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**Talented talker**  
**Hoops legend Archie Talley**  
**has a gift for speaking**  
 Sports/1B



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# Talley talks

Former West Virginia Conference basketball standout has become motivational superstar

**EDITOR'S NOTE:**

The first of a series of stories in connection with the 50th anniversary of the first West Virginia Conference men's basketball tournament at the Charleston Civic Center (1960). The 2010 WVC men's and women's tournaments will be played next week.



By JACOB MESSER  
 FOR THE DAILY MAIL

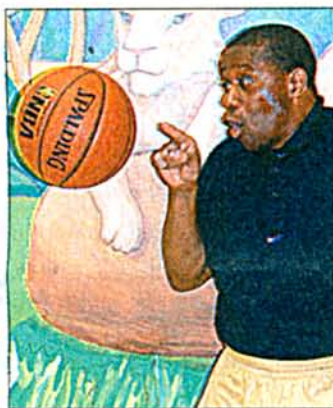
**A**rchie Talley once was a prolific scorer, but he always has been a prolific talker.

So, it made perfect sense for him to become a motivational speaker after his professional basketball career came to an end 26 years ago.

The 55-year-old Talley, who lives in Dunbar, still can work wonders with a basketball, but the West Virginia Conference legend's words speak much louder than his actions these days.

"My main market is young people," said Talley, who has a Web site ([www.archie-talley.com](http://www.archie-talley.com)) that tells about his "Ingredients to Life" program. "I travel around

Archie Talley with his mother Agnes.



COURTESY PHOTO

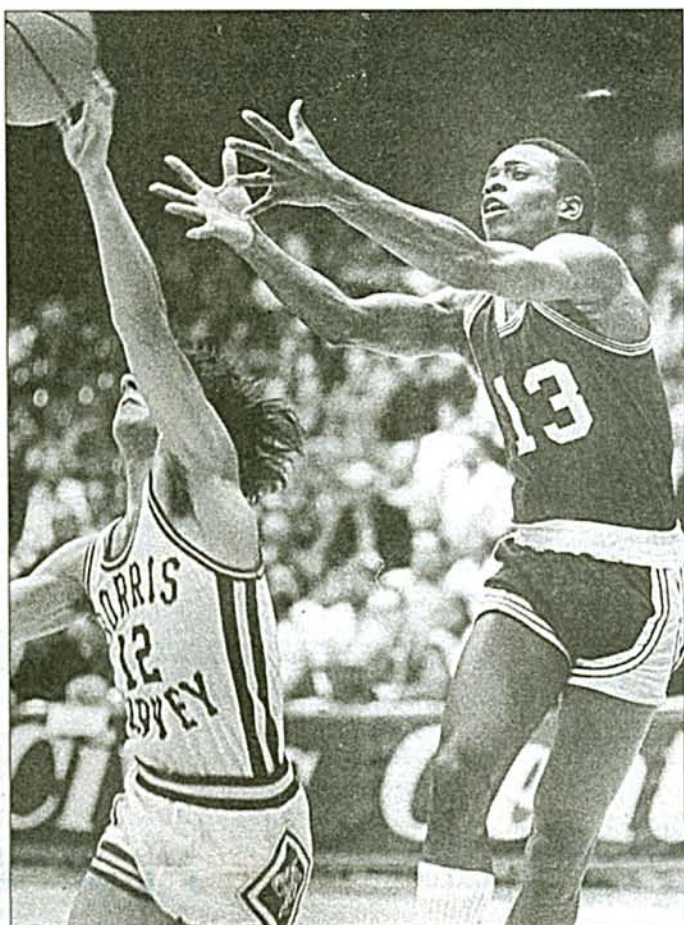
Today, Archie Talley focuses on motivational speaking at schools.

the country and speak in different venues, but my major market is schools — elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, colleges.

"I never thought I would say this 30 years ago because I never thought anything could equal the feeling of joy and prestige that I got from basketball, but what I do now beats anything I have ever done.

"There is nothing like seeing the light come on in children's eyes when they finally get it. I get to make a difference in their lives. That is what I love the most. I have received hundreds of thousands of letters from children all over the country — rich, poor, black, white, urban and rural. Nothing can compare to it."

Next week, the WVC celebrates — reunion-style



FILE PHOTO

Archie Talley during his playing days in the West Virginia Conference.



FILE PHOTO

World Welterweight Champion Sugar Ray Leonard clowns around with his childhood friend for Archie Talley's YMCA basketball camps in this 1982 photo.

— the 50th anniversary of the conference's first tournament played at the Charleston Civic Center (1960). Talley remains one of the more memorable performers in the state conference's long history. He was a three-time all-tournament selection (1974 through '76).

Talley practices what he preaches to students of all ages.

He never has tried tobacco, alcohol or drugs, which helped him hone his basketball skills during his teenage years.

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