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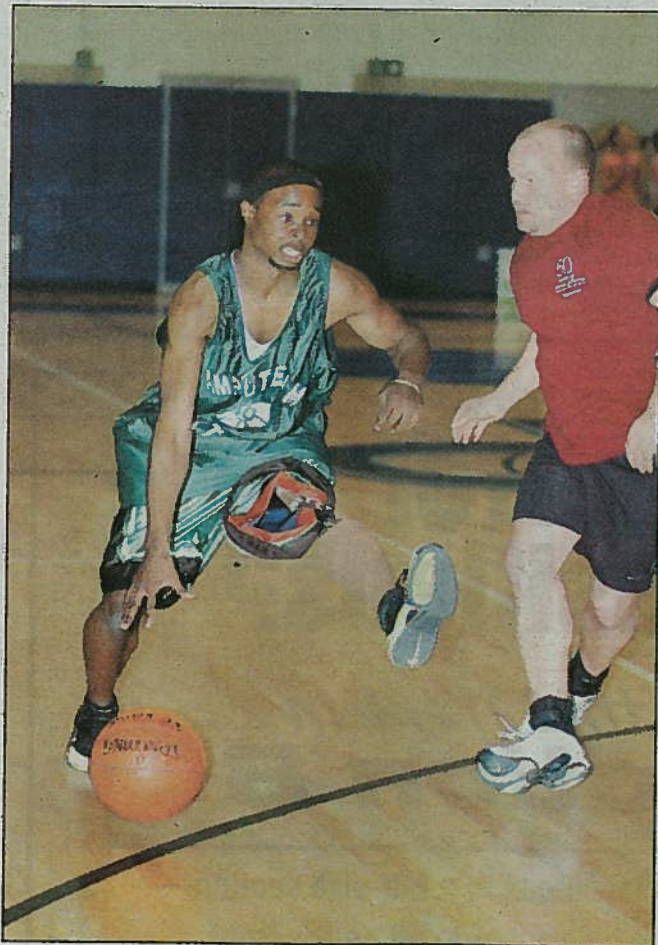
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## Courage on the court



MIRROR PHOTOS BY DAVID REED

(At left) Myles Davis in green is from the Amputeam; Mike Titus is from the Beaumont team. Amputeam Spartans members, athletes who are amputees, faced off last week against Beaumont Hospital All Stars in a game at Royal Oak High School. Basketball also helps amputee/athletes with rehabilitation and care. For more, please see Sports, page 22.

# AmpuTeam, Beaumont staff face off on hoops court

The fifth AmpuTeam Basketball Challenge pitted the AmpuTeam Spartans against the Beaumont Hospital All Stars on Thursday, April 5. Proceeds benefited the Beaumont Pediatric Center, the Extremity Games and the Athletes with Disabilities Hall of Fame.

Started two years ago, the AmpuTeam Basketball Challenge had given amputees the chance to play basketball against members of area hospitals as a way to raise money and awareness of rehabilitation programs.

The AmpuTeam program, created and run by prosthetic care company Wright & Filippis, provides a range of services and clinics.

Brad Shebib of Wright & Filippis said the basketball team was started by interested clients. A group rented a gym and started playing, ultimately deciding to hold games for charity.

The first game was two years ago and the team of about 12 has played staff from Beaumont and Providence Hospital. Shebib said the audience has grown with each game.

"People get to come together for a cou-



MIRROR PHOTOS BY DAVID REED

The competition is friendly but strong at the Basketball Challenge.

ple hours, raise a couple thousand dollars and raise awareness," he said.

Three members of the AmpuTeam Spartans have above-the-knee amputations, and the rest have below-the-knee amputations. Playing basketball, Shebib said, is an addition onto the players' rehabilitation and care.

"It's more of just an outlet for some of them," he said.

Shana Butash, a physical therapist



Jennifer Young and Danielle Smith, two of the cheerleaders from Wright & Filippis, "AmpuCheer," cheer on their team.

assist at Beaumont, said programs like AmpuTeam put on by Wright & Filippis provide expanded care for people who have gone through basic rehabilitation.

"The outpatient rehabilitation with insurance can only take people so far," she said.

Programs like AmpuTeam and the Basketball Challenge at Royal Oak High School April 5, she said, help to raise awareness of other programs and financial support for those programs.

- By Jonathan Bardelline