

Basil “The Kid” Sands - A Life of Athletic Excellence and Technical Prowess

Basil “The Kid” Sands, born on July 1st, 1955, hails from Lewis St, Nassau, Bahamas. He embarked on his educational journey at St. Francis, followed by St. Thomas More before finding his way to Saint Augustine’s College. Although his parents moved to Freeport Grand Bahama, Basil remained committed to attending Sac and started his tutelage as a boarder in September 1967, alongside his brother Desmond.

Throughout his five years at Sac, Basil showcased his incredible talent across various sports, including softball, volleyball, basketball, swimming and diving, track, as well as debate and speech teams. His exceptional leadership skills led him to captain all the teams he participated in, culminating in numerous victories during his senior year.

Awarded a basketball scholarship, Basil embarked on his college journey in 1972, enrolling at St. Gregory’s College in Shawnee, Oklahoma, to study Business Administration. However, his passion for Economics led him to switch his focus to Mankato State University in Minnesota, USA, where he pursued a degree in Economics with a Minor in Accounting, which he obtained in 1978.

Following college, Basil devoted considerable time to basketball, representing the Bahamas National Teams in various competitions. In the early 80s, he joined Saybolt International in Grand Bahama, specializing in quantitative and qualitative bulk oil analysis. He transitioned to the Hotel Industry in 1984 as an income auditor at Walker’s Cay Hotel and Marina. A year later, he joined The Lucayan Beach Resort and Casino in Freeport, where he excelled in the accounts department and eventually became the Manager of Information Technology in the computer department. In 1997, after the property was purchased by Hutchinson, Basil worked as a consultant before eventually joining Hutchinson Wompoa on the design team, taking charge of information technology infrastructure. Over his 12-year tenure, he rose to the position of Director of Information Technology.

Throughout his illustrious career, Basil also served in various capacities, including a brief stint at Chances in the technology field in 2009 and later as part of the IT department at the Ministry of Tourism in Nassau. Concurrently, he worked for two years dealing with cruise and maritime affairs while actively contributing to the Crisis Committee at Tourism.

In 2018, when the government purchased The Grand Lucayan, Basil was called upon to spearhead the IT department, Security, and Communication as a consultant. In 2022, he was appointed as a consultant to the Gaming Board, showcasing his exceptional expertise in the field.

Basil's life has been adorned with numerous awards and honors. He was inducted into the Grand Bahama Sports Hall of Fame in 2005 and the National Sports Hall of Fame in 2019. During his senior year, he earned the most athletic male award, a testament to his sporting prowess. Additionally, in 2023, he received the prestigious Order of Merit award.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Basil indulges his passion for sports and is a devoted fan of the Pittsburgh Steelers in football, the Philadelphia 76ers in basketball, and the Los Angeles Dodgers in baseball. He is a doting father to five children, with nine grandchildren and seven sisters and one brother. His family life is a cherished aspect, and he takes pride in being the grandfather of Labrea Sands, the #1 softball player in Florida and ranked #5 in the entire USA at just 13 years old.

In his leisure time, Basil finds solace in reading, engaging in dominoes, and enjoying social gatherings with close friends. His unwavering commitment to excellence in sports, technical expertise, and cherished family life make Basil “The Kid” Sands a remarkable and inspiring figure to all.