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Top 2014 players at the Prather



The Wallace Prather Memorial was the talk of Atlanta over the weekend. Why? The players. It is always about the players. Here are the top players from the class of 2014 that Robert Alfonso, Jr. and Justin Young saw from the event.

C.J. Jackson, Aim High - When you watch Aim High, you're not going to see the same player making shots or making plays. No, this crew is a balanced effort bunch. At times, the Charlotte (N.C.) Olympic guard was the most deadly shooter in the building. Jackson can dial it in with the best of them and made big shots in big wins, including one against the Atlanta Celtics Glover. There's a value for a guy like Jackson. He's a shooter, a winner, son of a coach and a guy that makes positive plays. - JY

Cameron Johnson, Smyrna Stars (pictured above) - This is a name that is moving up the college coaches interest list. Johnson is a forward who has the poise of a well-seasoned veteran. He leads on

both ends of the floor and is not afraid of putting anyone in place, including his teammates. Johnson handles the ball well and gets to the basket effortlessly. Defensively, he is a matchup problem for opponents because Johnson will handle whomever he meets on a defensive rotation. The Stars have had a successful April and won the Wallace Prather Memorial as Johnson has contributed to the team's success. – RA

Rashard Lewis, Smyrna Stars - The purple and gold have won a lot of games this spring and one of the constants on the Stars roster has been the play of the Valdosta point guard. Jet quick and shifty, Lewis uses his sub 6-foot size well by creeping into the tight spaces. From there, he's great at the drop off and tough shots at the rim. Fearless and fun, Lewis seems to gain more confidence each time out. There hasn't been a rising senior point guard in the Peach State that has produced more than him in April. - JY

Makinde London, Nashville Celtics - The big man drummed up some chatter from the Gibbons because he showed off a nice face up game for a 6-foot-9 forward. At the Prather, he does what you want from your four man - rebound, defend from block to block and score the chip shots. There's a skill set to build on and a frame to grow with. A lot to like here. According to mom and dad, almost the entire SEC is now in the picture. That's what will happen with a good showing in April. - JY

JP Macura, D1 Minnesota - When it comes to shooters this was the best one we saw this weekend. At 6-foot-5, Macura was hard to defend as he shot over any zone or the outstretched arms of any defender. He moves well without the ball and has a nice mid-range game. However, Macura is not just a shooter. He mixes it up on the defensive end of the floor as well. – RA

Jalyn Patterson, Atlanta Celtics Dion Glover - Every time this Atlanta native comes back to Georgia the impressionable mark he leaves imprinted into your mind is long lasting. Patterson knows how to run a team. He is never rushed into mistakes or tempo because this floor general is in control. His court awareness and ability to finish at the rim makes him one of the best guards of the early spring. Patterson has some schools who have made offers within the region but that will pick up nationally as this guard gets it on and off the floor. – RA

Elijah Staley, Atlanta Celtics Dion Glover - Does it really matter which team this guy plays for? Not necessarily because Staley will always be the most athletic player on the floor – period. This was exactly what came to mind as we watched the 6-foot-7 forward fall from the sky with some highlight-reel dunks. He also showed his versatility on the floor handling the ball, running the floor and shooting it with range. The other impressive change is the comfort on the floor. Staley, who just joined this team, fit in like a pair of well worn sneakers. Look for the synergy to grow with these Celtics in July with Staley in the fold. – RA



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