

The AAU basketball season is right around the corner, and Indiana Elite will be a major factor in all age groups again this summer. Over the next few weeks, we will profile a number of IE teams to give you a better look at the teams and players you'll be watching.

We start with Indiana Elite Family 2019, a team that figures to be among the top 8th grade clubs in the nation. Coached by **Tyson Mangrum**, Family 2019 came together when other AAU programs passed on players Mangrum knew were talented.

"We're a bunch of misfit, underrated boys who have come together to form a family through the good times and bad," Mangrum said. "They have stuck together."

Hence the team name: Family. That term may be overused in sports, and specifically AAU, but Mangrum has a group of kids he feels would do anything for one another. And this year, they've added some extra fire power that will make them even tougher to beat.

**Caleb Hodgson**, a 6-foot-8 center from Michigan, has been added to the roster, which could change the style Mangrum chooses to play. Last year, he said, his team played an uptempo style, and that may continue. But they may also slow it down and pick their spots at times to maximize Hodgson's impact.

"Caleb has a very high basketball IQ," Mangrum said. "He's a great passer and he shoots the ball very well. He has the ability to take a game over, but I'm not quite sure he knows it yet. He could have played in his home state, but he chose to play with us instead."

Another new addition is **Semaj Danley**, a 6-foot-2 point guard. His length and ability to get to the rim at will should help an already talented backcourt.

"He was a needed asset to this team," Mangrum said. "With his offensive skills and defensive mind set, he should help us get over the hump."

Keep an eye on this team all season long. Here's a breakdown of the rest of the IE Family 2019 roster, courtesy of Mangrum:

**Dan McKeeman** a 5'8 guard. Very talented guard who can score from anywhere on the court! He's deadeye from behind the 3pt line. While playing with another organization his talent was being wasted.

**Cameron Alford** a 5'10 guard. Very strong combo guard, Cameron can get to the bucket at will! Cameron see's the court very well! Cameron's on ball defense may be the best part of his game. Cameron came to my team after playing with another organization that didn't appreciate his talent.

**Demarea Dial** is a 6'1 long athletic wing. Demarea is great in transition. His speed and athleticism allows him to finish strong at the bucket. His length allows

him to defend 4 positions on the court. For his size he rebounds the ball well. Demarea is another underrated player that came to my team via a situation that wasn't suitable for his skill set.

**Craig Young-** Craig is a 6'3 Power Forward that can easily be turned into a SF. Craig is the youngest of the bunch. Technically he should be 7<sup>th</sup> grader. Craig is a strong athletic kid. He's a strong finisher around the rim. He shoots the 15ft jump shot very well. He can also step out and shoot the 3 ball. Defensively, his athleticism allows to guard all 5 spots on the floor. Craig was kid unnoticed last year. After having a good summer multiple teams tried to recruit away from our team for his services.

**Reis Thomas-** Reis is a 6'0 basketball player. Reis has a very high basketball IQ and is very versatile. He can score with his amazing footwork and post move or he can step out and shoot the 3. Reis is another kid who came to the team so he could use his skill set.

**Taylor Mangrum-** is a 5'7 guard who is strong for his size. He shoots the ball really well from behind the arc. He plays great off the ball defense. He understands playing his gap and help side defense. That's a rare skill at this age level.

**Jaden Hill-** Is a 5'10 athletic wing that finishes well in transition. Defensively he plays the passing lanes well. his athleticism allows him to guard multiple positions. He also rebounds the ball at a high rate. Jadon will be a key piece to our success this year.