

IOWA POLICE JOURNAL



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION FOR THE IOWA STATE POLICE ASSOCIATION

IOWA'S HEROES — Chris Cole



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On April 25, 2015, Lt. Chris Cole stopped at Chautauqua Park in Storm Lake to talk to 14-year-old Cham Deng who was playing basketball. The two shot a few baskets and spoke about Storm Lake High School and Deng's desire to make the varsity team next season as a freshman.

As Lt. Cole grabbed a few rebounds and shot a few baskets, he noticed that the basketball was half flat and scuffed from thousands of shots taken at the park. He left the park, went to a local sporting goods store, purchased a new basketball and returned to Chautauqua Park to give the new ball to Deng.

At a time when national narrative was beset with tense encounters between law enforcement and young African-Americans, the basketball player considered this friendly gesture by Lt. Cole and wrote about it on his Facebook page:

"So today I was playing basketball at the park and as I was playing I saw a cop and I waved to him. He parked his car and came to talk to me. We talked a little about the future of Storm Lake basketball and AAU basketball. We shot around and talked. Then he left and about 10 minutes later he came back and bought me a new basketball. It's things like this that make the world spin. I'm tired of hearing people say cops are bad and racist, I'm tired of it. You can't judge someone on what others do. I just wanna thank the Storm Lake Police Department and that officer.... I just thank the City of Storm Lake for showing love and the officer who shows love to me ... let's Pass The Peace."

The Facebook post received 100 likes and comments. Middle School Principal Jaymie Bral took notice and invited the two to an assembly to share their story and the positive message. Congratulations to Lt. Cole, and thank you for being one of Iowa's Heroes. If you have a story that you'd like featured in Iowa's Heroes, please contact us at ISPAonline@gmail.com