



“THE LEAGUE” 2009 NBA Division Final Recap

NBA PLAYOFFS: CAVS AND 76ERS ADVANCE TO CHAMPIONSHIP!!!

In an incredibly competitive day of basketball action, the Cavs and the 76ers were the last two teams standing when the dust settled. The 76ers were awarded the championship, as the Cavs were not able to attend the Championship game due to an illness that affected many of the team members. The Cavs, led by 2012 standout **Keith Carter, Rishaad Alexander, and Brenton Little** played inspired basketball on both ends of the floor as they defeated the Knicks, Suns, Blazers, and Heat. The 76ers, led by tournament MVP and Ohio State-bound **Lenzelle Smith Jr.**, also had a tough road to the finals. They defeated a solid Pacers team, a dangerous Bobcats team who had played well enough to earn a top four seed throughout league play, and a Mavs team led by **Shawn Wallace and Quinton Chevious**.

NBA ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM:

Lenzelle Smith Jr. (76ers, Zion-Benton HS)
Keith Carter (Cavs, Proviso East HS)
Austin Weber (Lakers, Glenbrook North HS)
Josh Rappaport (Warriors, Grayslake Central HS)
Ahmad Starks (Knicks, Whitney Young HS)
Quinton Chevious (Mavs, Niles Notre Dame HS)
Aaron Johnson (Suns, Waukegan HS)
Shawn Wallace (Mavs, Niles Notre Dame HS)
Andrew Sipes (Warriors, Grayslake Central HS)
Ben Brust (Rockets, Mundelein HS)
Peter Szostak (Lakers, Glenbrook North HS)
Quan Conner (Suns, Waukegan HS)
Christian Sotos (Pacers, Conant HS)
Brenton Little (Cavs, Proviso East HS)
Jacob Williams (Celtics, St. Patrick HS)
Aaron Simpson (Nuggets, North Chicago HS)
Owen Worthington (76ers, Zion-Benton HS)
Derrick Randolph (Knicks, Whitney Young HS)
Jordan Threlhoff (Hornets, DeKalb)
Vince Kmiec (Bobcats, Sandburg HS)
Kevin Schlitter (Bulls, Maine South HS)
Richie Kempf (Jazz, Rolling Meadows HS)
Patrick Killean (Bulls, Maine South HS)

Mike Springs (Suns, Waukegan HS)
Rishaad Alexander (Cavs, Proviso East HS)

“THE BUZZ” FROM COURTSIDE:

Although they were knocked out by a strong Suns team, no other team has had a better league than the Bulls (Maine South)...those guys play hard, play unselfish, run their system to perfection, and are going to be a handful come November.....Same can be said for the Sonics. Although they bowed out to the Kings in a tightly contested game, they play hard, are unselfish, play physical, and actually like to defend. They are coached well at the high school level, are led by Class of 2010 standout **Chris Klimek**, and appear to be poised for a successful season.....2012 standout **Keith Carter** (Cavs, Proviso East HS) is REALLY good. His game is fluid and smooth, and when he is in attack-mode, he is almost unstoppable getting to the rim.....Just watched **Austin Weber** (Lakers, Glenbrook North HS) put up 37 points against a very, very, talented Knicks team. There aren't many better shooters throughout the state than Weber.....Speaking of the Knicks, 6'8 post player **Jermaine Morgan** is also REALLY, REALLY good. His length and superb athleticism make him a dominant post presence in the class of 2012.....Class of 2011 standout **Jack Ryan** (Raptors, Glenbrook South HS) has also improved his perimeter skills since the summer ended. He, too, is long, athletic, and now appears to be adding an improved perimeter skill set to his repertoire.....2011 standout **Quan Conner** (Suns, Waukegan HS) can score the ball on anyone. He really is instant offense.....The Mavs have had a nice run. **Shawn Wallace** is a menacing defender with improving offensive skills, and he is flanked by 2011 stud **Quinton Chevious** to form as tough of a high school tandem as you will find. They, too, are coached very well at the high school level, and appear to be headed for success up the road.....Although injury held him out of the playoffs; 6'4 **Jermaine Winfield** (Kings, North Lawndale Prep) was dominant throughout league play. What's even better is that he seems like a great young man, and a solid teammate.....Although short-handed throughout most of the league, the Thunder played really hard from start to finish every single game.....Can't help but root for 6'4 wing **Andrew Sipes** (Warriors, Grayslake Central). Not only did he have an incredible tournament, but he is doing so while still recovering from a severe knee injury. Hard-working kid who will be an asset to a college program....Kudos to the Blazers for defeating a tough and talented Spurs team in the opening round.....**Justin Wasik** (Bulls, Maine South HS) is tough as nails. Not only does he play hard all the time, but he just dove into a chair head-first, and then re-joined the play. Gotta love it!.....

THE “POINT” IS, THESE GUYS ARE LEADERS...

- **Joe LaTulip** (5'11, Spurs, Prospect HS): As good of a high school leader as there is. Can shoot the three with range and is fearless on the court. What we like most is that he makes players around him better and has a distinct knack for making big plays. LaTulip is the leader of a well-coached Prospect program, looking to build off of recent success.
- **Ryan Davis** (6'1, Thunder, Deerfield HS): Sports a 29 ACT score, and is a true floor general. Has good length and a nice frame, which makes him tough to defend, especially for smaller guards. Makes great decisions with the ball, and has greatly improved throughout the past several months. We feel his best basketball is still ahead of him.
- **Mike Springs** (5'10, Suns, Waukegan HS): Lightning quick point guard that was arguably the best on-ball defender in the entire league. More of a pass-first mentality, but can also score the

basketball when his team needs him to. Provides great leadership on the court, and is of high character off of it.

- **Stephen Thorpe** (5'7, Kings, North Lawndale HS): Often unheralded on a team of highly touted prospects, Thorpe always seems to make the right decisions, and is as tough as they come. He is a high-character kid, who will be an asset to a college program looking for a leader, and a true point guard. He is currently the all-time assist leader at North Lawndale College Prep, and will be a four year varsity starter. On top of his on-court achievements, he also sports a 3.5/4.0 G.P.A.

DON'T "SLEEP" ON THESE GUYS, OR THEY WILL MAKE YOU PAY...

- **D.J. Bennett** (6'8 senior, Bobcats, Sandburg HS): It seemed like he improved each week. He has an abundance of raw ability, no question, but there is so much to like about his game. He has a tremendous frame, and a wing-span that makes him a defensive presence in the paint. His offensive game is a work in progress, but he is making consistent strides forward...especially considering he has only played basketball for a few years.

- **Vince Kmiec** (6'4 senior, Bobcats, Sandburg HS): A 3-point marksman in every sense of the word. Put up some huge games from behind the arc throughout the league. His size gives him the ability to defend bigger guards. He scored a 28 on the ACT and has a G.P.A. of 3.85 on a 4.0 scale.

- **Richie Kempf** (6'2 senior, Jazz, Rolling Meadows HS): We love his mentality on the court. He is a fearless competitor, and we believe he is in the elite class of shooters in the state. Also has good size, and will be a tremendous asset to a college program.

- **James Stack** (5'11 senior, Blazers, Barrington HS): Didn't play much as a junior at the high school level, but has definitely arrived as a senior. Can shoot the three with range and has shown the ability to handle the ball. Is an above-average student who may be headed the prep-school route to allow his body the opportunity to develop.

- **P.J. Killean** (6'3 senior, Bulls, Maine South HS): A strong physical guard, who can shoot the three with accuracy. Noted for being physical on both ends of the floor, P.J. has started and been a main contributor the past two seasons for a strong Maine South program. He boasts a 29 A.C.T. score, and with his size and strength, will be prize for a collegiate program looking for a bigger perimeter threat.

"YOUTH" GONE WILD...

- **Derrick Randolph** (5'8 sophomore, Knicks, Whitney Young HS): Talented scorer and fearless on the court. Makes big plays and big shots when his team needs him.

- **Aaron Simpson** (6'0 sophomore, Nuggets, North Chicago HS): A dynamic offensive player that can score at will on anyone. Leader of a talented North Chicago team that is poised to make a post-season run.

- **Michael Orris** (6'1 sophomore, Grizzlies, Palatine HS): A big, strong guard that gets to the rim and can finish with either hand. Also has vastly improved his mid-range game. Needs to maintain a consistent level of aggressiveness on both ends of the floor, but that should come with maturity.

- **Keith Carter** (6'0 sophomore, Cavs, Proviso East HS): The most impressive underclassman in the league, and one of the top prospects in the 2012 class. He makes plays on both ends of the floor, and when in attack mode, can get to the rim and finish on just about anyone. Has an incredible upside, and plays at such a smooth tempo that nothing ever looks forced or rushed.

- **Andrew McAuliffe** (6'7 freshman, Lakers, Glenbrook North HS): Great footwork, and soft hands. Showed the ability to mix it up with top-level competition, and do more than hold his own.
- **Darius Paul** (6'6 sophomore, Hawks, Warren HS): Talk about versatility. Can play all five positions on the court, and has great size and length. Has a tremendous feel for the game, and the flashes he currently shows will become more consistent as his body continues to develop.
- **Roman Shultz** (6'5 sophomore, Hawks, Warren HS): Long and athletic wing/post who is in the embryonic stages of learning the game. Has a tremendous upside, and is really strong with his back to the basket. Very high ceiling form this young man.
- **Mike LaTulip** (5'11 sophomore, Spurs, Prospect HS): Without question, one of the top shooters in the state, regardless of class. Once his body develops, he will become more of a factor in other facets of the game.
- **Joe Prince** (5'10 sophomore, T-Wolves, Glenbrook North HS): Explosive lefty that can get to the rim and score. Also has the length to be a good defender and could become a factor for a strong Glenbrook North team.
- **Brian Nelms** (5'9 sophomore, Jazz, Rolling Meadows HS): Hard-nosed point guard that knows how to compete and makes big plays for his team. Can shoot the three, and understands how to lead a team.

“FINAL THOUGHTS”...

With 32 NBA division teams, and over 50 high school programs represented throughout, the JG League provided its participants with the best competition around, and the perfect way to prepare for the upcoming high school basketball season. Not only was the league rich in individual talent, it also a common Sunday stop for over 35 Division II and III colleges and universities, as well as many of the state's top recruiting analysts and website publications. To a person, everyone that walked in the door to observe the league commented on how competitive it was. Without question, there were many players and teams that stood out and deserve to be recognized. While we hope we covered all of our bases, we know we might have left someone out. For that, we do apologize ahead of time. The JG Staff wants to extend a sincere thank you to the teams, players and coaches that contributed to make this the best fall league to date. We look forward to an even better league next year!

