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Five observations: Pangos All-American Camp

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Joel Francisco

CARSON, Calif. -- Here are five observations from the Pangos All-American camp, and yet again Dinos Trigonis has lured elite level talent to his camp and this year may be his finest East Coast haul.

Five observations

1. Trigonis decided to go with a Co-MVP of his event and [Mustapha Heron](#) and [Rawle Alkins](#) were the recipients of that award. Heron dominated his foes with crisp ball handling, nifty passing, and powerful finishes while Alkins dominated his defenders with explosive drives, savvy passing, as well as a few pull-up jump shots.
2. The prospect with the highest ceiling at the camp was arguably [Mohammed Bamba](#). His long arms, broad shoulders, good hands, nimble feet, and ultra-bouncy are part of the package. Syracuse, Arizona, UConn, Kansas, Villanova, Texas, Maryland, and Florida State are on the trail for this possible future [Kevin Garnett](#).
3. One of the most productive power forwards in this camp was [Taurean Thompson](#). Pittsburgh, Rutgers, Xavier, Oklahoma, Arizona State among others are pursuing Thompson due to his bouncy nature, soft shooting touch, and evolving post skills. He is a quick leaping inside-out threat who also utilizes the pump fake and an explosive first step to dominate in the paint area.
4. The biggest surprise of the event was the emergence of [Isaiah Washington](#) (New York/St. Raymonds). It's shocking that the 2017 point guard prospect is a relative unknown, considering he resides in the basketball mecca, New York City. Washington is a lengthy lead guard who changes speeds very well, drains 3-point shots, and is a clever distributor. Look for him to be one of the fastest

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Central
Chicago Bulls

rising point guards in his class this July.

5. There may not be a better combination of academics and basketball talent in one prospect than in Javin Montgomery-Delaurier. The lengthy 4-man with magnetic hands, catapult-like bounce, and a high motor demonstrated throughout the camp that he was one of the upper-tier prospects. He is still raw, but his face-up skills (quick first step), rebounding, and ability to affect the game at both ends was impressive.

Pangos notebook

[Terrance Ferguson](#) and [Omari Spellman](#) showed why they are considered elite-level prospects. Ferguson is a high-flying big guard who can drain deep jump shots, but needs to work on his middle game, while Spellman wreaked havoc in the paint with his long arms, soft hands, motor, and deceptive bounce.

[Spencer Freedman](#), the gifted 2018 point guard out of Santa Monica, California, put on a passing exhibition at this event. He is arguably the second-best passer in Southern California behind UCLA-bound [Lonzo Ball](#).

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If you're looking for a high school version of Nick Van Exel (former NBA standout), look no further than the fast-rising [Shamorie Ponds](#). Minnesota appears to be out in front after a unofficial visit during Memorial Day. However, look for St. John's and possibly Maryland to make a strong push.

[Harry Giles](#) may be the only other power forward that comes to mind that has the offensive repertoire of Arizona-bound [TJ Leaf](#). Leaf can drain 3s, posterize opponents in transition, hand out nifty assists, and has a knack to score in the paint.

[Ethan Thompson](#), the brother of ESPN 100 SG Stephen Thompson Jr., is further along than his older brother at the same stage. The younger Thompson has an effortless shooting touch and is clever (changes speeds) off the dribble.

Georgia coach Mark Fox found a good one for his future back court in [Tyree Crump](#), who is clever off the bounce, has excellent vision, and gets great lift on his jump shot.

If 2017 standout [Billy Preston](#) would keep his game simple and operate from the elbow to the rim, his offensive efficiency and overall productivity would sky rocket. His frame, skills, and touch are high-level. However, he becomes inefficient and turnover prone when masquerading like a lead guard.

When it comes to finding a blue-collar 4-man, look no further than [Barret Benson](#). Purdue appears to be out in front of Illinois, Northwestern, Nebraska,

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Kansas State, and Iowa State for this productive paint dweller.

One of the better kept secrets out west is 6-foot-6 [Sam Cunliffe](#). The rangy wing-type is multi-skilled and is being recruited by most schools in the Pacific Northwest. In addition, he'll be taking an unofficial visit to Arizona State after the camp.

[Andre Rafus](#), who is transferring to St. Benedicts (Newark, New Jersey), is a rising junior with a plethora of scoring skills. However, his game could get to another level by making others around him better with the pass.

If you're looking for a few prospects who can elevate with the best of them, look no further than 2016 [Javonnatie Jackson](#), 2019 [Cassius Stanley](#), and 2016 [Cameron McGriff](#). Ironically, Stanley is the most skilled among the trio of bouncy rim mashers.



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Top prospect Josh Jackson shaped by his mother



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