournament events. "I have always heard positive comments from visiting teams around our area," added Nance.

Schools are not charged an entry fee to participate in the tournament. The tournament is solely dependent upon gate receipts to cover expenses, as all net proceeds go to support the YMCA Scholarship Fund. These funds enable the YMCA to allow anyone to be a member regardless of their ability to pay.

David Cross, who served as the Chairman of the YMCA Board from 1998 - 2008, also serves as the Tournament Director.