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## West Coast showcases: Kamaka Hepa top Alaskan since Chalmers

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Joel Francisco

NORWALK, Calif. -- Alaska has produced a handful of high-level Division I players over the years, a group that includes NBA stars Carlos Boozer and Mario Chalmers, as well as former Duke All-American Trajan Langdon.

[Kamaka Hepa](#), from the remote (even for Alaska) city of Barrow, is the latest name to know from the 49th state. The No. 21 player in the ESPN 25 for 2018, Hepa proved why he was a high-major prospect at Dinos Trigonis' Fullcourt Press All Frosh-Soph Camp this past weekend.



Kamaka Hepa's skills will have recruiters keeping their eye on the Alaska hoops scene. Joe Francisco/ESPN

The best way to define the 6-7, 210 pounder's game is that he is a basketball player in every sense of the word. Hepa's a four-man who can nail jump shots out to 17 feet, rebounds in his area, and his footwork and passing are fundamentally sound.

Though you won't see Hepa on a college basketball court until 2018 -- and you probably won't make it to Barrow to see him play -- his is a name to remember.

Some more observations from the event in Norwalk:

### **Freedman, Singleton, and Bernard are cream of the crop**

Though there were a few notable no-shows like [Miles Norris](#), [Shareef O'Neal](#), and La Melo Ball, the event was still oozing with talent including a trio of future Division I talents like [Spencer Freedman](#), [Jules Bernard](#), and [David Singleton](#).

That trio was a cut above the rest in Spencer Freedman, Jules Bernard, and David Singleton.

Freedman wowed the onlookers with his off-the-charts feel, innate passing ability, and smooth shooting touch. Bernard has the most upside of the trio with his impressive combination of length, skill, and bounce. Meanwhile, Singleton demonstrated why he'll be considered one of the better guards out west due to his scoring ability and playmaking ability in transition.

### **Isaac Johnson could be next major star from Utah**

After the July evaluation period, the country became very aware of Duke-bound Utah native [Frank Jackson](#). The state's next crop of young prospects was unveiled at this event led by 6-foot-6 sophomore Zach Taylor, 6-foot-8 freshman Isaac Johnson, and 5-foot-11 freshman Rylan Jones.

Taylor is a long-armed 4-man with an involving inside-out game who also possesses an excellent motor while Jones is a gritty point guard who can stroke it from deep. However, the best prospect in Utah (other than Jackson) may be Johnson. The willowy Johnson needs to gain strength, but he has the ball skills, shooting touch, and athleticism to be an elite high-major if he continues to improve his inside-out game.

### **Allen and Cherry at the top of production chart**

Timothy Allen and [Taeshon Cherry](#) stood out from the get-go due to their ability to make plays at both ends of the floor. Allen, who has a Paul Pierce-like frame, is a multi-skilled wing-type who can score inside-out with relative ease while Cherry dominates with rebounding, filling the lane, and spot-up jump shots.

On the other hand, Allen needs to get his legs into his shot, as well as be aware of how he uses his off arm while battling in the paint -- this tendency could lead to future offensive fouls.

### **Stanley and Mobley show promise**

Two of the more promising prospects out of the class of 2019 are 6-5 [Cassius Stanley](#) and 6-7 [Isaiah Mobley](#). Both of them need to play with more urgency at both ends, but their upside is very high. When it comes to athleticism Stanley is

right there with 2016 standout [Malik Monk](#), but he needs to learn how to impact the game in the halfcourt set, both in terms of skill and fundamentals. Mobley, on the other hand, shows a budding face-up game as well as a solid touch out to 15 feet.

### Fullcourt Press notes

-- The city of San Diego also received fine performances from [Taurus Samuels](#), [Warren Washington](#), and [Jalen Flanagan](#). Samuels is savvy point guard who can drain shots from the perimeter while Washington is a willowy 4-man who is bouncy and shows an evolving skill set inside and out. Meanwhile, Flanagan plays a bit too fast, but attacks the rim with a vengeance and his jump shot is on the come.

-- Oak Park High School has a terrific inside-out tandem of sophomores [Riley Battin](#) and [Wes Slajchert](#). Battin plays the game well beyond his years in the paint area due to his impeccable footwork and soft touch, while Slajchert impacts the game with his shooting touch and passing acumen.

-- Two of the biggest surprises of the camp was 6-7 sophomore Marlon Cunningham (Albuquerque, NM) and 6-5 Daijon Davis (Garden Grove, Calif./Orangewood Academy). The bulky Cunningham is a lefty with a soft shooting touch who can also carve out space in the paint area and convert buckets. Davis, on the other hand, is an explosive wing-type who exhibits a nice shooting touch and solid instincts, especially in the paint area.

-- There might not be a faster rising point guard in Southern California than [Brandon Williams](#). The Crespi product needs to get better going left, but his crossover and burst are tight and he is equally effective passing or scoring from lead guard position.

-- There were a handful of players who came into this event with no reputation and 6-6 freshman Jake Kyman (Santa Margarita HS/Rancho Santa Margarita, CA) was one of those examples. However, after watching this bouncy 4/3 with long arms score from all three levels rebound, and drop off a few nifty passes, it appears his future is quite bright.

-- Ben Baker, a 6-2 combo-guard out of Berkeley, California, was one of the better combo guards in this camp. The ambidextrous floor general can shoot it from deep and has an uncanny ability to finish with either hand while attacking the rim.

-- If [Payton Moore](#) cleans up his jump shot, the 6-4 [Marcus Smart](#) play-a-like will be recruited at a high level due to his ability to impact the game with his energy, athleticism, and ball skills.



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## Camp superlatives: Jay Estime makes bid for ESPN 60 in Atlanta

19h

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Jay Estime starred at Atlanta's AllMetroShowcase over the weekend. John Lopez/Nike

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ATLANTA -- A lot of great talent descended on Atlanta this past weekend at the AllMetroHoops Showcase. Event founder Horace Neysmith did a very nice job of getting some of the Atlanta area's best, including the players below:

**Best wing/Best player: Jay Estime (2017, SG/SF, 6-5, 190, Berkmar/Lilburn, GA)**

Estime is a much-improved wing who dominated the camp with his size on the wing and his offensive versatility. He has a solid body, is a monster in transition and the halfcourt, and can score consistently above the rim. Estime has solid range on his jump shot to 20 feet, and is accurate when his feet are set. He has



gotten a lot better since the summer, and should be a candidate for the ESPN 60 when the rankings are updated.

**Best shooting guard: [Al Durham](#) (2017, SG, 6-4, 180, Berkmar/Lilburn, GA)**

Durham is a smooth lefty wing who can do a little bit of everything on the court. He showed his offensive package this past weekend with solid shooting to 20 feet, mid-range jumpers off the dribble and drives to the basket both in transition and in the halfcourt. Durham is also an excellent passer, with a strong enough basketball IQ that he could conceivably play point guard. He is a very versatile performer and a definite top-100 player in his class.

**Best combo guard: [Collin Sexton](#) (2017, PG/SG, 6-1, 175, Pebblebrook/Mableton, GA)**

Sexton is an athletic combo guard who is best with the ball in his hands. He may not always make the best decisions, but he is a playmaker and can score at will and in bunches. Sexton is also quick to try to dunk on somebody in transition. He has the potential to be a lockdown defender with his length, strength and athletic ability, and sits just outside the ESPN 60 with the definite potential to move up.

**Best point guard: [Darius Perry](#) (2017, PG, 6-1, 170, Wheeler/Marietta, GA)**

Perry, currently No. 58 in the ESPN 60 for 2017, is a blur with the basketball. He is very good off the dribble and was impossible to stop in transition in Atlanta. He is more of a "points" guard than a point guard, and his best skills are his ability to create for himself and make difficult shots, but he can effectively create for others as well. A definite offensive dynamo, Perry is one of the best guards in the 2017 class nationally.

**Best freshman: [Kyle Sturdivant](#) (2019, PG, 6-2, 170, Norcross/Norcross, GA)**

Sturdivant has a very mature game for his grade. He is a pure combo guard who is fully capable of playing the one or the two, and has a solid, mature body that allowed him to easily compete and excel versus the older players. Kyle is a solid shooter to 17 feet and showed good athletic ability in transition. He should definitely be included in the discussion of some of the top 9th-graders nationally.

**Best combo forward: [Rayshaun Hammonds](#) (2017, SF/PF, 6-7, 190. Norcross/Norcross, GA)**

Hammonds is an athletic and skilled combo forward. The lefty is more of a 3

than a 4 but if he continues to grow he would be perfect for the new hybrid or stretch-4 position. He is a good ball handler, passer and scorer and was dominant when he was engaged in the game. The only questions about Hammonds are the consistency of his outside shot and the consistency of his motor. That being said, he is extremely talented and has a huge upside.

**Best post: Kyrin Galloway (2016, PF/C, 6-7, 215, Milton/Milton, GA)**

In a camp practically devoid of post players, Galloway definitely stood out. Kyrin appeared to be a low-to-mid-major Division I talent at first look. He was most effective inside 15 feet where he could face and score from mid-range, or put the ball on the floor and attack the basket. Kyrin showed the ability to be a solid rebounder and scorer in the paint. He should be a priority for any mid- or lower-DI program that recruits the South.



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