

*Baseline SMAC*

*By Coach Jeremy*

*10/8/2011*

*Midwest Girls Basketball Showcase*

Ohiobasketball.com hosted a Hoop Event over the weekend at the Cloverleaf Community Recreation Center and 160 female athletes took the courts in hopes that their college basketball dreams will be realized. SMAC wants to thank ESPN's HoopGurls for their coverage of this event but 160 players, six hours and four courts is even hard for the pro's to handle so if you "Fall Out" at a SMAC event now or in the future everybody is going to know about it. The baseline is that these hardwood warriors had six hours that could equal a lifetime this past weekend and SMAC wants to cover all of the action on the court.

How many other places in Ohio can a girl go to find 40 college basketball coaches from every level imaginable in October? One place was definitely the Cloverleaf Community Recreation Center on Saturday October 8, 2011. As these young ladies will find out college basketball coaches act sort of like stalkers when they first get to know you and seeing how it is a couple of weeks away from Halloween do not call the police they just want to give you a scholarship, maybe. They circle you like JAWS and that is a scary movie from the '70s and '80s but they do not bite (yet) wait

until they get you in a gym with your new collegiate teammates. The sophomores, juniors and seniors are used to this type of behavior by now but the middle school children and the freshman, after Saturday you better be ready because I have the feeling you are going to get stalked some more. Seeing similar faces on the baseline for each one of your games is good, if they follow you (or stalk you) it is a good thing. Wait until they start e-mailing you and calling you (some try to live in your house for a couple of months when you are a junior) but in the end your parents will be able to afford that Corvette that dad always wanted and you will have a lifetime of memories at the collegiate level.

(highlight: Mariah Madkins (pushing the fastbreak) & Gabrielle Balderidge (getting low and bending her knees on defense scaring the little 8<sup>th</sup> graders) (pics/videos if we have it))

Talk about the extreme from smallest to the tallest in the middle school players on Saturday, Gabby Balderidge (6'3 C 8<sup>th</sup> grade Willard) has a nasty disposition on the court which coaches love. Gabby is a terror on defense erasing shots, ripping down the boards and gettin' low and stayin' low on defense even with the smaller quicker players on the court. Three other monsters of the middle on Saturday from the middle school ranks were CiCi Macintosh (5'11 F 8<sup>th</sup> grade Eastern Heights MS), Caitlin Vari (5'10 F 8<sup>th</sup> grade Revere MS) and April Bocian (6'1 8<sup>th</sup> grade Grove City MS (PA)). April Bocian displayed outstanding fundamentals for a player her age which leads me to believe she has a high basketball IQ and a bright future if she keeps working like she did Saturday. Mariah Madkins (4'9 PG 7/8(?) grade Orchard Park, NY) ain't scared she is a playmaker for the future and pushed the tempo all day for her squad and showed the crowd that she can finish amongst the tall trees. The toughest players in the gym all day on Saturday may not have been much over 5'3 these are the other top performers from Saturday in the middle school ranks; Rebecca Essig (5'3 G 8<sup>th</sup> grade Westlake MS), Taylor Hood (5'3 PG 7<sup>th</sup> grade Westlake MS), Camryn Brown (5'2 PG 8<sup>th</sup> grade Copley MS) and Amelia Motz (5'8 F 7<sup>th</sup> grader Canton, OH (?)).

(Highlight: Dezjah Coleman (fullcourt D), Hallie Thome (blocked shots get Carey block) and Brianna Pittenger (she had a lay-up or put back and then a 3 on the next possession from the top of the key)(pics/video))

Every good scary movie needs a unique super villain that never dies like Jason Vorhies or Michael Myers or 6'4 Freshman Hallie Thome (Chagrin Falls) who blocked a ton of shots Saturday and scared some poor girls out of taking others. Freshman forward Elizabeth Edurese (5'9 Wadsworth) showed that there is no shortage of talent or hustle in Grizzly Town as the wiry, athletic freshman played in your shorts defense and handled herself well inside despite her slight frame. The other low posts that made an impact on Saturday and should be ones to watch in the future are: Brianna Conroy (5'10 Fresh Avon MS), Sierra Davidson (6'0 Fresh Avon), Allison Thompson (5'10 Fresh Villa Maria Academy (PA)). The ALICE's (see definitions page) in this group were Norwalk's Brianna Pittenger (5'11 Fresh any position) and Jamestown, New York's Dezjah Coleman (5'10 Fresh any position). Brianna Pittenger displayed a diverse all-around game on offense and defense that should have the Truckers running over their opponents in the near future. Dezjah Coleman spent the whole afternoon locking down everybody defensively and doing it fullcourt with a motor like Ray Lewis, Coleman was definitely one of the day's best prospects.

The other out of state freshman that impressed Coach Jeremy on Saturday are; Deja Young (5'9 F Villa Maria Academy), Kaylee Govannucci (5'9 F Norwin HS (PA)), Olivia Barkley (5'8 G Elizabeth Forward (PA)) and Tatijana Zitz (5'6 G West Irondequoit (NY)). Back in the Buckeye state, Walsh's Lillian Piper (5'9 F), had a good day on offense and defense and North Royalton's Alison Smolinski (5'7 G) shot the eyes out of the basket all afternoon. Liberty Township's Cydney Franklin (5'2 PG) and Solon's Emily Russell (5'6 G) both had good days; Franklin is a calm cool collected lead guard that makes few mistakes and plays a very unselfish game while Russell's defensive intensity and hustle produced a lot of steals and easy baskets for her and her crew on Saturday. The bad news for teams playing Chagrin Falls this season is that it appears that nothing much is going to change for the illustrious Tigers; there is another Thome. Hannah is 6'0 and also a freshman at Chagrin Falls these giants seem very mild mannered they destroy you with a smile on their faces. Hannah is what Coach Jeremy calls a 'Tweeners she is tall but she wants to be a guard, we'll see yah in Columbus, Tigers.

(Highlight: 3 in state) Stasha Carey (offensive and defensive transition), Sarah Cash (driving to hoop) and Hallie Rubino (scorching the middle of the court) (pics/video)

The scariest feature of the day was any court that Midpark Sophomore center Stasha Carey was on because she beasted everybody there. The 6'3 sophomore sensation was the top performer on offense and defense for the showcase, Stasha does a great job in the transition game, she blocks shots, she grabs rebounds and does a lot of damage inside on offense but the thing she does the best is make that opposing center chase her 94 feet on every single play because if she does not Stasha's got two more points. As SMAC Baseline fans will come to realize you have to take the good with the bad with Coach Jeremy and Stasha did fall victim to Chagrin Falls freshman 6'4 Hallie Thome one time during the day as Hallie palmed her shot attempt but was called for the foul. Mayfield's Hallie Rubino (5'4 PG) was like a little energizer bunny all afternoon constantly pushing the tempo and making the defense play at her comfort zone speed which apparently at Mayfield HS is somewhere between Mach speed and the speed of light. Lordstown's Sarah Cash

(6'0 F Soph) was money all afternoon. Cash has a quick first step and a strong right hand dribble drive Sarah will go through you if she has to and does not waste dribbles.

Ohio's other sophomore sensations on Saturday had a lot of Meteors in it from Midpark and they literally stole the show on defense along with a few others. Defense 101 is the class that you are in when they are on the court; Baleigh Reid (5'9 F Twinsburg), Kyla "Jelly Bean" Johnson (5'7 G Midpark), Jessica Barnes (5'6 PG Midpark), Becca Ziska (5'6 G Midpark), Abby Miduri (5'1 PG North Royalton), Emily Civitollo (5'7 G Cloverleaf), Chelsea Pla (5'9 F Walsh Jesuit), Emily Nicholas (5'9 F Avon Lake) and Greta Burry (6'1 C St. Joseph's Acad.) all had flashes of brilliance at the Showcase.

(highlight: Dittig (causing chaos), Morris (PURE ENERGY plays) and Mifsude (fullcourt blitzkrieg)) out of state players pics/videos)

One quality that always impressed Coach Jeremy about Michael Myers is his endurance, the physical beating he takes and still keeps going but ladies he is a little slow to catch these starlets this Halloween. Norwin High School's Natalie Dittig (5'8 PG) and Hudson junior Hannah Boessinger (5'10 F) were like twins early on in the Showcase as they worked the inside-outside game to perfection and got themselves into a groove offensively. Dittig struggled late finding her outside shooting stroke but she had more than enough energy and floor stats for everybody in

attendance. Erie, PA will really scary for opponents of Villa Maria Academy this year they have three super sophomores that made our review; Lindsey Mifsude (5'7 G) started slow but at the end Lindsey was coasting while others left their gum, their mouth pieces and their gym shorts behind them trying to guard Lindsey in the open court, wow! Shanice Morris (5'9 F) must put fans in the seats in Erie, PA with her energy. Morris kept more plays alive with her hustle, defense and offensive rebounding that she wore me out just watching her. Shanice Morris is pure energy on the court and was one of the top athletes in the Showcase.

(highlight: Ali Christie (3-point shooting))

Finally, one more from Villa Maria Academy in Erie, PA, Ali Christie (6'0 F) proved to be one of the day's top assassins as she showed her talents from behind the 3-point line and had a ton of hustle plays on defense. An assassin in Coach Jeremy's world is a player that can dominate a game from the outside like Ray Allen.

Exposure events like this for basketball are geared towards the upper classmen because time is running out not necessarily on the basketball career but running out of chances to catch a college coach's eye. We will highlight the star juniors and seniors at the bottom of this page that shined above the rest at the Midwest Girls Basketball Showcase. These next few paragraphs are devoted to the juniors and seniors that each contributed to a valuable weekend for the college coaches, the top screamers of the weekend are towards the bottom of each section.

(highlight: Kristin Confroy (shooting) and Lydia Corle (all over the court after loose balls))

All of these girls have skills that may make them desired commodities at the next level at the guard and forward position, if coach is looking for a specific skill; Lea Walsh (5'7 G Jr. Parma Padua HS), Claire McCarthy (5'8 G Jr. Trinity HS), Aaliyah Dotson (5'6 G Jr. Canton Central Catholic HS), Cara Cook (5'8 G Jr. Norton HS), Kristin Confroy (5'8 G Jr. Solon HS), and Lauren Stefancin (5'9 F Jr. Lakewood HS). These seniors fall into the same terror

classic categories because when they bring their "A-game" they can be lethal; Devin Talley (5'7 F Sr. Huron High (MI)), Sarah Bonar (5'11 F Sr. Badger HS), Nina Napolitano (5'8 G Sr. Walsh Jesuit HS), Shelby Dearth (6'0 G Sr. Cloverleaf HS), Karleigh Welcher (5'8 G Sr. Plum Senior HS (PA), and Lydia Corle (5'8 F Sr. Green HS).

(highlight: Haley Hassinger (hustle and battling in tall trees for rebounds) and Emily Puskarich (calm, cool customer with the ball- good decisions nothing flashy)

The best junior guard at the Midwest Girls Showcase was Haley Hassinger (5'6 G Wadsworth) now there is a player with a sense of urgency, she wanted to make a name for herself Saturday it was evident in her play. Haley was fearless going into the tall trees after offensive rebounds on offense and playing her heart out on defense and even dropped in a couple of threes. Hey, former Wadsworth lock down defender Kristin Hoover got a scholarship on the spot after the state championship game in 1995 will Haley repeat that with her performance on Saturday? West Virginia's Emily Puskarich (5'7 G Jr. Wheeling Park HS) was one of the coolest calmest heads all day with the ball and college coaches appreciate assist to turnover ratio better than anyone. Emily's ability to see the floor and find open teammates may be what one of those lucky coaches were looking for on Saturday.

Regardless of your age 'The 9' is not a scary movie but the dudes in there are kind of spooky and it is one of the greatest animated adventures in the history of cinema sometimes you cannot even find it on the shelf at your local movie rental. These 9 were the best junior point guards and posts at the Midwest Girls Showcase this past Saturday.

(highlight: Nia Marshall (scoring), Hannah Boessinger (offensive put backs and scoring) and Catherine Rachek (driving on everybody ct.1 last two games))

1. Nia Marshall 6'0 F Jr. Hathaway Brown
  - Must have felt like Jamie Lee Curtis in Halloween on Saturday with all of those coaches following her
2. Hannah Boessinger 5'11 F Jr. Hudson HS
  - Ms. Versatility did a little bit of it all Saturday
3. Rachel Goddard 5'7 PG Jr. Wadsworth HS
  - Doing her usual John Stockton routine all day, she's faster than she looks
4. "K.B." Walker 5'7 PG Jr. Gates-Chili (Rochester, NY)
  - Last year her team got beat in the big division championship game in New York by 6'3 Breana Stewart's North Syracuse squad
  - Parents, Stewart is the first high school player ever asked to represent the USA in the Olympics and last year you were worried about your daughter getting her temps
5. Stephanie Pollock 6'4 C Jr. Hathaway Brown
  - Off the court she is a really nice girl on the court she is a Beast!
6. Catherine Rachek 5'11 PF Jr. Kenston HS
  - I don't know who made her mad Saturday but she Hulked up and had two awesome closing games on Saturday
7. Audrey Laforce 5'9 PG Jr. Vermillion HS

- Has one of the best mid-range games on offense in NE Ohio for a mighty mini has anyone seen her floater?
- 8. Allison Nedrow 6'0 F Jr. Oakland Catholic HS (Pittsburgh)
  - Showed that she has a Ph. D. in defense on Saturday as she locked down bigs and littles
- 9. Cassandra Oursler 6'5 C Jr. Grand Island HS (Buffalo, NY)
  - Finishes strong with left hand around basket and blocked a ton of shots

(highlight: Jasmine Davis (penetrating on everybody at will), Carly Thomas (Rex Chapman jumper), Dominique Smith (smooth moves to the hoop for 2), Aaron Shabazz (defense), Kara Long (dialing it from deep), Nina Vinci (chipping in 7-8ppg) and Cierra Pollock (heart and courage, left it all out on the court))

Typically the unluckiest number is 13 but on Saturday for all of their opponents the unlucky number was 14. These are the top seniors to grace the courts at the Cloverleaf Community Recreation Center on Saturday October 8, 2011 at the latest edition of the Midwest Girls Basketball Showcase compliments of [Ohiobasketball.com](http://Ohiobasketball.com):

1. Jasmine "Jazz" Davis 5'5 PG Sr. Bloomington South HS (Bloomington, IN)
  - "Jazz" got to the basket almost at will against everybody to find open teammates for easy buckets and points for herself (almost too unselfish at times)
2. Carly Thomas 5'8 G Sr. Strongsville HS
  - Carly has a Rex Chapman-size jumper nobody is up there with her
3. Dominique Smith 5'6 G Sr. Maple Heights HS
  - Smoothest player in the gym all day on offense and defense you would think after six hours you would see her break a sweat but not "Nique"
4. Aaron Shabazz 5'11 PF Sr. Cardinal O'Hara HS (Hamburg, NY)
  - The head of the Department of Defense, opponents need to pack a lunch
5. Bilqees Grant 5'11 F Sr. Eastern Commerce College (Ontario, Canada)

- Why don't Canadian girls ever color coordinate? Bilgees wore neon apple green shoes and Beasted everybody on Saturday
  - Grant played in your face full court pressure defense all day
6. Kara Long 5'8 G Sr. Wadsworth HS
    - "Fell Out" on Saturday played great defense and dialed some offense up from deep
  7. Rebecca Sweny 6'0 F Sr. Villa Maria Academy (Erie, PA)
    - One of the showcases top defenders showed her versatility on both sides of the court
  8. Mariah "The Glyde" Gador 5'10 G Cincy Turpin HS (Cincinnati, OH)
    - Mariah is the ultimate 'Tweener could be a guard or forward with her athleticism at the next level and she runs the floor like a gazelle
  9. Nina Vinci 5'2 PG Sr. Strongsville HS
    - Ms. Resourceful gets it done every time chipped in 7-8ppg for her squad and set her teammates up with easy baskets, too
  10. Jessica Garcia 5'9 F Sr. Lakewood HS
    - Scored a total of 27 points in her last two games on Saturday, they do not play their regular minutes, people!
    - Jessica also hit the offensive boards like a player looking for a scholarship and displayed a Ph. D. in defense
  11. Celine Mangan 5'6 PG Sr. Saint Joseph Academy
    - Probably the quickest player in the gym Celine is like a shadow on defense
  12. Aurielle Irizarry 5'5 Sr. G Y'town Ursuline HS
    - One of Coach Jeremy's favorite players she does some sick stuff to some of her opponents off the dribble some of them will not have a happy Halloween
    - Sometimes the only way to get the ball away from her is to call a timeout she plays sneaky fullcourt defense
  13. Kalle McNally 5'11 F Sr. Rocky River HS
    - The major Assassin in the games on Saturday she came with her "A-game" she is one of the longest Forwards around NE Ohio
  14. Cierra Pollock 6'1 C Sr. Villa Maria Academy (Erie, PA)
    - Talk about all heart and soul with knee brace in all, Pollock left a memorable impression on the whole showcase on Saturday

