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## Fall Evaluation Clinic stresses fundamentals

By Bob Gibbons  
Scouts Inc.

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.-- A capacity group of 250 young prospects attended the sold-out Bob Gibbons Fall Evaluation Clinic October 6-7 at Wake Forest. This event included participants from 18 states, the District of Columbia and Canada.

This clinic stressed teaching and learning the fundamental skills of the game, with the basic concept being getting "back to the basics." In addition, participants were evaluated by our staff and myself on their basketball abilities and their potential to play at the next level, with every player receiving a detailed evaluation report.

Clinic director Andy Muse, a staff member of the NBPA Top 100 Camp and the head coach at Mount Tabor High School (Winston-Salem), was the keynote speaker on Saturday morning and demonstrated drills and concepts for players to improve ballhandling, shooting and passing skills.

The Sunday morning speaker was Will Burkholder, a former player and coach under Jeff Mullins at UNC-Charlotte and now director of the "Cut the Nets" skills development program in Houston. Burkholder demonstrated other techniques and methods to help players improve their basic fundamentals.

Players were divided into teaching stations by positions -- lead guards, wings and posts. Burkholder was in charge of instruction for the lead guards; Darryl Robinson (Durham, N.C./Hillside) was the head instructor for the wing players; and Gary Bowne (Hickory, N.C./St. Stephens), directed the post player drills.

After an hour of intense drills, players participated in three-on-three competition before breaking for lunch. Players had been assigned to teams by position and played two games each day. With the large number of players this year, there were 24 teams playing six sets of games on four courts both days.

The top-rated player in this clinic was 6-9 Jr. P/WF [Milton Jennings](#) (Summerville, S.C./Pinewood Prep). Jennings is an intriguing, multi-dimensional big man, somewhat in the mold of Tracy McGrady. He is an effective outside shooter and can play the wing forward position. He can also use his length and wide wingspan to block shots, rebound and score at will in the post. He will likely be ranked among the top six players in the Class of 2009.

Another 2009 standout was 6-6, 230-pound PF K.J. Sherrill (Mt.Ulla, N.C./West Rowan). Sherrill is a very physical player, capable of overpowering foes inside. He is a strong rebounder and has good range on his shot.

Other impressive 2009 players included virtual carbon copy skilled big men, 6-9 PF [David Chadwick](#) (Charlotte, N.C./Latin) and 6-9 PF [Lucas Troutman](#) (Honea Path, S.C./Belton-Honea Path). Chadwick's father, David Chadwick played for Dean Smith at North Carolina. Both of these young men have advanced skills, exceptional shooting ability and are very mobile. Look for both to play major college basketball.

Rounding out the top 15 2009 prospects were: 6-2 1/2G C.J. Harris (Winston-Salem, N.C./Mount Tabor), 6-6 WF [Willis Hall](#) (Charlotte Christian), 6-6 WF Dee Giger (Arden, N.C./Christ School), 6-5 WF Wake Ellison, (Asheville, N.C.), 6-1 G [Akeem Richmond](#) (Sanford, N.C./Southern Lee), 6-1 PG [Jay Lewis](#) (Greensboro, N.C./Day School), 6-5 SG Garrius Adams (Apex, N.C./ Middle Creek), 6-6 PF Joshua McNally-Bibbins (Staten Island, N.Y./Petrides), Serbian native 6-8 WF Nemanja Mikic (Lenoir, N.C./Patterson School), 6-2 SG Colby Lewis (Clemmons, N.C./Forsyth Country Day) and 6-3 SG [Zachary Faircloth](#) (Fayetteville, N.C./Terry Sanford).

It was an SAT weekend and many seniors were making college visits. Thus, attendance was somewhat lower than normal. However, there were some very promising prospects, including versatile 6-7 P/WF [David Pellom](#) (Wilmington, N.C./New Hanover) and 6-7 PF Kendall Smith (Kernersville, N.C./Robert B. Glenn). Smith is being recruited by several mid-majors, including Air Force, Harvard, UNC-Greensboro, Elon and High Point. He did an excellent defensive job on Milton Jennings in their matchup, including blocking three of Jennings' shots and making baskets against him.

Another impressive senior was 6-4 G/F Keith Gabriel (Charlotte, N.C./United Faith Christian), the twin brother of 6-8 [Kenny Gabriel](#). Both brothers had planned to attend this clinic. However, Auburn offered Kenny Gabriel an official visit, which he made, and he committed during the weekend to Coach Jeff Lebo's program.

Other senior standouts: 6-1 PG Donnelle Atkinson, Farmville, N.C., 6-1 SG Tariq Caldwell (Stockbridge, Ga.), 6-4 G/F [Sean Bernardeau](#) (Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.), G/F Derek Craig (Spring, Texas/Klein Collins), 6-1 SG David Hudgins (Spartanburg, S.C./Day), 6-6 PF Michael Morger (Charlotte/West Mecklenburg), 6-7 PF Jacob Lail (Hudson, N.C./South Caldwell), 6-4 G/F Alex Murray (Fayetteville, N.C.), Terry Sanford and 6-1 SG Francesco Giordano (Georgetown, Ontario/Christ The King)

The best of the large number of 2010 (sophomores) participants were 6-7 P/WF Reco McCarter (Goldsboro, N.C./Wayne Country Day) 6-4 G/F Damarcus Harrison (Greenwood, S.C.), 6-6 PF Kene Anyigbo (Rosenberg, Texas/B.F. Terry) 6-5 PG Brian Richardson (Wilson, N.C./Greenfield) 6-0 PG [Eric Smith](#), (Mullins, S.C.) 6-5 PF Domanic Wilson (Lake City, S.C.), 6-2 SG Joab Jerome, (Brooklyn, N.Y./Xaverian), 6-3 2G Jamel Outler (Bellaire, Texas), 6-4 G/F Arche' Hicklin (Roanoke, Va./Catholic) and 6-7 PF Darryl Houston (Powder Springs, Ga./Hillgroves).

Top advanced beyond their years, Class of 2011 (freshmen) prospects were: outstanding 5-11 PG Anthony Collins (Houston/Westbury Christian), 6-2 SG Trey Davis (Richmond, Va./Henrico) 6-1 SG Delante Daniels (Raleigh, N.C./ Leesville Road) 5-6 PG Jazmond Kelly (Baton Rouge, La./Southern Laboratory) 6-10 C John Cannon (Burnsville, N.C./Mountain Heritage) 6-1 G Chase Fischer (Ripley, W. Va.), 6-5 P/WF Je'Vante Bryant-Crump (Kernersville, N.C./Robert B. Glenn) and 6-6 P/WF Tyler Poole (Hickory, N.C)

My thanks to our outstanding staff, especially Andy Muse and our assistant clinic director, Sean Vestal, the head coach at North Forsyth High School (Winston-Salem), for their hard work and jobs well done.

*Bob Gibbons is the editor and publisher of the All Star Sports Report and is widely regarded as the recruiting guru of college basketball. Drop Bob a line in his [mailbag](#).*

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