

SC Jr All American Regional Camp

On the weekend of **October 9th and 10th**, over 60 players from South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, and Tennessee converged on the upstate of South Carolina for the **Junior All-American Regional Basketball Camp** at **Redemption World Outreach's Imagine Center**, a first-class facility that houses three full-length basketball courts in Greenville. Players from **5th-9th grades** participated in drills and games over the weekend in front of evaluators and sports writes. Several players from each division showed the ability to score, rebound, and defend the basketball. Here are some of the ones who stuck out to this sports writer:

5th Grade

Naseem Khaalid – guard – Most Outstanding Player – Naseem is a small guard who showed the ability to drive to the basket and make good decisions. He also knocked down several open shots from behind the arc. For such a young age, Khaalid moves like a veteran player and displays nice fundamentals. The most impressive statistic about this young man is that he was ***the only 4th grader at the camp!***

Grant Singleton – guard – Defensive Award – Singleton is a small guard who continued to impress throughout the weekend. He plays fearless defense and hustles all over the court. Grant can also score the basketball from outside. ***He showed off his shooting skills by winning the 3-point contest on Saturday.***

Reece Wright- guard – Hustle Award – “Little Reecey” was all over the court all weekend, playing defense, forcing turnovers, and diving on the floor for loose balls. Maturity will serve him well, but he already brings the right attitude to the court.

Jerrel Kelly – Forward/Center – Kelly was the longest kid in this group. He plays good defense and his height allows him to haul in many rebounds. If he can develop some post moves, he could be dangerous down low.

Wells Hoag – guard – Hoag is a nice player who makes nice decisions with the ball. He is a headsy little guard who hustled all weekend long. ***He also had the most impressive showing at the camp, hitting 21 of 26 treys from the top of the key in winning the “Beat the Pro” shooting contest on Sunday.***

****Note: The 5th graders won both shooting contests on the weekend.***

6th Grade

Zach Butler – guard – Most Outstanding Player – Butler is a long combo guard who could play the point or the two guard. Zach showed the ability to score the ball from inside and out and got good penetration with a quick first step. He could drive to the rack and dish or finish and showed strong ball-handling skills.

Jamel Morant – guard – Hustle Award – Jamel is an undersized guard who showed an all-around game throughout the weekend. On the defensive side, his quickness gives him chances to force turnovers and stay in front of offensive players. On the other side of the court, Morant handles the ball well, shows off a nice jumper, and has the speed to lead the break.

Nicholas Claxton – forward – Defensive Award – Claxton is a long kid who plays good defensively and moves well under the basket. He constantly finds himself in good position to snag offensive and defensive boards. As he matures and gets stronger, look for Nicholas to be a dominant force inside.

Micah Banks – guard – Micah is a strong, quick guard who looks good running the break. He can finish in traffic and plays good defense to go along with a nice jumper.

Kistopher White – guard – Kristopher continued to knock down open jumpers over the weekend. If he can learn to move without the basketball to create more opportunities, White could be a true scoring threat.

7th Grade

Darien Rencher – guard – Co-Most Outstanding Player – Rencher is a big, strong, athletic guard who displays a good jump shot, excellent court vision, and a strong first step. He can hit the three and was unstoppable at times this weekend. On the other side of the court, Darien is aggressive and in the face of ball handlers. Look for big things from this young man as he matures and further develops his game!

Malik Moore – guard – Co-Most Outstanding Player – Malik is a left-handed guard who showed the ability to finish in traffic with both hands. At times, he was able to get whatever he wanted in the four scrimmages that I observed. He uses his body well and has a killer first step. As Moore grows and matures, he will get stronger and more aggressive, which will make him even harder to stop.

Treves McDowell – forward – Defensive Award – McDowell is a big, strong 7th grader with tremendous upside. He plays excellent defense and finds himself in position to force turnovers. He still needs to develop his ball skills but he has the size and athleticism to be dominant under the basket.

Michael Murphy – forward – Hustle Award – Michael a great rebounder. He is a nice-sized kid who is very physical. He does some things well on offense and should develop into a very good player as he learns to use his body inside.

Tavaris Scott – forward – Scott is another big kid who showed tenacity on both sides of the court. He hustles for every rebound and loose ball. He shows good body control in traffic and can knock down the open jump shot. This is a kid with loads of potential.

Brendan Austin – guard – Brendan is an undersized guard with very good form on hit his jump shot. He is a quick kid who can penetrate and distribute the basketball. Austin is very active on the defensive side.

Preston Parks – guard – Parks was, hands down, the best knock-down shooter at the camp this weekend. I can't remember him missing more than 3 shots from downtown. He displays a sweet stroke and hits for a high percentage from behind the arc. Preston is a big guard who plays with good instincts and anticipation on both sides of the court.

Ashton Willis –guard – Willis is an excellent shooter who moves well without the ball.

8th Grade

Jawun Evans – guard – Co-Most Outstanding Player – Jawun is a kid with nice size and athleticism. He hustles and works hard to get position on both sides. He drives hard to the basket, has an above average jump shot, and wide court vision. Evans is a player that will make an instant impact when he gets to the next level.

Rion Davis – guard – Co-Most Outstanding Player – Rion is a strong athletic guard who handles the ball well and plays very physical. He has a nice stroke and hustles all over the court. His aggressiveness and physicality made him dominant with the ball in his hands.

Deandre Nathaniel – guard/forward – Hustle Award – Deandre hustles all over the court and gets every rebound and loose ball. He plays with his head up and makes good outlets to start the break. He contributes on the offensive side, but his strong suite is on the defensive side of the court.

Chris McNeil – guard – McNeil is a headsy ball player who helps get the ball to the right place. He demonstrates good hustle and had a highlight-reel shot on the weekend, knocking down a deep three while falling down at the buzzer.

Miles Smith – guard – Miles is a very raw guard who has loads of potential. He is athletic enough to get to the rack off the dribble and made good decisions at times, but he must continue to develop his skills to take advantage of his full potential.

Loandon Johnson – guard/forward – Loandon has nice size and plays good defense. He shows lots of hustle and does a good job of distributing the ball. He played great team basketball all weekend.

Dextor Foster – guard – Dextor is a small guard with nice actions. He has a nice shot and handles the ball well. As he grows and gets stronger, he could blossom into a very dangerous player.

Chris Dorrah Jr. – forward/center – Dorrah, Jr. is a kid whose size gives him the ability to compete. He is very raw and needs to work hard on his basketball skills, but he works hard on the boards and should develop into an inside force on the next level.

Timothy Stokes – forward – Stokes is the epitome of an athlete. He is very raw on the basketball court, but he is the type of kid that could develop into a player in whichever sport he chooses.

****The best haircut of the day goes to Darius Moore, who rocked the flat-top fade for the weekend!***

9th Grade

Nigel Owens – guard – Most Outstanding Player – Nigel is a hard-nosed guard who can really play the point. He is a lefty who plays good defense and is a floor general with the ball. He can penetrate and hit the pull up jumper or finish in the hole. Owens is an intelligent player who moves well with the ball and displays great vision. He will be an impact player at the next level.

Kaildrick Brown – forward – Defensive Award – Kail was the most impressive specimen at the camp. He is a big, strong, athletic kid who can play above the rim. He is a bit on the raw side, but his size gives him the ability to dominate. He is a potential shot blocker and rebounder on the defensive end and he uses his body and size in the paint to dominate on the offensive block.

Deavin Rencher – guard – Hustle Award – A small guard who got good penetration with his nice dribbling skills, Rencher makes good looks and plays good defense. He has a strong first step and quickly takes defenders off the dribble. He played very good defense against Nigel Owens, the camp's 9th Grade Most Outstanding player.

Gage Ellis – guard/forward – Ellis is a very active wing who hustles on the boards and uses his body well in traffic. He can dunk the basketball and takes the ball strong to the rim. He is an inside/outside player who can knock down the mid-range jumper. Gage should develop into a contributing player very soon on the next level.

Taylor Ferguson – guard/forward – Ferguson has good fundamentals. He battles hard on the boards. As his game develops, he has the potential to be pretty good ball player.

Keil Sherman – guard – Sherman does a lot of good things. He is a high energy guy with loads of athletic talent. If he can focus his talent and continue to develop skill-wise, Keil can be a scoring threat.

Xavier Kelly – guard/forward – Kelly is a big strong guard who shoots the ball well from outside. He is also strong enough to score inside. He hustles around and plays good defense. Kelly is the type of player who wears his emotions on his sleeve and sometimes that works against him, but he did a lot of good things this weekend.