

Freshman Camp Draws Nation's Best

Dick Weiss: Hoops on Hoops

June 9, 2007

I was reading Clark Francis' Hoop Scoop and talking with one of Philly's distinguished prep scouts Norm Eavenson recently and became intrigued by the Freshman All-American camp for rising ninth graders being run by Clay Dade June 30-July 2 in the dead period at the Hoop Magic Sports Academy in Chantilly, Va.

Among the young stars accepting invites: 6-7 Ramone Eaton of Sacramento; 6-3 Anthony Wroton of Reston, Wash.; 6-8 La Quinton Ross, Jackson, Miss; 6-6 Aaron Ross of Little Rock and 6-7 LaBryan Nash of Dallas (the top five ranked eighth graders nationally).

There will also be a number of elite players from our area: 6-2 Najee Whitehead, Mt. Vernon; 5-7 Corey Edwards from Queens; 6-2 Devontay Grace from Brooklyn; 5-8 Shaquille Stokes from Harlem; 6-3 Jermaine Sanders from Far Rockaway; 5-7 Sterling Gibbs of Scotch Plains; 6-2 Vaughn Grey and 5-7 Myles Mack of Paterson, N.J.; and 5-11 Tyrone Johnson of Plainfield.

Because these players are not yet enrolled in high school and not yet considered prospects, college assistants have the option of working the camp as counselors. Rob Burke of Georgetown, Bill Courtney of Virginia, Memphis assistant Derrick Kellogg, NC State assistant Pete Strickland, Florida assistant Rob Lanier, FSU assistant Andy Enfield and Mason assistant Chris Caputo are already reportedly in.

If, as Francis says, Dade pulls this off, it could be one of the most important events of the summer, since so many blue chip prospects are committing earlier than their 12th year.

Posted by Dick Weiss on June 9, 2007 12:36 PM