

Season ending Introduction to Class of 2012 Top Prospects...

April 1, 2009

By Van Coleman

We've reached the end of the 2009 high school season and thought it was time to introduce you to the Class of 2012's Top Prospects...

We will take a pre-spring look at the nation's top freshmen talent; headed by our early No.1 6-8 power forward **Perry Ellis** from Wichita Heights, KS. He has established himself as the early leader in the national rankings race, but he is followed by a number of super frosh who will be stating their claim on the top spot with their play this spring and summer. So with that in mind let's take a first look at the nation's top rising freshman talent...

No.1 – **Perry Ellis** 6-8 Power Forward Wichita Heights, KS –

The Gatorade Player of the year in Kansas has shown with his efforts on the court this winter that he has separated himself from others in the Class of 2012 to emerge as the nation's top freshman heading into the spring play.

He led Wichita Heights to the state 6A crown with a 9 point and 20 rebound effort, despite being triple teamed all night, in their 73-58 victory over Wichita Southeast. He was named the MVP of the State Championships and First Team All-State this spring. He averaged 19 points and 11 boards as he led the Heights to a 24-1 record for the 2008-09 season.

Ellis has the tools to pick and pop or roll to the hoop and score in the paint with hand. He has excellent hands and superior footwork that makes him a force on the blocks. He can dominate the glass with best in any class and will eventual move his game to facing basket full-time. Tools are there to become one of the best ever out of Wichita, right there with legendary names like Antoine Carr and Darnell Valentine. For now he is the number one prospect in the Class of 2012...

He is expected to run with the Spiece Mo-Kan Elite squad again this spring and summer.

Five on the Rise –

J-Mychal Reese 6-1 Point Guard Bryan, TX – This explosive point guard broke onto national scene last spring, he can flat out deal it off the dribble or score from beyond arc or stick pull-up jumper. He averaged 18.9 points, 7.8 assists, and 3.6 steals as a freshman. He showed immense potential in 67-64 win over Killeen Shoemaker when he had a monster 35 point and 14 assist effort. Look for him to push Ellis for top spot!

Emmanuel Ochenje 6-9 Power Forward Chicago, IL Brehm Prep – This long and lean insider broke onto national scene at last fall's Mac Irvin Windy City Shootout. He has immense potential with the ability to score with regularity on the blocks or pick and pop jumper. He only weighs 190-pounds at this point, but has frame to fill out and become a force in the future.

Gabe York 6-1 Wing Guard Orange, CA Lutheran – This quick combo skilled scorer can flat out light it up from beyond arc or score in traffic off the drive. He averaged 14.5

points and just under 3 assists as a freshman for Lutheran. He should push for national prominence this spring and summer.

Reggie Ragland 6-4 Wing Forward Huntsville, AL Bob Jones – This physical wing scorer was unstoppable at times this spring as Bob Jones made a run to the state final. He had a huge 27 point and 12 rebound effort in 61-47 semi-final win over Birmingham Lanier. He is a true power player who can slash and finish with best young talents.

Zach Peters 6-9 Center Plano, TX Prestonwood Christian – This long and skilled big man re-classified last winter when he transferred to Prestonwood Christian. He averaged 16.8 points and 10.7 rebounds as a freshman and is one of the best low block scorers in the Class of 2012!

Others to watch –

Justin Anderson 6-6 Wing Forward Rockville, MD Montrose Christian – He is a gifted athlete who has tools to be a defensive stopper. He has range to arc and can score off dribble at the rim. He should have breakout spring and summer.

Kyle Anderson 6-3 Wing Guard Paterson, NJ Catholic – Explosive driver has really improved range on jumper and ability to finish in traffic impresses. He is one of east coast's top young backcourt talents.

L.J. Rose 6-2 Combo Guard Houston, TX Second Baptist – Reese's summer teammate on Houston Hoops squad last summer is a big-time score in his own right. He has range to arc and finishes drive in traffic.

D'Vauntes Smith-Rivera 6-3 Wing Guard Indianapolis, IN North Central – This physical scorer averaged 15.4 points and handed out 3 assists as a freshman. He has improved his perimeter game and is becoming a threat from beyond arc.

Ricardo Gathers 6-7 Power Forward Laplace, LA Reserve Christian – Long and athletic forward caught our eye last summer. He has good bounce and can finish around the hoop. Potential is immense.

More to watch – **Jordan Price** 6-5 WF Decatur, GA Columbia; **Sydie London** 6-2 WG New Orleans, LA St. Augustine; Xavier Johnson 6-6 WF Temecula, CA Chaparral; Wannah Bail 6-8 PF Houston, TX Village School; Michael Carey 6-4 SG Houston, TX Village School; Antonio Drummond 5-11 PG Peoria, IL Senior; **Shabazz Muhammed** 6-3 SG Las Vegas, NV Bishop Gorman; Ismaila Dauda 6-10 C Pahokee, FL School of Choice.

Editor's note: If you'd like to nominate any freshmen (other classes as well) for consideration for our top fifty rankings, please email us at van@Hoopmasters.com.

Hoopmasters will be updating their national rankings over the next, so watch for our pre-spring rankings of the nation's top sophomores, right here at Hoopmasters and MaxxAthlete.com.

Highlighted players attended the Freshman All-American or the Jr. All-American Camps.