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## Talented and bright youngsters show skills at Pangos

Written on February 25, 2013 by [Frank Burlison](#)

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REDONDO BEACH, Ca. – Some of the players will have major impacts on the high school scene as soon as nine or so months from now.

Others may not make their marks as preps until two, three, four or more years later.

Whatever the case may be for the 200 or so players, currently in fourth to eighth grades, on display Saturday and Sunday, the first-ever Pangos Junior All-American Camp was mostly a terrific playing and viewing experience for those who showed up at Redondo High either or both days.

Evaluating high school and even college basketball players in order to project their potential success on the “next level” (be it college or professional hoops) is always an iffy proposition at best.

Doing so for players who are barely teen-agers, or younger, borders on something approaching an impossible – some might suggest “pointless” – exercise.

That conceded, here are some of the players whose on-court performances most consistently got my attention over the two days:

As far as eighth grade “big men” (and, at that level, anyone at least six-foot in stature qualifies as “big”), some of those performances impressed me would be considered *big* regardless of their age.

Among the noteworthy of those were (heights are my estimates) 6-foot-9 **DeAndre Ayton** (San Diego), 6-8 **Jacob Hughes** (Yorba Linda, CA), 6-3 **Matt Bender** (San Diego), 6-3 **Malik Jackson** (Moreno Valley, CA), 6-6 **Robbie Robinson** (San Diego), 6-3 **Ryan Kiley** (Las Vegas), 6-3 **Travis Friar** (Los Gatos, CA), 6-1 **Adam Hess** (Westlake Village, CA), 6-3 **Kale Baldado** (San Diego) and 6-4 **Luke Lundin** (Marina Del Rey, CA).

Guards (or the generic “perimeter players”) among eighth graders that showed a lot of skill and savvy included 5-8 **Spencer Freedman** (Pacific Palisades, CA), 6-2 **Chris Popoola Jr.** (Las Vegas), 5-10 **Marcus Shaver** (Honolulu, HI), 6-1 **Charles O'Bannon Jr.** (Las Vegas), 6-1 **Jalen Harris** (Los Angeles), 5-11 **Michael Curley** (Temecula, CA), 5-8 **Jamal Hartwell** (Inglewood, CA), 5-9 **Isom Butler** (Fontana, CA), 5-10 **Ethan Thompson** (Torrance, CA), 6-2 **Scooter Smith** (Los Angeles), 6-1 **Justin Hemsley** (La Verne, CA), 5-6 **Kyle Small** (Anaheim, CA), 5-9 **Robert Young** (San Diego), 5-8 **Calvin Fugett** (Denver, CO) and 6-1 **Ryse Williams** (San Pedro, CA).

Among the most advanced seventh graders I watched were 6-7 **Jordan Brown** (Sacramento), 6-4 **J'raan Brooks** (San Diego), 6-2 **Cassius Stanley** (Chatsworth, CA), 6-0 **Payton**

### Meet Frank

Frank Burlison is a well-regarded basketball writer who was inducted into the U.S. Basketball Writers Association Hall of Fame in 2005. His opinions on the potential of high school and college players are widely respected and sought by college coaches and NBA scouts, personnel directors and general managers from coast to coast. Oh, yes – he can offer plenty of thoughts on movies, television and pop music. Yes, he can rank those, too. Hint: He's a big *The Godfather*, *Larry Sanders*, *The Wire* and *The Beatles* loyalist.



To learn more about Frank's scouting services, [click here](#).

### Endorsements

“I've known Frank since he was a student at Long Beach State and no writer ever worked harder at studying and understanding basketball. When I was coaching I always put more stock into what he said about (high school) players than anyone I knew. As far as I'm concerned, he's the best there is at evaluating the potential of basketball players.”

**Lute Olson, Hall of Fame and NCAA Championship Winning Coach**

“I have known Frank for 15 years and there is no one outside of those in the Clippers' organization that I trust more than Frank when it comes to player evaluations.”

**Neil Olshey, Portland Trail Blazers' General Manager**

“Frank Burlison has always been a proponent of my talent and, even more so, of my potential – far before it was evident to most. Even as a smaller and determined player who was being overlooked by most high-major colleges and national scouting services, Frank always served as a friendly voice who got me into the door to most events to help me prove my talents.”

**Russell Westbrook, the No. 4 overall selection in the 2008 NBA Draft out of UCLA and an all-star guard for the Oklahoma City Thunder**

To see what other people in basketball are saying about Frank, [click here](#).

**Moore** (Los Angeles), 6-2 **Scooter Smith** (Los Angeles), 5-4 **Kameron Small** (Anaheim, CA), 5-5 **Bryce Zephir** (Long Beach CA), 5-11 **Deven Nelson** (Fountain, CO) and 6-4 **Paul Bingham** (Los Angeles).

I was also impressed with some of the young gentlemen off the court, as I had nice conversations with eighth-graders **Cassius Byethwood** (Inglewood, CA) and **David Vasquez** (West Linn, OR) and seventh-grader **Anthony Chavez** (Arcadia, CA). Each of the three seemed quite sharp, focused and sincere.

I'm sure their families are very proud of them.


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## 12 Responses to Talented and bright youngsters show skills at Pangos

**HALA**

February 26, 2013 | 1:19 pm

YOU SPELLED MY SONS NAME WRONG.. IT'S NOT KARL BALDADO, IT'S KALE BALDADO.

THANK YOU FOR THE WRITE UP. I'M A PROUD MAMA!! WHETHER IT BE ON THE COURT OR ACADEMICALLY, HE'S STILL A GREAT KID!!!  
AGAIN THANK YOU!!!

**AUNTIE JANENE**

February 26, 2013 | 4:24 pm

Proud Auntie of KALE BALDADO!! Great kid who is going places...on the court & off!

**Dolores**

February 26, 2013 | 5:42 pm

Thank you for acknowledging my son, Anthony. He was inspired with the conversation he had with you. You also made me a proud Mom and its great to know others see what I am always telling him... sharp, focused and sincere!

**REGGIE**

February 26, 2013 | 8:48 pm

Thank you for giving my son Cassius Bythewood a shout out. He is actually a sixth grader. Not an 8th grader. He was very happy to meet you. Thanks for taking the time to speak with him. Very cool of you.

**Ron Waller**

February 27, 2013 | 2:00 am

What about 6 graders, were you impress with their class?

[Pangos Junior All-American Camp Recap Courtesy Frank Burlison | West Coast Elite 25 Club Basketball](#)

March 1, 2013 | 8:40 am

[...] Talented and bright youngsters show skills at Pangos [...]

**Dominique Winbush**

March 1, 2013 | 10:32 am

Was wondering what you thought of my son Dominique ( Diggy ) Winbush #77 the 6th grade point guard on the cream of the crop black team. or do you only comment on 7th and 8th