



On The Trail

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Nike Extravaganza superlatives: Lonzo Ball a once-in-a-generation passer



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-- The Nike Extravaganza is a West Coast-centered event that features many of the top high school teams in the west. There were plenty of high-level players and competitive games throughout the two-day event:



Best player: [Lonzo Ball](#) (2016, ESPN 100 No. 5, PG, 6-5, 195, Chino Hills/Chino Hills, CA – committed to [UCLA](#))

Ball is probably the best passer I have seen in 20 years of covering high school basketball. His feel and IQ are incredible. In addition to his passing prowess, Ball had 27 points in a victory over Las Vegas Bishop Gorman, for a Chino Hills team that has become a machine. It marked the first time I've seen four high school players all score 20 or more points in the same game ... for the same team. Ball and brothers LaMelo and LiAngelo (all UCLA-bound) combined for 74 points, while uncommitted 2017 wing [Elizjah Scott](#) added 22 more.



Lonzo Ball was one of four Chino Hills players with 20+ points against Bishop Gorman.
AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez

Best point guard (other than Ball): [Spencer Freedman](#) (2018, unranked in ESPN 25, PG, 6-0, 160, Mater Dei/Santa Ana, CA -- uncommitted)

Freedman is a tough gamer. He is a pass-first point guard but can make plays either scoring or passing. Freedman had 19 points in Mater Dei's win over Phoenix Shadow Mountain. He's a candidate for inclusion in our initial ESPN 60 for the 2018 class, which will be revealed after the high school season.

Best wing: [Charles O'Bannon Jr.](#) (2017, No. 16 in ESPN 60, SF, 6-5, 200, Bishop Gorman/Henderson, NV -- uncommitted)

O'Bannon, whose father (Charles Sr.) and uncle (Ed) starred at UCLA, is a pure scorer who can score at all three levels and excels in transition. He can be a little out of control at times, but his talent is undeniable. 'Chuck' had 22 in Gorman's loss to Chino Hills.



Best shooter: [Jordan Griffin](#) (2016, three-star, SG, 6-3, 170, Centennial/Corona, CA -- committed to [Long Beach State](#))

Griffin is a scorer who can shoot, has a quick trigger and range to 22 feet. He had 20 in Centennial's win over Concord DeLaSalle. Look for Griffin to have a great career for Dan Monson and LBSU.



Best post: [Michael Cage Jr.](#) (2016, three-star, C, 6-10, 225, Mater Dei/Santa Ana, CA -- committed to [Oregon](#))

Cage has a lot of tools, and though his effort can be inconsistent, he showed up this weekend and led Mater Dei to two victories. He had 20 points in a victory over El Cajon Foothills Christian. Cage has a super upside and if he continues working, he may realize that potential.



Best 4-man: [T.J. Leaf](#) (2016, No. 9 in ESPN 100, PF, 6-9, 215, Foothills Christian/El Cajon, CA -- committed to [UCLA](#))

Leaf is a super-talented, multi-skilled forward who had 27 points and 14 rebounds in a loss to Cage and Mater Dei. Leaf, who can be a stretch 4 or go score on the low block, is one of the nation's best and showed everyone why this weekend.



Best sleeper: [Eyassu Worku](#) (2016, three-star, PG, 6-2, 165, Los Alamitos/Anaheim, CA -- signed with [UC Irvine](#))

This was my first look at Worku and I came away impressed. He is fast and quick with good size for a point guard, and is also a solid shooter with range to 22 feet. Worku, who had 27 points in a loss to Los Angeles Fairfax, is a steal for UC Irvine and should be an immediate impact player for the Anteaters.



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