

HoopScoop Jr All-American Camp - Day1

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Clark Francis, Hoop Scoop

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I caught an early flight this morning from Orlando, FL to Washington, DC and now I am at the Junior All-American Camp at the Hoop Magic Sports Academy in Chantilly, VA, where I will spend the next several days watching some of the top middle school players in the nation. As a matter of fact, with less than 150 players in camp, I already have seen everybody in camp on the first afternoon and evening and already my list of the top players in camp are 6'0 8th Grader J-Mychael Reese from Bryan, TX, 6'4 8th Grader Jordan Price from Conyers, GA, 6'2 8th Grader Sydnie London from New Orleans, LA, 6'0 LeBrent Walker from Jamaica, NY, 6'5 8th Grader DeJuan Marrero from Gary, IN, 5'8 8th Grader DaShaun Suber from Brooklyn, NY, 6'5 8th Grader Virgil Tony Parker from Lithonia, GA, 6'2 8th Grader Kyle Anderson from North Bergen, NJ, 6'3 8th Grader Michael Avery from Lake Sherwood, CA, 6'3 8th Grader Lynden Rose from Houston, TX, 6'1 8th Grader Daijan Palmer from Brooklyn, NY, 6'2 8th Grader Evan Nolte from Milton, GA, 6'1 8th Grader Marshall Forney from Manassas, VA, 6'5 8th Grader Jessamen Dunker from Lithonia, GA, 6'4 7th Grader Brian Bridgewater from Baton Rouge, LA, 6'2 7th Derrick Finner from Seattle, WA, 6'5 7th Grader Alex Foster from Plainfield, IL, 6'4 7th Grader Thomas Hamilton from Chicago, IL, 6'2 7th Grader Derrick Griffin from Richmond, TX, 5'11 7th Grader Nigel Williams-Gross from Happy Valley, OR, 6'5 7th Grader Austin Colbert from Chesapeake, VA, 6'2 7th Grader Andrew Harrison from Richmond, TX, 6'2 7th Grader Aaron Harrison from Richmond, TX, 6'6 7th Grader Terrance O'Donohue from Marietta, GA, 6'0 7th Grader Nicholas King from Memphis, TN, 6'0 7th Grader A.J. Davis from Burr Ridge, IL, 5'1 7th Grader Shai Shai Matthews from Staunton, VA, 5'2 7th Grader Jordan Smart from New York, NY, and 6'0 7th Grader Darryl Hicks from Shelbyville, KY.

Especially noteworthy is the fact that 6'4 8th Grader Jordan Price from Conyers, GA, who currently ranked #10 in the Class of 2012 by the HOOP SCOOP, appears to be on a mission to unseat 6'0 8th Grader J-Mychael Reese from Bryan, TX as the #1-ranked player nationally in the class. And Price did a great job earlier tonight with an impressive 34-point effort. We also were impressed by the way 6'7 8th Grader Virgil Tony Parker from Lithonia, GA manhandled 6'1 8th Grader Daijan Palmer from Brooklyn, NY, who is a beast in his own right inside and up until that point was one of the more impressive players in camp. We also were totally impressed with the 26-point performance turned in by 6'2 8th Grader Sydnie London from New Orleans, LA, who clearly is one of the most versatile and gifted athletes in camp. Another one of the most prolific scorers in camp was 6'3 8th Grader Michael Avery from Lake Sherwood, CA, who finished with 24 points in a game yesterday afternoon and provided the perfect complement to 6'5 8th Grader DeJuan Marrero from Gary, IN, who blocks shots, rebounds, and scores around the basket, and 5'10 8th Grader Lynden Rose from Houston, TX, who knows how to run the show, can knock down the outside shot, and is very effective using his speed and quickness to get the basket. Michael Dunleavy comparisons may be in order for 6'2 8th Grader Evan Nolte from Milton, GA, who is a wiry strong white kid that knocked down three 3-pointers in a row when I was watching his game earlier tonight. We also were impressed with the ball handling and passing skills and high basketball IQ of 6'2 8th Grader Kyle Anderson from North Bergen, NJ and 6'0 8th Grader LeBrent Walker from Jamaica, NY played like he always does, as he used his speed, quickness, and athleticism to put up prolific numbers off transition. And, of course, there was 5'8 8th Grader DaShaun Suber from Brooklyn, NY, who ran the show, made his teammates better, and was one of the best point guards in camp. The biggest highlight in the younger division came when 6'4 7th Grader Brian Bridgewater from Baton Rouge, LA single-handedly was responsible for his team's 24-2 run to start the game and in the process totally dominated against 6'5 7th Grader Austin Colbert from Chesapeake, VA, who is one of the best big men in camp in his age group. Also turning in a pair of 18 and 21-point performances and clearly establishing himself as one of the top five players in the 7th Grade Division was 6'2 7th Grader Derrick Finner from Seattle, WA. Not only is this fluid athlete versatile enough to play both inside and outside, but he also has a nice looking 3-point shot and is capable of putting up big numbers in transition. There also was the 31-point performance by 6'5 7th Grader Alex Foster from Plainfield, IL and 6'4 7th Grader Thomas Hamilton from Chicago, IL, who is the son of the former star high school player at Chicago (Martin Luther King) IL, is yet another physical specimen inside. The best guard in this age group is clearly 5'11 7th Grader Nigel Williams-Gross from Happy Valley, OR and 6'2 7th Grader Derrick Griffin from Richmond, TX was tough to stop around the basket, as he teamed with 6'0 7th Grader Nicholas King from Memphis, TN, 5'10 7th Grader Lionel Williams from Richmond, VA, 5'2 7th Grader Jordan Smart from New York, NY, and 4'10 6th Grader Justin Jenifer from Baltimore, MD on what is arguably the most well around team in this age group.