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HOOPS REPORT

FALL HOOPS FEST

HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION



SPECIAL REPORT

JUNIOR "TOP 20" GAME

2009 FALL HOOPS FEST
JUNIOR GAME ROSTERS

North B Coach: Kevin Pollins (Basha HS JV)

2	Javon Taylor - Basha HS - 5'11"
3	Jahii Carson 5'11" Mesa HS
4	Collin Woods - Horizon HS - 6'1"
5	Alex Johnson - Ironwood HS - 6'1"
6	Merle Branch - Buena HS - 6'2"
7	Christian Hale - Mesquite HS - 6'3"
9	Christopher Mason - St. Mary's HS - 6'4"
10	Billy Morrison - Rincon HS - 6'4"
0	TJ Burke - Marcos de Niza HS - 6'8"

South W Coach: Kelvin Eafon (1138 Sports Training)

1	Jason Garretson - Mesquite HS - 5'8"
3	Lester Medford - Amphi HS - 5'11"
4	Tyler Russell - Millennium HS - 6'0"
6	Devonte Malcolm - Buena - 6'1"
7	Josh Lewis - Canyon Del Oro HS - 6'1"
9	Ronald March - Thunderbird HS - 6'3"
10	Michael Davis - Thunderbird HS - 6'4"
0	Sai Tummala - Brophy Prep HS - 6'7"

Junior Top 20 Game

Here is a look at the key match ups:



Javon Taylor



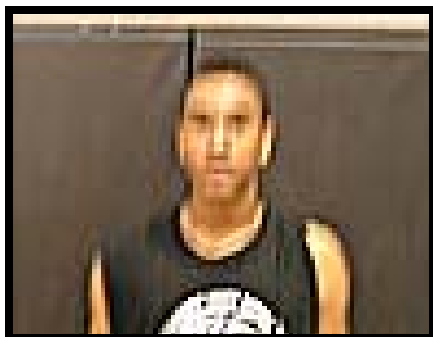
Jason Garretson



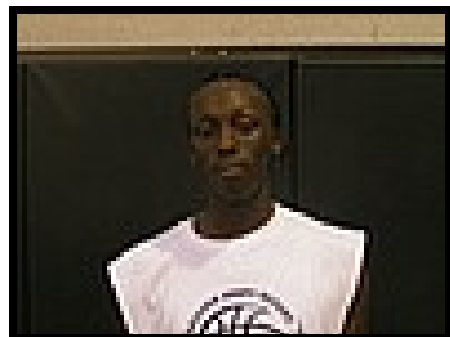
Collin Woods



Tyler Russell



Alex Johnson



Devonte Malcom



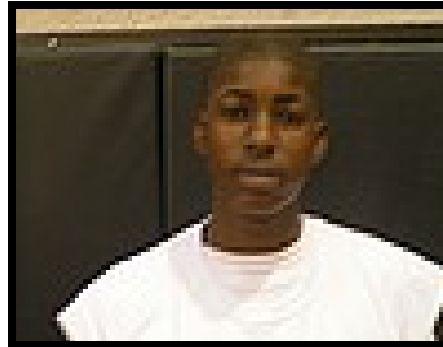
Chris Mason



Josh Lewis



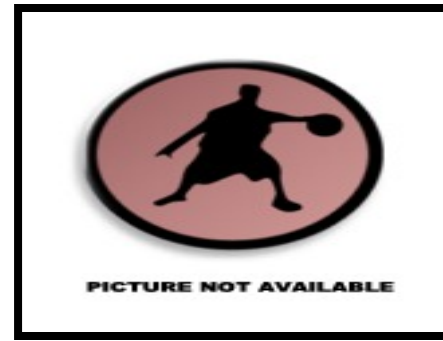
Merle Branch



Ronald March



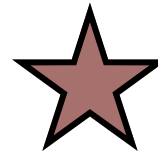
Billy Morrison

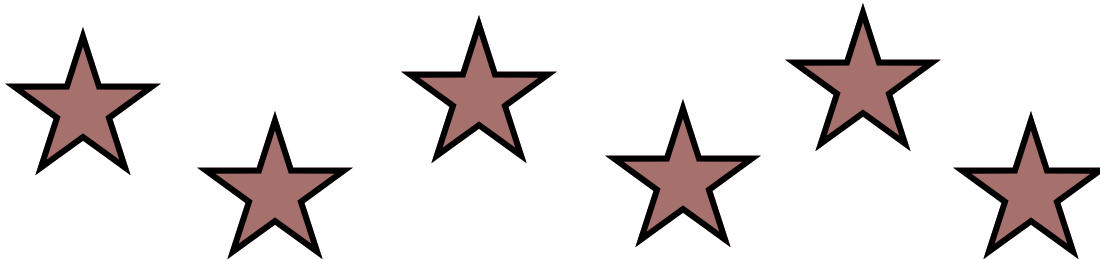


Christian Hale



Michael Davis





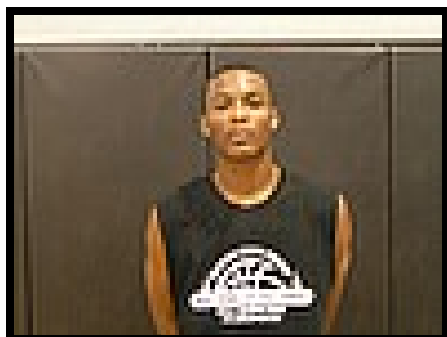
Prime Time Baller Matchup of the Day



TJ Burke



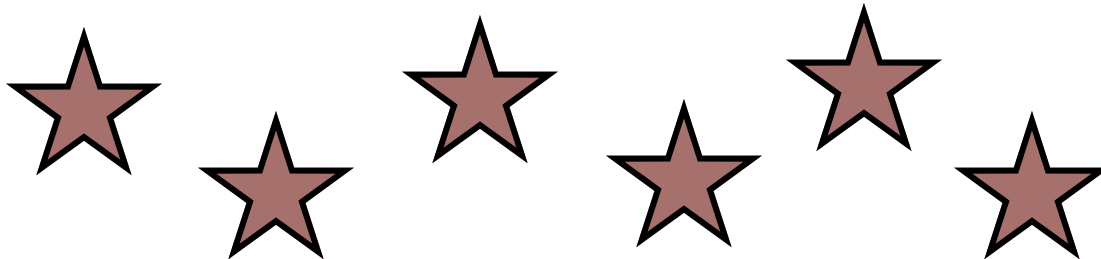
Sia Tummala

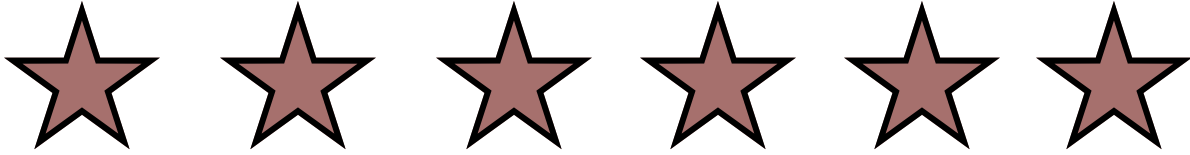


Jahii Carson



Lester Medford





TOP 20 JUNIOR GAME SUMMARY

The gym was packed and filled with anticipation to see **Jahii Carson**, the young but very experienced vet, battle with the new kid on the block, Tucson's **Lester Medford**, who also happens to be Tucson's the top Jr point guard and possibly the PG in Tucson regardless of class. **Medford** is out of Tucson's Amphitheater High School, a school that produces a lot of talent out of the Tucson area.

"This game is full of matchups all the way through" said Basha H.S. JV Coach and coach of the North squad **Kevin Pollins**, "these types of matchups is what you live for as a basketball fan and coach".

Carson and **Medford** were definitely a PTB matchup in this game, but they weren't the only one in this game. There were a number of good matchups in this one.

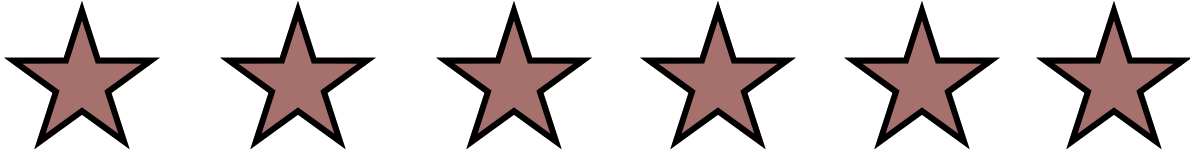
Javon Taylor the speedy, tough hard-nosed point guard out of Basha H.S. (who moved to Arizona by way of Detroit) matched up with **Jason Garretson**, the heady quick and steady ball handler out of Mesquite H.S., who's a master at taking what the defense gives him.

Another BIG matchup was **Collin Woods**, the long, wiry, quick, very athletic and slippery point guard out of Horizon H.S. who faced up against the very strong, quick, fast, defensive **Tyler "The Tiger" Russell** out of Millennium H.S..

Ironwood's **Alex Johnson**, whose stock has risen in the last few months like the stock market, was matched up against the 6'1, solid, very well rounded, and play making combo guard **Devonte Malcom** out of Tucson's Buena H.S.

This next matchup was an intriguing one. The 6'2 athletic combo guard Merle **Branch**, out of Tucson's Buena H.S., matched up with **Ronald March** the 6'3 W/F out of Thunderbird HS who was looking to put himself completely on the map with a solid performance.

Chris Mason, the 6'4 "all purpose guard out of St. Mary's H.S., has really taken off as of late was matched up against probably the most unique player in this year's Junior class, **Josh Lewis** the 6'1 power guard out Tucson's Canyon del Oro H.S.



TOP 20 JUNIOR GAME SUMMARY

The 6'3 "well rounded" inside/outside threat **Christian Hale**, out of Mesquite H.S., along with the very consistent performer 6'4 Wing/Forward **Billy Morrison** out of Tucson's Rincon H.S. shared duties while being matched up against **Michael Davis**, the 6'4 Guard/Forward out of Thunderbird H.S., whose game has improved quite a bit since last fall.

Last, but definitely not least, was another **Prime Time Baller** match up everyone has waiting to see. Marcos De Niza H.S. 6'8 shot blocking, paint dominating **TJ Burke** matched up against the 6'7 wiry, extremely athletic, slashing forward **Sia Tummala** out of Brophy Prep.

LET THE GAME BEGIN!

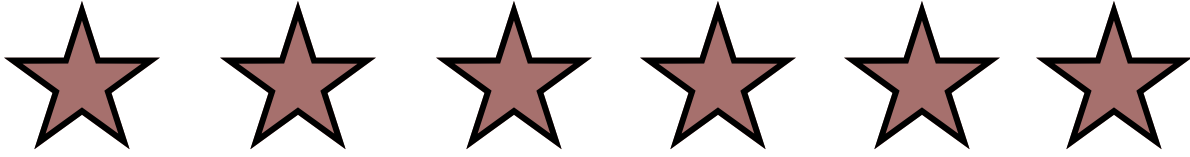
This game definitely went according to the script, as **Jahii Carson** came out ready to play scoring the first 3 trips down the court giving the North team an early 7-4 lead.

Applying constant pressure on the defense for the South team, by constant penetration and an eye for the open man, was **Jason Garretson** the 5'8 point guard out Mesquite H.S.

Also making the North team stay on their toes defensively was **Tyler "The Tiger" Russell** the 6'0 blazing fast and lightning quick guard out of Millennium H.S. Tyler showed that he's starting to add range to his game by hitting two 3's to put his team up 10-7.

As play heated up so did **Lester Medford**, the 5'10 point guard out of Tucson's Amphi HS who made it very clear early on that he meant business by stepping up to his tall order which was to at least compete with **Jahii Carson**.

Not only did **Medford** compete, he battled **Carson** and showed why he is among the top point guards in the state regardless of class. He pulled out all facets of his game by making very good moves getting to the basket, hitting the pull up jumper with a hand in his face and hitting the deep three.



TOP 20 JUNIOR GAME SUMMARY

THINGS WERE HEATING UP!

With **Medford** heating up, the 6'7 "pogo stick" **Sia Tummala** got very involved by finishing inside with a couple of lay ups and a thunderous put back slam to give the South team an early commanding 20-11 lead.

Chris Mason the 6'4 all purpose guard then started to show why he's been receiving so much interest as of late by scoring mid range buckets from all angles.

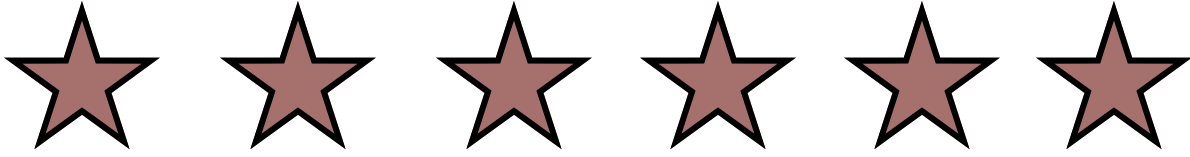
Collin Woods, the speedy very athletic 6'1 point guard out of Horizon H.S., made it his business to get involved in the action by hitting a couple of mid range baskets and cutting down the middle to attempt a "high flying" dunk but was fouled by the South team's **Michael Davis** which sent **Woods** to the line where **Woods** made 1 of 2 free throws which put the North team back in the lead by the score of 31-27.

After coming out of the time out, the North team continued to pick up the pace when the speedy and tough point guard **Javon Taylor** got his hand in the passing lane and grabbed a steal and converted the turn over into a layup. He then dished out a couple of assists which got the 6'4 forward **Billy Morrison** and **Christian Hale** the 6'3 wing flowing as the North team seemed to start to pull away from the South team with a 39-29 lead.

TJ Burke the 6'8 post/forward began to control the boards by grabbing rebound after rebound but the South team couldn't seem to convert as the North team continued play well.

Jason Garretson started to heat up again by hitting a couple of mid range jumpers dishing out two more key assists, 1 to **Sia Tummala** for a layup and 1 to **Ronald March**, which cut the North teams lead to 44-37.

Merle Branch the 6'2 combo guard and **Alex Johnson** the 6'0 point guard then got involved in the action by hitting a couple of baskets for the North team widening the gap and sending the North team into the half with a 51-42 lead.



TOP 20 JUNIOR GAME SUMMARY

THE EXCITEMENT CONTINUES

With this game going at such a fast pace one would think that the players couldn't keep this NASCAR type of pace up but they did.

The second half started just like the first half did with **Jahii Carson** receiving a pass off the tip and hitting a long three and off of a South teams miss. **Carson** then quickly took the ball to the basket and scored a layup which gave the North team a 56-42 lead and boy did the play pick up from there!

Not be denied, overlooked or outplayed, **Lester Medford** began a takeover of his own by scoring the next 7 pts for the south squad cutting the lead to 56-49.

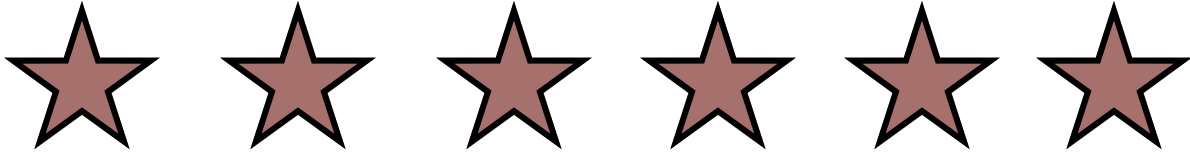
North Team Coach **Pollins** then called a time out.

Once play resumed it was obvious what was about to take place, an all out **Jahii Carson/Lester Medford** battle.

Carson began to take control of the game for the North team by aggressively taking the ball to the basket and hitting an array of pull up jumpers. While **Carson** was doing his thing, Lester Medford began to do his as well.

Midway through the 2nd half after a speedy and aggressive drive to the basket, a no look pass by **Tyler Russell** and layup by **Sia Tummala**, the North team inbounded the ball quickly catching the South team off guard and starting a fast break. **Jahii Carson** made an outlet pass to **Collin Woods**, **Woods** then passed the ball to **Jovan Taylor** and out of nowhere **Taylor** lobbed the ball high into the air near the basket but there was only one problem, no one was there to catch the pass, or so we thought.

Out of nowhere comes the 5'10 **Jahii Carson**, flying through the air as if he were a super hero, who grabbed the ball with two hands and finished with the games top throw down by cocking the ball behind his head and hammering it home with the with fury to send the crowd in a bewildered state of amazement.



TOP 20 JUNIOR GAME SUMMARY

BACK AT YOU

Following that truly amazing play, **Lester Medford** came down the court showing his determination by going to the basket with anger and rising up to slam the ball as well but was fouled by the North teams **Christian Hale** sending **Medford** to the line where he made both free throws.

Again **Carson** came down the court but this time he slowed things down and waited for **Medford** to get into defensive position and then motioned to **Medford** to come closer and guard him. Once **Medford** got into defensive position **Carson** let an NBA range three ball fly and the ball hit nothing but the bottom of the net which once again sent the crowd into a cheering frenzy.

Immediately following **Carson's** three, **Medford** got the inbounds pass and took off down the court and shortly after he passed half court Medford pulled up for an NBA range three of his own and hit nothing but the bottom of the net as well and began pounding his chest with his fist as if to say, "I will not back down, not today".

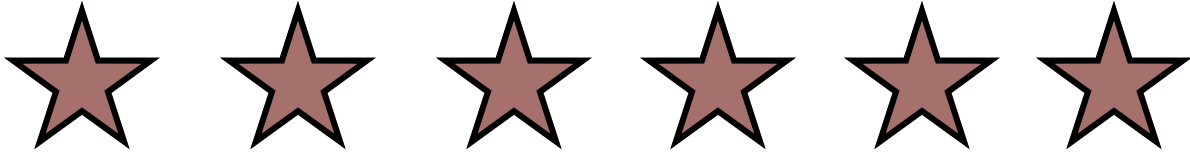
Sia Tummala and **Tyler Russell** began to get into the act by hitting 5 straight baskets for the South team but it wasn't enough as the North team turned it up another notch.

Chris Mason and **Collins Woods** stepped it up as the North squad kept things close preventing the South team from pulling away but in the end it was **Sia Tummala** who caught fire at the right time scoring consecutive layups and grabbing key rebounds which led the South team to a 100-94 victory.

"Man, this is what I'm talkin about", says **Jahii Carson** "this is how you find out who's who" "You gotta bring your game not your name" says **Lester Medford**. "If you don't, you will definitely get exposed".

"Man, this was soo much fun I really can't wait until the next one" says former University of Arizona football and basketball standout and coach of the South team **Kelvin Eafon**.

This was such an exciting game and the fans really got what they came to see, a show from both teams and all participants.



PRIME TIME BALLER MATCHUPS

Sia Tummala / TJ Burke

While watching this matchup there were a few things that were apparent.

For starters, it was obvious that **TJ Burke** is an outstanding rebounder with very good size and coordination. His counterpart **Sia Tummala** is extremely athletic, very active around the basket on both the offensive and defensive ends and has a knack for getting to the basket and finishing.

TJ Burke is a very good looking prospect who no doubt is a D1 player and if he attends the right program I feel will have a successful college basketball career.

Tummala on the other hand is a very appealing prospect as well and may have a wider range of options in terms of what schools he can attend because of his athleticism and tenacity on both ends but mainly the offensive end.

If **Burke** becomes more offensive minded his options will also widen.

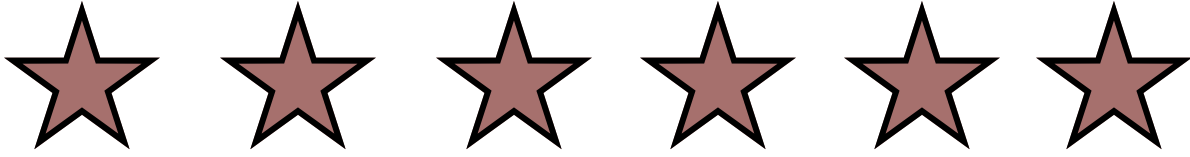
Jahii Carson / Lester Medford

Well, well, well, **Carson** and **Medford** where do I start?

I guess I can start by saying that both of these you men are at the top of the guard food chain regardless of class.

Let me also say that after having the opportunity to watch **Medford** play 4 times in the last month in a half I'm convinced that **Medford** is the top H.S. point guard in the city of Tucson regardless of class.

Yeah that's right, I said it and I'll say it again, **Lestor Medford** is the top point guard in the city of Tucson regardless of class.



PRIME TIME BALLER MATCHUPS

Lester Medford - The TOTAL Package

Medford has the “total package” he’s extremely hard to guard in fact; I’ve never seen him get rattled or go into the tank.

I’ve seen **Medford** play against one of the top 17U AAU teams in the country the Oklahoma Magic in **Ron Coleman’s Southwest Showcase Fall Classic** and the Oklahoma Magic were extremely loaded, not only did **Medford** do well, he led his team to an upset and while doing so, **Medford’s** stats read: 32pts 11assist and 6 steals.

Lester Medford is a proven commodity no longer to be over looked but to from this point on to be mentioned with the state’s best regardless of class or position.

Jahii Carson = Big Time!

Jahii Carson has been on the scene for years and his play comes as no surprise to a lot of us because he’s been having big time performances ever since he was in the fourth grade.

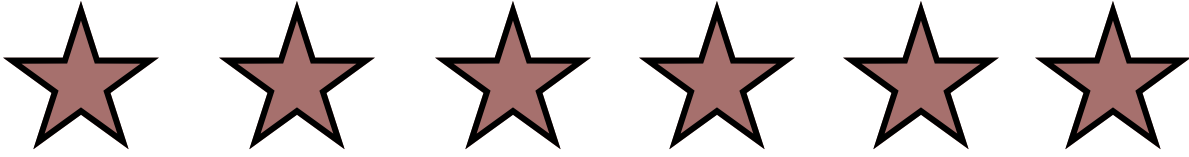
Carson is one of the top point guards in the country and has already given an oral commitment to Oregon State University.

Carson can play just about for any program in the country!

This young man has all of the tools and even at 5’10 he’s impossible to guard.

I really enjoy watching **Jahii Carson** play for many reasons and while this young man has a “Floyd Mayweather “ like swagger it’s confidence not cockiness or arrogance, there’s a huge difference.

Carson appears to be standing alone at his position but if he ever relaxes, there are several guys that will be right there to remind him of that in this very deep and very loaded class of point guards.



A LOOK AT THE NUMBERS

NORTH TEAM STATS

For the North **Jahii Carson** led all scorers with a game high 33 points, 12 assists, 9 rebounds, and 4 steals. He also earned game **MVP** honors for the North.

Chris Mason had a very impressive game scoring 16 points, grabbing 9 rebounds, and adding 4 assists.

Collin Woods the very speedy, wiry and athletic guard added 13 points, 8 rebounds, and 7 assists.

Alex Johnson, the steady guard out of Ironwood H.S., chipped in 6 points and added 4 assists.

Billy Morrison added 6 points and 8 rebounds.

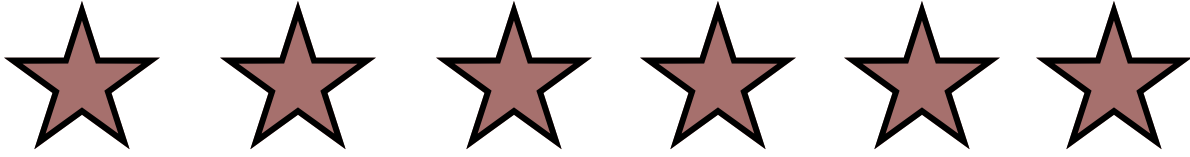
Merle Branch scored 5 points and added 6 rebounds.

Jovan Taylor scored 5 points and added 6 assists.

TJ Burke added 4 points, 14 rebounds, and 2 blocks.

Christian Hale scored 2 points and added 8 rebounds.





A LOOK AT THE NUMBERS

SOUTH TEAM STATS

For the South **Lestor Medford** led the team with 25 points, 8 assists, 6 rebounds, and 3 steals and earned game **MVP** honors for the South.

Sia Tummala had a very impressive game by scoring 17 points, grabbed 10 rebounds, and added 4 assists.

Tyler Russell also played well scoring 13 points, dishing out 8 assists, and grabbing 4 rebounds.

Jason Garretson is another player who played very well, showing that he's definitely worthy of being mentioned in the same breath of his counter parts by scoring 11 points and dishing out 9 assists.

Devonte Malcom, the athletic combo guard out of Tucson's Buena H.S., had a solid performance by scoring 10 points and grabbing 6 rebounds.

Josh Lewis, the power guard out of Tucson's Canyon Del Oro H.S., contributed 9 points and grabbed 7 rebounds.

Ronald March, the very solid performing forward out of Thunderbird H.S., also had a solid showing scoring 8 points and grabbing 8 rebounds.

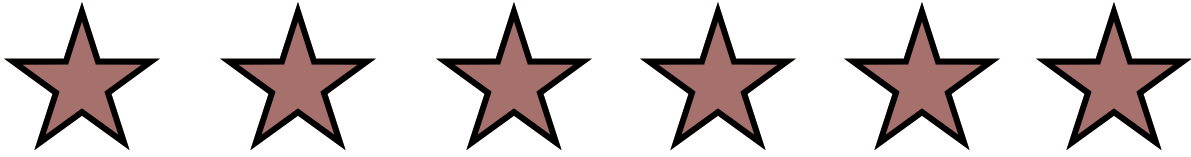
Michael Davis out of also out of Thunderbird H.S. played well scoring 7 points and grabbing 5 rebounds.



2009 FALL HOOPS FEST
JUNIOR GAME STATS

North	Points	Rebounds	Assists	Steals	Blocks
Javon Taylor	5		6		
Jahii Carson	33	9	12	4	
Collin Woods	13	8	7		
Alex Johnson	6		4		
Merle Branch	5	6			
Christian Hale	2	8			
Christopher Mason	16	9	4		
Billy Morrison					
TJ Burke	4	14			2

South	Points	Rebounds	Assists	Steals	Blocks
Jason Garretson	11		9		
Lester Medford	25	6	8	3	
Tyler Russell	13	4	8		
Devonte Malcolm	10	6			
Josh Lewis	9	7			
Ronald March	8	8			
Michael Davis	7	5			
Sai Tummala	17	10	4		



Jeff Meadows - Editor
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Congratulations to all of the players that participated in the Junior Top 20 game, they all represented well.

Stay tuned for Part IV of The Fall Hoops Fest High School Report ...

The Senior Top 20 Game



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