

# College students use break to teach hoop skills to kids

By Julie Muhlstein Herald Columnist

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It's winter break, time for college students to sleep late, hang out with friends, and sit around their parents' houses.

This week, one group of college kids broke that mold.

They woke up early Monday, got out of the house, and offered their time, advice and basketball skills to younger kids.

Everett's Phil Hoban, a 20-year-old sophomore at [Santa Clara University](#), started his holiday basketball clinic four years ago. At the time, he was a junior and stand-out basketball player at [Archbishop Murphy High School](#). He called his clinic Philz Skillz.

"Philz Skillz — we tease him about that," said Daniel Olson, who was home in Everett from the [California Maritime Academy](#) on Monday and helping Hoban with the basketball camp. "We're here for break. It's a way to give back," Hoban said.

Before high school, they were classmates at Everett's [Immaculate Conception & Our Lady of Perpetual Help School](#). It was four years ago, in the Immaculate gym, that Hoban first presented Philz Skillz. He and his helpers were back at their grade school alma mater Monday for the first of two sessions.

In the morning, 54 players from local [Catholic Youth Organization](#) teams — fourth through eighth-graders — learned secrets of rebounding, defense positioning and other winning basketball moves.

Brando Dinthongsai, a 10-year-old who attends Everett's Penny Creek Elementary School, is on one of those teams. "He loves it. We just got him a basketball," said his sister Ann Dinthongsai, 23. She was at the Boys & Girls Club on Monday watching her brother take shots and try out defense strategies.

Loila Bloomfield was there, too, while her 8-year-old son joined in the Philz Skillz camp. A third-grader at Whittier Elementary School, Ty Bloomfield wore his [Everett Seagulls Youth Football](#) jersey as he learned new tricks for basketball season.

"Kids love it when older kids are helping them," Bloomfield said. "I'm proud of these college kids taking so much time on their break. They're so patient. It's pretty nice."

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