

February 11, 2016

Good day.

My name is Darrell Hykes and I'm the Director of Team America Basketball which is a youth sports organization located in the South Atlanta area.

Two of your students, Kelvin Day and Miles Carter, were selected to participate in a basketball showcase sponsored by The Atlanta Hawks.

One of the requirements, for participation, is each player must submit an essay about Black History.

I've attached theirs.

I believe you'll enjoy them, as much as I did.

Coach Hykes

KELVIN DAY

I AM BLACK HISTORY

Black- The darkest color the result of the absence of or complete absorption of light. It is the opposite of white (the combined spectrum of color light). It is an achromatic color, literally a color without color or hue. It is one of the four primary colors in the CMYK Color model, along with cyan, yellow, and magenta, used in color printing to produce all the other colors.

History- is the study of the past, particularly how it relates to humans. It is an umbrella term that relates to past events as well as the memory, discovery, collection, organization, presentation, and interpretation of information about these events. Scholars who write about history are called historians. Events occurring prior to written record are considered prehistory.

Month- is a unit of time, used with calendars, which is approximately as long as a natural period related to the motion of the Moon.

Black history month is a month in which we can show our strength as a nation. It shows us just how far we have come not only as black people but people in general. From Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks, Harriett Tubman, and many more who set the foundation for our freedom. February is the month that we, African Americans have a chance to feel important. For a long time, during slavery we have been treated low, and have been made to feel like we were less important. We are just as important as anyone, and we now have our own month, where we are noticed.

Black History was founded in was created in 1926 in the United States, when historian Carter G Woodson and the Association for the study announced the second week of February to be "Negro History Week." This week was chosen because it was near the Birthday of Abraham Lincoln on February 12 and of Frederick Douglas on February 14, both of which dates Black communities had celebrated together since the late 19th century.

Black history month is the month to remember the hero's that earned black people their rights. Black History means a lot to me as a young black male. If it wasn't for black history month Barack Obama would not be President of the United States today. Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King would not be a civil rights pioneer and Harriett Tubman would not be recognized as the Moses of African Americans.

In closing I would like to thank the Atlanta Hawks for giving me the opportunity to show who I am as an individual and as an upcoming, growing basketball player in this I am Black History Tournament.

Miles Carter
Atlanta Hawks Black History Month Essay

The word black is defined as lacking hue and brightness; absorbing light without reflecting any of the rays composing it by Webster's dictionary. The word history is defined as the branch of knowledge dealing with past events. And a month is any of the twelve parts that divide a year. With the definition of those 3 words I imagine that black history month must be the branch of knowledge dealing with the lack of hue and brightness during a period of time from one of the twelve parts of the year.

However, we know that that is not the case. Black history month is a month long celebration of past contributions of African Americans to our society. Black history month started as Black history week by Carter G. Woodson back in 1926. The 2nd week in February was chosen because of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglas' birthdays both fall during that week. It was upgraded to Black history month 50 years later in 1976 by Gerald Ford who realized that the African American contributions needed more than a week to be properly recognized. Black history month is also recognized across the world in places like Canada and the United Kingdom.

As a young African American male I appreciate the time spent recognizing the positive contributions of people of color as opposed to the many negative things that are always talked about in the news and the press. I truly appreciate organizations such as the Atlanta Hawks that give young people the opportunity to research and recognize the contributions of great African Americans because if we identify the greatness of our past we can be destined to repeat it.