



BETTER TOGETHER

Bass Ollie and Jadakiss Lewis are at the Y every day at 9:30a on the Maple basketball court to practice through the noon hour. And that's not all they do at the Y: they come back in the evening to meet in the weight room for added strength training.

Bass and Jadakiss have been lifetime friends: They grew up together and played basketball at Kalamazoo Central. After high school, Bass went on to play at Kalamazoo College. Having recently graduated, he's exploring Master's degree programs. Jadakiss plays basketball for Kalamazoo Valley Community College and is working toward a Division 1 transfer.

They come to the Y to stay fit.

When asked why they choose the Y for their daily training, they respond almost in unison, that the Y is dependable, always open, and that they love that the Front Desk staff knows who they are.

They come to the Y together for the motivational piece, says Jadakiss.

"We respect each other to be able to accept positive criticism from each other. For me, I look up to Bass, like a big brother – he's doing things right – in sports and off the court. And that inspires me."