

OLIVER HOCHSTEIN: MAKING A DIFFERENCE BOTH ON AND OFF THE BASKETBALL COURT

By Lauren DePaul Schreiber
Photos by Jenny Berberich, Jenny Grant Photography

16 year old Oliver Hochstein is using his basketball skills for a good cause, contributing to his community both on and off the court.

Tell us a little about yourself.

I have lived in Ramsey my entire life. I am currently a junior at Ramsey High School. I spend most of my free time playing basketball, working out, and hanging out with my friends and family.

Ever since a young age I have been blessed to be surrounded by my family, friends, teachers and coaches, helping me become the best version of myself. I take pride in being hardworking, kind to others, and I enjoy helping others.

Have you always played basketball? What is your favorite thing about the sport?

For as long as I can remember I've had a basketball in my hands. Growing up in Ramsey, I played a lot of different sports – ice hockey, soccer, baseball, flag football... But basketball is the only sport I continue to play competitively. Basketball has brought me some of my best and worst of memories, but more importantly, it has helped shape me as a person and as a leader. I've met some of my best friends and role models playing this sport. Basketball isn't just a sport or a hobby, it's taught me a lot of important life lessons - hard work, self-discipline, leadership, believing in myself, as well as learning from failure and not giving up when things don't go your way. These are things that will help me for the rest of my life, whatever career or path I take.

How long have you been coaching kids?

I first decided to start coaching because I thought not only could I make an impact and help younger kids, but I could challenge myself as a leader and communicator, two skills I wanted to improve in myself.

I started training my neighbor, Ryan, a little over two years ago and realized I liked it and was really good at it. My friend, Max, and I run a camp for middle school boys in the summers and I've now trained about a dozen boys and girls on my own.

I've learned from a lot of great coaches over the years, and I like passing on that knowledge to other kids.



How did you learn about Tommy Strong?

Just living in Ramsey and hearing my parents talk about Tommy and seeing posts on social media and fundraising efforts in town, made me aware of his battle with cancer. Tommy's story touched me and I wanted to find a way to help.

What inspired you to become involved? Tell us about your experience with the organization.

As a high school student, I realized over the years of growing up in Ramsey how many older kids in this town have helped impact the community and continue to spend time with younger kids. Growing up, those relationships with the older teenagers were special to me. It makes you feel "cool" and I really looked up to the older kids.

When I first started training kids, I wanted to do more, more than just train kids, but really make an impact on kids and in the community. That is when I reached out to Mrs. FitzPatrick and asked if I could donate some of the money I am earning to their foundation. The FitzPatrick family has really supported me in my efforts and I even have gotten to train with Tommy's brother, Jack. He's a great kid and I can't wait to watch him grow up and play for Ramsey High School! I am incredibly grateful that I was given the opportunity to not only help young kids in Ramsey but to also help impact a local charity in this community.



What are your plans and goals for the future?

Right now, I am focused on schoolwork and training for our upcoming season. Recently, I also started volunteering in a clinic for disabled kids teaching them how to play basketball, it is called Bounce Out the Stigma and I hope to continue with that. In my next two years at Ramsey High School, I want to continue to inspire others and make a difference in the community. Basketball-wise, I would love to win two more sectional championships and a state championship! I hope to go away to college and maybe major in Sports Psychology.

as seen in RamseyNeighbors

CONTACT US FOR YOUR NEXT EVENT
Christie Ross, Owner
201.771.2887 • tincanconfections.com
@tincanconfectionsandcocktails
SERVING ALL OF NORTHERN NJ • THE HUDSON VALLEY

REDI PRINT
FULL SERVICE PRINT DESIGN
BROCHURES | BUSINESS CARDS
PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS
VEHICLE & WALL GRAPHICS
STORE FRONT GRAPHICS
FLYERS | FOLDERS
POSTCARDS
EMBROIDERY
PRINTED APPAREL
LOGO DESIGN & MORE!
115 HUDSON STREET • HACKENSACK, NJ 07601
WWW.REDIPRINT.NET 201-342-2860

COMMUNITY AUTO AND TIRE
Tire and Full Service Auto Repair
Expert Advice on Wheels, Rims and Performance Tires
Our Level of Professionalism Sets Us Apart!
(201) 327-9436
126 NORTH FRANKLIN TURNPIKE
RAMSEY, NJ 07446
www.communityautoramsey.com
Proudly Serving Ramsey Residents

REVERE PLUMBING & HEATING LLC
Since 1919
Four Generations of Integrity and Quality Workmanship
CELEBRATING OUR 102ND YEAR
Water Heaters, Gas Boilers, Radiant Heat, Bathroom Remodeling, Kitchen Hook-Ups, Gas Lines to Fireplaces, Grills & Generators, Sump Pumps, A/C Repairs, Mini-Split Installations and more.
please visit our website or call us to discuss how we can help you with your plumbing and heating needs.
revereplumbing.com • (201) 327-4058
NJ License Nos. 5498, 12555 & 12928 • Rockland County, NY License No. 980