



Press Release: **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 27, 2016

Gadsden City Schools to welcome chess champion Orrin Hudson

Gadsden City Schools will welcome master motivator Orrin "Checkmate" Hudson, founder of the nationally-known Be Someone mentoring program, which uses chess to help students learn problem-solving and leadership skills.

Hudson will host a chess tournament for three Gadsden City middle schools and eight elementary schools during his two-day visit, April 28-29.

The purpose of the events is to give the students an opportunity to demonstrate critical thinking skills and peaceful problem-solving skills they have learned from previous chess-related training through the nationally-known Be Someone, Inc. mentoring program.

Studies show that students who play chess score higher in math and reading and on state standardized tests. Chess students also have an increased interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields.

Hudson will bring his "A Game" as well as his life-size chess board and pieces. His message is, "Brains before bullets; think it out, don't shoot it out; push pawns not drugs."

"We are so pleased and honored to have Orrin at this our event, " said Felicia Simpson, Community Education Coordinator. " Orrin has been touching young lives and teaching the principles of success through his chess board across the U.S. We are fortunate to have him with us in Gadsden." Orrin "Checkmate" Hudson ,is a former Alabama state trooper, first African American Birmingham chess champion, founder of Be Someone, Inc., and author of *One Move at a Time*.

Hudson believes prevention is better than detention so he takes a proactive approach in teaching young people.



“Every move you make has a consequence just like in the game of chess. But life is more than a game,” he stressed. “You must make the right moves because one bad move could cause you everything!”

Hudson, who has been involved with many of comedian Steve Harvey’s youth mentoring programs held throughout the country, is a master motivator.

“I can’t wait to meet the young people of Gadsden. They have so many possibilities available to them, if they just make the right moves,” Hudson said. “That’s what I will be teaching them.”

April 28

Who: Middle school students in the after-school program

What: Chess tournament

When: **Thursday, 3:30 to 5 p.m.**

Where: Mary G. Hardin Center for Cultural Arts, 501 Broad St., Gadsden.

April 29

Who: Students at Gadsden City Alternative School

What: Motivational lecture by Orrin Hudson

When: **Friday, April 29, 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.**

Where: Gadsden City Alternative School, 607 S 12th St., Gadsden.

April 29

Who: Eight Gadsden elementary schools

What: Chess tournament

When: **Friday, April 29, 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.**

Where: Mary G. Hardin Center for Cultural Arts, 501 Broad St, Gadsden

MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES:

Excellent photo opportunities! Visuals include a **giant life-size chess board** and several tables of students who will be playing during the tournament.

Winner of the tournament with challenge Orrin Checkmate Hudson.



ABOUT BE SOMEONE

Be Someone, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to help children develop the skills necessary for success in school and in life through learning chess. Be Someone is not just a chess program; rather it is an educational program that uses numerous tools including chess as its vehicle to teach children higher-level thinking skills.

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