



BOYS BASKETBALL: Ryan Silver's Earl Watson Elite club program adds top 2017 prospect and former Sierra Canyon standout

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The Earl Watson Elite club basketball program has added a player sure to turn heads on the upcoming travel circuit.

Ryan Silver, Earl Watson Elite's President and managing director, announced Thursday Ira Lee is all set to play with the Under Armour sponsored program.

Lee, a top-30 recruit nationally in the junior class will be the face of the Under Armour Association on the West Coast alongside Cal-commit Jemarl Baker (Roosevelt High in Corona) and Top-60 recruit Kezie Okpala (Esperanza High).

Trinity League co-MVP Spencer Freedman, a top sophomore at Mater Dei will also be a key component on Earl Watson Elite's top team.

Lee just finished an outstanding second half of the season at Prolific Prep in Napa, Calif. after transferring from Sierra Canyon (Chatsworth, CA.)

Silver couldn't be more pleased with the addition of Lee.

"Ira is a special player," Silver said. "Ira plays with a relentless motor and is extremely tough."

Silver indicated Lee will be the face of Earl Watson Elite's 17-under team, Under Armour's flagship program on the west coast.

Lee is currently scheduled to compete in New York City April 15-17, Indiana April 22-24, Los Angeles May 27-29 and Atlanta July 13-16.

Since leaving Sierra Canyon on January 4, 2016, Lee (6'8"), a power forward has been impressive against the nation's most elite basketball talent. Back In 2014, Ira Lee broke into the national top 25 before suffering a season ending shoulder injury.

Billy McKnight, head coach at Prolific Prep which currently has the top ranked 2016 player and McDonald's All-American Josh Jackson, projects Ira Lee as being one of the top five players in the country and a possible McDonald's All-American pick next year. Lee's immediate impact is one of the reasons Prolific Prep will have a chance to win the Tanager National Championship tournament starting March 26. Lee's motor, athleticism, soft hands, ability to rebound, drive the ball, mid-range shooting, defense, and overall intensity are intangibles that effect the flow the game on multiple levels and both ends of the court.

McKnight's offensive scheme which is similar to the NBA's Golden State Warriors and San Antonio Spurs gives Lee the freedom to utilize his abilities. In an earlier contest this year, Lee frustrated 6'11 2017 top ranked D'eAndre Ayton into a perimeter game in Prolific Prep's victory over Hillcrest Prep. Lee finished the game with a double- double. Lee took 6'10 McDonald's All-American and Kentucky commit, Sasha Killeya-Jones of Virginia Episcopal, completely out of his game in front a local Kentucky crowd. Lee also had a break out game against Michigan State signee 2016 5th-ranked prospect Miles Bridges in Prolific Prep's victory over Huntington Prep. Lee was also named the Big Guava Classic tournament MVP.



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