

(Editor's Note: This story will cover the underclass and senior boys games played on Saturday at Folsom High School, while the girls games will be part of the Girls of Summer series – Part II. Check out that series and more statewide summer hoop all-star coverage from Harold Abend (girls) and Ronnie Flores (boys) by becoming a premium subscriber to CalHiSports.com. We are the exclusive home of all-state teams, state records and the best weekly state rankings package in the nation for five sports, including boys and girls basketball. Follow the links on our front page or call 1-866-GORIVALS during Central time zone business hours to join up today.)



Matt Simpkins is off to a flying start for his summer and gives Northern California two of the top power forward prospects in the nation along with Archbishop Mitty's Drew Gordon.

The hip-hop DJ from the local radio station went gaga, and the near capacity crowd at Folsom High's beautiful gymnasium facility exploded each time a Sacramento area player dunked or drained a trey. Unfortunately for the boys and girls from the host area, the fans' cheers, and the disc-jockey's attempt to amp up the atmosphere failed, as the preponderance of slams, jams, defense, and key shooting was done by the Bay squads who won all four games during Saturday's 2nd Annual Sac v. Bay Showdown.

Matt Simpkins served notice he will be a force to be reckoned with next season at Berkeley High. The 6-8 power forward/post put on an exhilarating display of dunks and blocked shots, finishing with 22 points, 11 rebounds, and five blocks to garner MVP honors in a wide open 116-108 victory by the Bay in the underclass game.

Simpkins, who is high on the list of several Pac-10 schools including already receiving an offer from Arizona, will be back at Berkeley next season where he will be granted a final year of high school eligibility, and team with fellow Bay squad teammate **Duane Bagsby** (seven points with a nice range on his shot) to give the Yellowjackets a legitimate chance at reaching the Division I state championship game. "Our goal is to win state," said Simpkins and Bagsby in unison after the victory that was not as close as the score indicates.

With lobs, bounce it off the floor and glass passes, and a variety of other unusual and unique moves as part of the repertoire of both boys games, it was a driving windmill jam by Simpkins giving Bay a 51-38 lead near the

end of the first half that drew the most oohs and aahs from the almost 3,500 fans who attended the afternoon and evening affair.

Several other players had outstanding performances. including Mitty of San Jose's 6-6 forward **Collin Chiverton**, who put on a three-point shooting display (four of five) to share team high honors with Simpkins by scoring 22 points. Karl Malone look-alike **Frank Otis** from McClymonds of Oakland was like a man amongst boys, dominating inside, and playing excellent defense (he was one of the only players who played any "D") to finish with eight points, eight rebounds, and four blocks.

Two players named Chris also had excellent, fundamentally sound performances. **Chris Jones**, a 6-5 guard from Newark Memorial, used his size to post-up and convert a high percentage of opportunities to score 16 points. **Chris Brew** from St. Mary's of Berkeley (brother **Will** also played in the game) didn't show any razzle-dazzle, nor did he dunk. Brew just made baskets and played good defense, finishing with 13 points.

Speaking of oohs and aahs it was **Drake Uu** of Rio Americano (Sacramento) who gave the home folks the most to cheer about all day. The 6-3 point and shooting guard, who has led his league in scoring his sophomore and junior years, had the day's top performance offensively, leading four Sac players in double figure scoring with 27 points. Uu was four of seven from beyond the arc. including one bomb that burned the nets from well beyond NBA range.

Elston Turner from Roseville produced a nice shooting touch, and finished with 20 points. **Gabriel Strong** from Capital Christian showed big hop and had 13 points, while off guard **James Lake** of Fairfield dropped in 10 points. Forward **Brendan Lane** of Rocklin was the team's leading rebounder with eight boards and worked hard on the glass.

Other Bay players who looked solid were 6-9 post/center **Tyree McCrary** of Oak Grove (San Jose), forward **Stephen Lumpkins** from Serra of San Mateo, power forward **Kevin Green** of Sacred Heart Cathedral (San Francisco), G/F **Kelly Kaigler** (Oak Grove, San Jose), big **Luke Devenny** of Piner in Santa Rosa, and **Tim Harris** of Valley Christian in San Jose.



Wendell McKines had 20 points in the senior game.

Although the 89-79 win by the Bay boys in the senior game was two points greater than the underclass margin of victory, the Showdown's finale was a much closer affair. Still, as was the case in the underclass game, superior inside size and strength for the Bay team was ultimately the deciding factor.

Robert Jones, the basketball and football star from Riordan (San Francisco) who will play basketball at the University of San Diego this fall, had the day's best all-around performance and earned MVP for the senior boys contest. In a game in which Bay led from start to finish but could not put away a scrappy Sac squad, Jones controlled the paint and finished with 17 points, 13 rebounds, four blocks, and was not intimidated by anyone wearing a Sac jersey who ventured near the basket.

Down the stretch with Sac making its final run, closing to 68-66 with 7:15 remaining, it was the inside presence of Jones, **Wendell McKines** of Richmond, **Philip Thomas** of Hayward and **Jordan Lewis** of Terra Linda (San Rafael), and the ball handling of Sac State bound **Vincent McGhee** of McClymonds (seven points, six assists, four steals) and **Kareem Nitoto** of San Leandro (seven assists) that sent the local crowd home empty-handed.

McKines, as usual, was a human highlight film. The 6-5 power forward headed to USF, showed an assortment of slams, jams, and power moves to finish with a game high 20 points. After Jones hit a three-pointer from the top of the key midway through the second half, McKines followed on the

next sequence by skying almost two feet above the rim to grab an offensive rebound, then flushing it down Shaq-style with a backboard bending two-handed slam.

Thomas, a 6-8 power forward/center, who will attend Idaho this fall, showed the kind of inside game that should make him a factor at the next level. Lewis, a 6-5 power forward who is going to Cal-Poly San Luis Obispo was like cash money around the basket, converting five of seven shots to finish with 10 points and pulling down eight rebounds.

Sammy Yeager of Modesto High was far and away the best player who wore a Sac uniform all day. The 6-3 point guard shot well, handled the rock against relentless Bay pressure, defended better than any of his teammates, and finished with a team high 18 points. He'll work on his grades at Delta College in Stockton and should have an excellent chance at landing a scholarship if his studies can match his on-court performances.

With the Bay big men clogging the middle, two other Sac players, **Cervante' Burrell** of Sacramento High and **Walter Jackson** from Weston Ranch in Stockton, shot well from the outside. The duo finished with 16 and 10 points, respectively.

Proving small men can make big contributions, 5-5 point guard **Lance Oliver** (Pinole Valley, Pinole), who is going to San Jose State, had five assists and five steals for Bay. Other players who produced solid performances were **Michael Lizarraga** of California School for the Deaf who will attend Cal State Northridge, and high-flying **Xander McNally** of Branson, who blocked two of Yeager's shots, dislocating a finger on one block, and then begging coach **Ruben Noles** of Elsie Allen in Santa Rosa to put him back into the game after the finger was popped back into the socket.

Comments or corrections? Email mark@studentsports.com or marketingarold@comcast.net.