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**By Clark Francis, hoopscooponline.com**

It's still kind of hard for us not to think of Hal Pastner, who is the director of both the Academy National Invitational and the Kingwood Classic, as Josh Pastner's Dad. Remember, the younger Pastner, who first made his mark as a walk-on player/coach at the University of Arizona in the late 80's and then as the head coach of the 17-Under Houston Hoops club team several years ago, is now a full-time assistant coach at Arizona and is widely regarded as one of the top up-and-coming guys in the business. However, the older Pastner, who has run the Houston Hoops club team program as a hobby most of his entire adult life, now appears to be making his mark on the game even faster than his son, as he has done a remarkable job building the Academy National Invitational into what is arguably the #1 high school event in the nation between Christmas and New Year's and the Kingwood Classic into the best spring AAU-like event in the country.

And, if that weren't enough to make Josh's Dad the premier high school basketball and grassroots event operator in the nation, the fact that his company, Vision Sports, is now working with Joe Fisher to run the Mae Fisher Memorial 23rd Annual Las Vegas Easter Classic in Las Vegas, NV, April 16th-20th, should put to rest any debate on the subject. As a matter of fact, the Las Vegas Easter Classic is the only event that already has been sanctioned this spring by the Nevada High School Athletic Association, which means that college coaches will be able to attend on both Saturday, April 19th, and Sunday, April 20th. Obviously the primary interest of the college coaches' will be watching the 17-Under Boys/11th Grade Tournament, but, just like the Kingwood Classic, which will be the April 25th-27th in Houston, TX, attempting to cover the entire Las Vegas Easter Classic should be next to impossible, because there will also be tournaments for the 16-Under/10th Grade, 15-Under/9th Grade, 14-Under/8th Grade, 13-Under/7th Grade, 12-Under/6th Grade, 11-Under/5th Grade, and 10-Under/4th Grade age groups, as well as a separate girls tournament for the varsity, 14-Under, 13-Under, and 12-Under levels. In other words, this promises to be almost as huge an event as the Kingwood Classic and the adidas Big Time Tournament in Las Vegas, NV in July not just in terms of quality talent and the top high school players in the nation, but also in terms of exposure. The Las Vegas Easter Classic also promises to be the perfect complement to the Kingwood Classic, because Texas and Nevada are the only two states in the nation where the state association is sanctioning events in accordance with NCAA guidelines this spring.

So without question these will be the two places to be the last two weekends in April, if you are a high school player, college coach, or a basketball recruiting guru. For more information about both tournaments, click onto Vision Sports.