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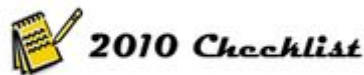
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## Stars from Candace Parker Invitational

By HoopGurlz  
ESPN.com

GREENWOOD, S.C. -- Adidas closed its summer schedule with a 29-team Candace Parker Invitational, which included teams from outside its circuit, offering an interesting mix of teams and players. As usual, the following is not a selection of the top stars, but a sampling of prospects who caught our eyes for one reason or another.



Following up an impressive performance at the Music City Classic in Nashville last week, [Angela Rodriguez](#) continued to demonstrate that she is one of the premier shooters in the country. The Illinois Full Package Platinum roster is loaded with offensive weapons and when the 5-8 guard connects from long range, the floor opens up and all guns begin to fire. Rodriguez has a smooth, fluid stroke that she isn't hesitant to pull the trigger on and defenders can't afford to cheat off too far without paying a price. Several of her three-point looks came in transition because she gets out on the break and tends to spot up making the ground opponents have to cover in numbers situations look like the Grand Canyon. A more diverse offensive repertoire will make her that much more difficult to defend at the next level.

Auburn-commit [Camille Glymph](#) nearly got overlooked at this event because her jersey number didn't match that in the roster packets. A few possessions later it was clear, which player was the Greenville, S.C., star. She is one of the best shooters in the class and certainly ripped plenty of nets for her Carolina Cougars team. She's listed at 5-9 and on the court she looks at least that tall. With her long arms her release point is usually in a spot that the defender can't easily bother on closeouts. She moves well without the ball, sets up screens and knows exactly how much space she needs to get her shot off.

[Sarah Green](#), a 6-2 forward for the SC Lady Sixers has an exciting amount of potential. She has the size and strength to be a punishing post presence, but what's most exciting is how her athleticism allows her to be a versatile front court player. She can pull the ball off the rim and start the break or put the ball on the floor from the wing or high post. She didn't take a lot of tough shots because she consistently got to the rim or posted up low.

A 5-5 speedster at the point, [Alondra Rivers](#), of Decatur, Ga., and the Atlanta Celtics, can hit the stationary three -- especially from the top of the key and uses the glass well on short-range finishes. She enjoys some



Angela Rodriguez is considering Miami (OH), Wisconsin-Green Bay and Wisconsin-Milwaukee, among others.

3-point accuracy despite the lack of arm extension on her follow-through. She is an above-average ballhandler, though she tends to turn too much and favor her right hand. When engaged on defense, she has quick hands against the dribbler and quick feet to stay in front.

[Laura Murray](#) is the silent killer that other teams hate to cross paths with. You don't notice the 5-9 guard from the Lady Runnin' Rebels when she walks in the gym and she doesn't always catch your eye on the floor. Where you do notice her is after the game when she's produced the kind of stats that will send you home to a sleepless night. Fundamentally sound and instinctual on the floor, Murray is the type of player that takes advantage of the opportunities that come her way rather than create her own. Opponent's defensive mistakes are met with a textbook jumper or an aggressive drive to the hoop. She can handle it in transition or get out and fill the lane. In the half court, her decision making is sharp and her ability to deliver the ball leads to good looks for her teammates. Lateral foot speed defensively is a question mark, but the effort is there that can make up for some of that deficiency.



Laura Murray doesn't stand out until you look at the stat sheet.

OC Elite guard [Brianna Salvatore](#) of Orange, Calif., caught the eyes of recruiters with some aggressive and effective play off the dribble. The outbursts came in spurts because her team tried to get their budding post star, [Keiana Vines](#), the basketball. When Salvatore found a seam, she darted into it and had success getting all the way to the rim. The 5-11 prospect from Villa Park High School projects as a combo guard. She is good with the ball in her hands, has nice handle and has the competitive nature to attack a defender overplaying her. She did most of her damage off the bounce and didn't show if she can knock down the long jumper.

At a very solid 5-10, [Monet Tellier](#) of the Carolina Rise and Charlotte, N.C., has the prototypical shooting guard body for the next level. Pair that with a very healthy work ethic at both ends of the floor, and you have an extremely combustible combination. Not surprisingly, she is strong on the dribble and can go full blast with her left. Tellier is very effective in a crowd, either stopping and popping her jumper or challenging the defense and shielding the ball with her body, absorbing contact with a fair try at a finish. She gets very good lift on her jumper and has some ability from three, but is more effective in the mid-range because she cocks the ball on her delivery, which impacts accuracy from longer ranges.

After viewing [Megan Waytashek](#) of the MN Stars and Lind Lakes, Minn., you might come away with a sense that she should be considerably more of a factor in games than she is. At 6-1, she is a long, smooth athlete who can shoot the jumper, albeit a bit on the flat side, and do things like a fake-and-step-around move to kiss the ball off the glass from 10 feet out. She also does nifty little things like perform a quick, little back cut to gain wing entries against denying defenders. However, Waytashek occasionally will make unforced turnovers, and will allow the offense to steer away from her too much. We'd like to see more because we think she can deliver.



Duke-commit Clair Watkins of the Carolina Rise and Mint Hill, N.C., is 6-4 but leaves much of the interior banging to her rock of a teammate, Tellier. Watkins is more likely to shoot the mid-range and elbow jumpers. She has a reliable jump hook to her left, though she doesn't truly carve out a lot of space on the boxes. She is more mobile than most and, because of that and her height, she can be a reliable rebounder.

If you're looking for the kind of player that will turn things up a notch, take a

good look at Arkansas New Life's [Chrisstassia Walters](#). The 5-8, slightly-built point guard combines impressive speed with an attacking mentality to keep defenders on their toes baseline to baseline. Her ballhandling gets her past opponents and into the paint for both her own looks and well-read passes to teammates. If the help rotates her way, Walters has an effective pull-up jumper that highlights her ability to elevate off the floor. Defensively, she is aggressive on ball and utilizes her quickness and speed to anticipate out in the passing lanes.

The sky is the limit, if Megan Waytashek can cut down on her turnovers.

[Jassany Williams](#) of Team Breakdown and Hallandale, Fla., is a strong, smooth 6-2 forward who explodes off the floor, making her an effective shot-blocker and offensive rebounder. She also has some creative moves, once executing a pro hop into a little jump hook. Williams can move and jets down court in transition, albeit faster to the offensive end than the defensive side of the court.

### 2011 Checklist


She plays for her father with the Western Pennsylvania Bruins, but [Anna Kestler](#) of Pittsburgh plays more than like a coach's daughter. Yes, she does all the intelligent, coach's daughter things -- gets the ball where it needs to be, with enough velocity and accuracy, and takes charge of her team. Yet, although she is on the small side at 5-5, Kestler is very quick, fast and delivers some extras. She has nice, quick dribble moves, including a crossover and wraparound. She uses head and ball fakes to great effect in creating passing lanes. Moreover, she keeps defenders off-balance with the dribble and doesn't turn her back to her team under defensive pressure. She shoots from distance or off-the-dribble and will play hard and direct traffic on defense. There isn't much you'd ask a point guard to do that Kestler cannot deliver.



Anna Kestler keeps defenders uneasy with her deadly crossover dribble.

There seems to be a number of strong, cut, athletic guards out there these days and the poster child for them may well be [Geraldine Campbell](#) of the Mississippi Hoop Dreams. The 5-8 power point guard uses her strength and quickness to create shots and passes on penetration. Her one-on-one talents compliment her physical skills making her a difficult matchup for any defender. She demonstrated some sharp and adept passing at times and should look to give it up more often, rather than forcing some of the awkward attempts that she takes. Her own shot has good form and the pull-up will definitely be a real threat for her as she faces older and more experienced competition.

Most know about Glymph and her shooting exploits for the Carolina Cougars, but having an equally-impressive game on Wednesday morning was Hayden Latham. The 5-10 wing from Greenville, S.C., is a solid all-around player. She is long and can defend either forward position. She has adequate athleticism, but her basketball IQ allows her to score and make plays against more athletic opposition. She can shoot the three and handle the ball well enough to get into gaps and pull-up for higher percentage shots. Her speed is the only question in terms of deciding what level she can be effective at in college.



## 2012 Checklist

An SC Lady Sixer making waves was 5-10 guard [Asia Dozier](#). The Columbia, S.C., native is one of the quicker players you will find. With her athleticism she is a blur in transition. Compounding the problems she poses for those defending her is that she can go hard right or left and finish with either at the rim. Simply put, this super athletic guard is a finisher.

The way [Breanna McDonald](#) of the Prather Celtics and Lithonia, Ga., plays indicates that she has bought into a future on the perimeter despite being 6-1 and capable inside the paint. She elevates well off the bounce into her jumper and shoots a nice-looking three off the catch. She can put the ball on the floor, attack and finish with her left, though she likes to leave her feet to pass, a correctable habit for someone her age. When engaged, McDonald can be a spectacularly-disruptive defender, making steals by getting her body to impede the ballhandler, then using quick feet and hands to secure the basketball. If she learns to be a little more dynamic at the offensive end, she could become an extremely high-demand recruit.

Easily one of the most dynamic players in the 2012 class is [Jewell Loyd](#) of the Illinois Full Package Platinum. Standing 5-9 and combining impressive athleticism with a seldom-found enthusiasm for the game, she has a presence anytime she walks on the floor. In transition, she can get out ahead of defenders filling the lanes or she can push the ball herself from the rebound or on the outlet. Her individual skills get her to the rim, but she has the range and the jumper to put up big numbers from the perimeter. Loyd has left her mark on the map this summer participating in the Midwest Nike Regional Skills Academy in Indianapolis as well as the USA Basketball U16 tryouts.



Not only can Breanna McDonald rebound, but she can shoot the 3.

Long and athletic, [Imani Martinez](#) of New Jersey Elite and Annandale, N.J., is 6-2 and can fire with good form from long distance. However, she is young and sometimes shows it. While she stays prepped with her hands up, she doesn't always make hard cuts. She also strolled early down court, while her guards battled on the offensive glass. If she can turn such situation into positives, she has the athleticism, size and shooting mechanics to develop into a major prospect.

[Xylina McDaniel](#) is pretty well known because her father, Xavier McDaniel, who played in the NBA. However, she is playing well enough to earn the attention and praise on her own accord as her play at such a young age in the post is well-beyond her years. The 6-2 post is a shot blocker and physical force on defense. Offensively, she has a host of pivot moves already and she has good touch on her shots. She uses her size well, initiates contact in the lane and gets out and runs the floor better than most posts. With the rising senior class being light on big-bodied physical posts, the future classes appear to be much more fruitful and she will be among the top in the class.

Nicole Tanner, the younger sister of rising senior and ESPN HoopGurlz Hundred selection [Tyrese Tanner](#), has a lot of promise. She stands 6-2 and has a strong build not seen by many her age. She has good athleticism but her future lies in the paint where she can clean up the offensive glass or pin, seal and score in the lane. With these two Tanner sisters at Hoover High School one last year, expect big things.

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*Glenn Nelson is a senior writer at ESPN.com and the founder of HoopGurlz.com. A member of the Parade All-American Selection Committee, he formerly coached girl's club basketball, was the editor-in-chief of an online sports network, and was a longtime, national-award-winning newspaper columnist and writer. He can be reached at glenn@hoopgurlz.com.*

*Chris Hansen is the National Director of Prospects for ESPN HoopGurlz and covers girls' basketball and women's college-basketball prospects nationally for ESPN.com. A graduate of the University of Washington with a Communications degree, he has been involved in the women's basketball community since 1998 as a high-school and club coach, trainer, evaluator and reporter. Hansen can be reached at chris.hansen@espn3.com.*

*Mark Lewis is the National Recruiting Coordinator for ESPN HoopGurlz. Twice ranked as one of the top 25 assistant coaches in the game by the Women's Basketball Coaches Association, he has more than 20 years of college coaching experience at Memphis State, Cincinnati, Arizona State, Western Kentucky and, most recently, Washington State. He can be reached at mark@hoopgurlz.com.*

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