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Spencer Freedman Dominates Earl Watson West Coast Elite Jr All-American Camp

Published on February 10, 2014 by [Clark Francis](#)

The big story over the weekend at the [Earl Watson West Coast Elite Basketball Camp powered by Under Armour](#) at Gahr High School in Cerritos, CA was the total dominance by 5'10 8th Grader **Spencer Freedman** from Pacific Palisades, CA, who is currently ranked #5 nationally in the Class of 2018 by the *HOOP SCOOP* and is about as good as you can get at this age without having tremendous size or freak-like athleticism. What he does best is shoot the basketball, as is evident by the fact that he clearly was the best outside shooter in the entire camp and, believe it not, he made 12 3-pointers in a single game. He's also a true combo guard, because he's also extremely good at the point guard spot, thanks to his great court vision and pin-point passing accuracy, terrific ball handling skills, high basketball IQ, and excellent leadership qualities. In other words, Freedman is like a coach on the floor and he also does a good job of taking what the defense gives him, as he appears to have a keen sense of when to take the shot or when to hit the open man. The fact that he's also a terrific student, seems to really enjoy playing the game and always has smile on his face, and appears to be a great kid are just added bonuses.

The best prospect in the camp, as well as the biggest sleeper to emerge in the camp was 6'1 8th Grader **Wayne Arnold** from Los Angeles, CA. We're talking about an amazing athlete who plays with a high energy level, has terrific crossover dribble and knack for being able to finish in transition, and the ability to also pull up and beat you with his outside shooting. He also has extremely quick hands, rebounds well for his size, and is oozing with all kind of natural talent and potential. And to make this story even more interesting is the fact that Arnold tells us that this was the first camp or organized event that he has ever attended, which makes us believe that this is a guy who will quickly bolt from total obscurity into a top five or 10 player nationally in his class. On the other hand, Arnold recently cast his lot with the L.A. Rockfish club team and his rapid develop would be easily explained if the Rockfish himself (**Dave Benezra**) has been providing him with individual attention with regards to skill development.

The most intriguing player in the entire camp was 6'6 8th Grader **Miles Norris** from San Diego, CA, and the clear answer to be the limit for this type of athletic talent.

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freedman

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San Diego, CA and the sky appears to be the limit for this long lanky athletic post player who runs the court extremely well for somebody his size and already is an intimidating presence with his length and size at the defensive end. He will need to get a lot bigger and stronger physically and the development of his offensive game is still in its infancy. But, like they say, you can't teach size and, in this case, we're talking about a potential 7-footer. We also were really impressed with the blue collar work ethic and the knack for being able to find a way to score that we consistently saw out of 6'6 8th Grader **Riley Battin** from Westlake Village, CA. Not only does he have good post moves and a great nose for the ball, which he uses to get more than his share of offensive rebounds, but he also has good enough ball handling and passing skills and the outside shooting necessary to play some out on the perimeter. On the other hand, we question whether Battin will have the foot speed necessary to ultimately guard somebody out on the perimeter at a higher level. But that may not matter, because he's projected to grow another two or three inches and, as a result, will likely end up being a 6'8 or 6'9 high major power forward down the road.

In contrast, 6'4 8th Grader **Austin Galuppo** from Valencia, CA was surprisingly athletic, mobile, and skilled out on the wing, where he was one the best outside shooters in the camp and he also did likewise by knocking at least five 3-pointers in the top 20 all-star game. One of the quickest players in camp was 5'10 8th Grader **Jamal Hartwell** from Inglewood, CA and he not only made a living off his explosiveness in transition, but he also did a great job defensively against 5'10 8th Grader **Spencer Freedman** from Pacific Palisades, CA in the Top 20 All-Star Game and against 5'11 7th Grader **Amani Harris** from Inglewood, CA in their head-to-head battle on the first day. Speaking of Harris, this jet quick combo guard sometimes can be too quick for his own good, but he has tremendous natural talent and is very difficult to stop when he is using his speed and quickness to beat his man in the open court and slashing to the basket in transition.

And, of course, there was 5'5 7th Grader **Lamelo Ball** from Chino Hills, CA, who is the younger brother of UCLA-bound 6'4 Soph **Lonzo Ball** from Chino Hills (H.S.) CA and was one of the best passers and most efficient floor generals in camp. He does need to improve his outside shooting, but he is crafty with the ball, has a high basketball IQ, and it's difficult not to like his court savvy. There also was 6'2 8th Grader **Scooter Smith** from Los Angeles, CA and this athletic wing impressed us with his ability to come up big at crunch time, score in a variety of ways, and lock up his man up defensively. We also made note of the fact that 6'3 8th Grader **Eric Mobley** from Murrieta, CA is now like a jack-of-all-trades with his improved skill-set, higher level of confidence, and the versatility necessary to play both inside and outside. And the same also can be said about 6'3 8th Grader **Maka Ellis** from Las Vegas, NV, who has always been a lights out shooter, but continues to grow and has really improved his conditioning and athleticism and, as a result, is now versatile enough to play at least three different positions.

20 More Players Worthy of Special Mention Listed Alphabetically

Freddie Burton – arguably the best 6th Grader in camp, unfortunately he didn't take advantage of his strength and build, as he spent most of his time out on the perimeter.

Harrison Butler – this athletic wing has a soft touch on his jump shot and can knock down the 3-point shot with proficiency. However, the big key here may be how much he grows, because he has the physical attributes necessary to evolve into a beast inside.

Joseph Butler - he passes the look test with his size and build, but he always leaves you wanting more, as he's not very quick afoot and is very raw offensively.



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Justin Chang – came through with flying colors in the final seconds with two 3-pointers and the and-one in the Second 20 All-Star Game to give his team a 91-90 win.

Teashon Cherry – is a fluid athletic power forward who is active on the boards, but will need to get bigger and stronger physically as continues to mature and take his game to a higher level.

Taieem Comeaux – this versatile athlete wing forward has good skills and is explosive in transition.

Tahjan Comeaux – he's similar to his twin brother, but his game is not quite as skilled or refined.

Kobe Craig – although he's not really a tough customer, he still was one of the better big men in camp and we liked his skills and the way he got a lot done away from the ball.

Rip Economenu – we didn't even notice this guy until we saw him play in the Top 20 All-Star Game. But we liked the way he pulled the trigger and he has an excellent pedigree (his father played basketball at UConn).

Devin Garcia – this athletic 4-man is quick afoot, has good post moves, was explosive in transition, and was one of the better players in the Top 20 All-Star Game.

Jonathan Hill – his excellent speed, quickness, and explosive off the dribble, ability to penetrate and dish, willingness to make his teammates better, desire to play excellent defense, and his high basketball IQ made him one of the best point guards in camp.

Johnny Juzang – showed good form on his jump shot and impressed us with his outside shooting.

Isaiah Johnson – is versatile enough to play both inside and outside, we liked him best when he was using his quickness and athleticism to rebound, block shots, and score in the low post. He also is a thoroughbred, but has a tendency to over handle when he's bringing the ball up the court and trying to start the offense.

Martis Johnson – he put up impressive numbers, did a good job of attacking the basket, and probably should have been in the Top 20 All-Star Game, instead of the Second Top All-Star Game.

Je'ylon Parrish – this jet quick athlete 2-guard makes a living going coast-to-coast. He also has good ball handling skills, but is more of a slasher than a shooter or a facilitator.

Jamil Safieddine – is a good passer and playmaker and was named MVP in the Second 20 All-Star Game.

Wes Slajchert - what he does best is hit the pull-up jump shot and he was one of the better 3-point shooters in camp.

Lunden Taylor – this athletic 2-guard has good ball handling and passing skills, quickness off the dribble, and a knack for being able to get his shot.

Isaiah Thompson – he is a physical specimen and can be a beast inside at the defensive end. Unfortunately he also is very raw and lacks any post moves at the offensive end.

Charley Wadler -he impressed us with his deep shooting range, but it still was somewhat of a surprise when he showed up in the Top 20 All-Star Game.

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