



## OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

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### Players To Watch at the 2010 Les Schwab Invitational!

Portland, Oregon – The Les Schwab Invitational invites Portland-area basketball fans the opportunity to see nationally ranked teams and future college and NBA Stars perform at Oregon's top Holiday basketball tournament. Some of the top players to play in the Les Schwab Invitational include: **Carmelo Anthony** (Denver Nuggets), **Tyson Chandler** (Charlotte Bobcats), **Mike Dunleavy, JR.** (Indiana Pacers), **Kevin Durant** (Oklahoma City Thunder), **Roy Hibbert** (Indiana Pacers), **Brandon Jennings** (Milwaukee Bucks), **Ty Lawson** (Denver Nuggets), **Kevin Love** (Minnesota Timberwolves) and **Craig Smith** (Los Angeles Clippers).

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual LSI will again feature several of the top-ranked players in the country who could one day end up on an NBA Roster. The players to watch at the 2010 LSI include:

#### Seniors:

**Kyle Wiltjer, 6-9 PF, Jesuit High School (Rated #17 by ESPN):** The all-purpose big man, and the state's best player, has a great feel for the game and boasts a high basketball IQ in addition to his size that creates a match up problem for opponents. He may be the most skilled power forward in the class of 2011 and can score from anywhere on the floor. Wiltjer has committed to Kentucky (the state's second player to do so in as many years) and has played a key role for back-to-back 6A State Championships at Jesuit. He has used his success there, coupled with big performances on the AAU circuit, to wow Coach John Callipari and secure an offer from one of the nation's top programs that produced a record 5 first round draft picks in the 2010 NBA Draft.

**Mikael Hopkins, 6-8 PF, DeMatha Catholic High School (Rated #41 by ESPN):** The top player, on one of the nation's top teams, will use his length and athleticism to score in a variety of ways both at the rim and away from the basket. Hopkins will be attending Georgetown next fall, and may ultimately make his mark on the defensive end of the court, where he is considered to be one of the top shot-blockers at his position in the country.

**Austin Kuemper, 6-9 PF, Westview High School:** Kuemper will join the Oregon Ducks next fall, but this winter he will try and help Westview avenge last season's 6A state championship loss to Jesuit. Kuemper, who averaged 13 points and 8 rebounds as a junior had a productive summer, taking part in the Nike Global Challenge, where he was able to hold his own against some of the elite players in his class from all over the globe.

**David Carr, 6-2 SG, Central Catholic High School:** Carr will take his smooth shooting stroke to the University of Portland next year after recently signing a letter of intent to the Pilots. Carr is the LSI's only 3-point Shootout Champion and will be vying for a 3-peat during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual 3 Pt. Shootout / Dunk Contest held on Monday, December 27<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 at Liberty High School.

**Kidus Ephram, 6-7 SF, Central Catholic High School:** The do-it-all senior has committed to play for Head Coach Tyler Geving next year at Portland State University. Ephram has a nifty step-back jump shot that is consistent within 15-feet of the basket. He has good hands and instincts in the paint area and his overall feel for the game should improve with more experience. He will try and lead the Rams to their fourth consecutive Mt. Hood Conference Championship.

**Jordan Akwenuke, 6-6 PF, Jesuit High School:** Akwenuke has been on the radar since his middle school days and will look to lead his Crusader squad to a third consecutive 6A State Championship. Colleges such as University of Portland and Seattle Pacific have shown some interest but a breakout senior campaign could land the 6'6 Akwenuke at a higher profile Division I university.

## **Juniors:**

**Shabazz Muhammad, 6-5, SG Bishop Gorman High School)** – Ranked by ESPN as the #4 player in the class of 2012 and the #1 shooting guard in his class, Muhammad is likely to become a fan favorite at the 2010 LSI with his above the rim highlights. The long and athletic lefty with an uncanny ability to get to the basket has offers from Duke, Kansas, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Texas. Muhammad will look to lead his #6 nationally ranked Gaels to a 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive Nevada state championship and make a run at finishing the year as the nation's top ranked team.

**Jordan Tebbutt, 6-5 PG, Horizon Christian High School:** Tebbutt is the top ranked junior from the state of Oregon, and is ranked #20 overall in the class of 2012. Tebbutt's frame is that of a college junior rather than a rising junior in high school. With a smooth shooting stroke and a solid frame, Tebbutt will attempt to lead his Hawks to back-to-back 3A state championships. Tebbutt, whom Head Coach Dave Brown considers the best player he's ever coached, is being sought after by every Pac-10 school as well as Kansas, Kentucky, North Carolina, Texas and Virginia.

**Daniel Dingle, 6-7 PF, St. Raymond High School:** Flying a bit under the radar, at least nationally, Dingle should have a stellar junior campaign to improve his stock. With offers from a number of east coast universities, including his native New York City's Fordham and St. Johns, Dingle will showcase his skills, which earned him the Rucker Park street ball name "Stewie from Family Guy" for basketball fans at the Les Schwab Invitational.

**James Robinson, 6-3 PG, DeMatha Catholic High School:** The #50 ranked player in his class, Robinson uses his 6'3, 200 pound frame to punish smaller point guards and opposing defenses. Robinson, who is said to be considering Boston College, Georgetown, Notre Dame, Oklahoma, and Virginia, will start at point guard for the 12<sup>th</sup> ranked Stags.

**Rosco Allen, 6-7 SF, Bishop Gorman High School:** Allen is widely regarded as one of the top shooters in the class of 2012. Allen burst onto the scene during Bishop Gorman's state championship run in 2010, coming off the bench as a sophomore. He continued his solid play this summer and has drawn interest from several Pac-10 schools including the University of Oregon.

**Nkerekwem Okoro, 6-4 SF, St. Raymond High School:** Okoro plays with high energy and his aggressiveness puts him in position to be a play maker at both ends. Okoro is currently being recruited by Rutgers and St. John's.

**Jerami Grant, 6-7 SF, DeMatha Catholic High School:** Jerami, also known as Moo-Moo, has offers from Georgetown, Marquette, Maryland, Oklahoma, Virginia, and Virginia Tech is expected to have a breakout junior year for the Stags.

**Maika Ostling, 6-9 C, Dayton High School:** Ranked in the top 150 players for his class nationally, Ostling is arguably more recognized nationally than he is within his own state. With a break-out performance at the LSI, Ostling could earn a scholarship offer as well as some popularity from Oregon high school basketball fans that have not had the chance to watch him play.

The 2010 Les Schwab Invitational takes place at Liberty High School December 26-30<sup>th</sup> with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Slam Dunk Contest / 3 Pt. Shootout taking place on Monday, December 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm. For additional event information including online ticket sales, please visit: [www.lesschwabinvitational.com](http://www.lesschwabinvitational.com)

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