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With the July viewing period winding down, we headed to Contra Costa College for the start of the East Bay Xplosion Summer in the City. While players like Dezza James and Breanna Brown backed up their recent offers with strong outings, there were also a handful of younger players who performed well on Sunday.

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Breanna Brown 6-foot-4 Post Bishop O'Dowd (2013) CA Ballaz I: One of the hottest recruiting names in Northern California, Brown showed good develop as a shot blocking presence without forcing contact, running the floor and providing a good target on the post. She had a nice seal inside for a basket to go with a pair of offensive rebound put backs and a handful of blocks. The Ballaz game drew plenty of High Major coaches.

Dezza James 6-foot-1 F Pleasant Grove (2013) Cal Sparks NorCal: Playing two exhibition games on Sunday, James was very good in the opening win over the San Jose Cagers Blue. Working primarily from the mid-post to the low block, she operated well in traffic and utilized a good left hand. She competed well for rebounds and on defense, though she may have to improve her quickness and outside shooting. Overall though, it is clear James is starting to put her full game together.

Jordan Reynolds 5-foot-10 PG Central Catholic-Oregon (2013) Team Concept Heat: Reynolds did an excellent job of controlling the action for Team Concept for two wins over NorCal Elite Black and Cal Sparks NorCal Black. She can score in multiple ways and was most effective breaking down the defense in the middle of the floor.

Mikayla Cowling 6-foot-1 W St. Mary's-Berkeley (2014) EBX Black I: Cowling, a Cal commit, showed her arsenal of skills on Sunday in quietly controlling the game. She stepped out for a three, had a pull up, mid-range jumper and was a quality distributor on outlet passes. She also impacted shots with her length against Vegas Elite.



Simone Sheppard continues to develop as a promising prospect

Kelli Hayes 6-foot-0 W Mitty (2014) San Jose Cagers Blue: While the Cagers struggled at times to handle the Cal Sparks NorCal pressure, Hayes was able to tally an efficient 14 points. Always bringing great energy, she continues to harness it and doesn't force action. Her outside shot is also improving as seen with a pair of mid-range makes and a three pointer on Sunday. She is part of a talented top tier for the 2014 class..

Danielle Palmer 6-foot-2 Post Palo Alto (2014) Olympic Club: Palmer was a surprise on Sunday as an athletic post with size who did some good things for Olympic Club. She catches the ball well and has good touch and composure around the basket. She runs the floor well, but needs to expand her offensive game and add more strength to be more effective.

Simone Sheppard 6-foot-0 F Sacramento (2014) Cal Sparks NorCal Grey: Throughout the spring and summer, the growth of Sheppard's game has been noticeable. Always an active rebounder, she has added some ball handling and a mid-range shot. She scored 20 points in a win over Club Sport Varsity on a variety of jumpers and agile moves in the paint. How her game continues to develop will be interesting to watch during the high school year.

Brijanee Moore 5-foot-6 G St. Mary's-Stockton (2015) Cal Sparks NorCal Black: Quick, active hands on defense are what stand out about Moore. She is a steal threat on the ball and also trapping a ball handler. She has strong handles and was able to get to the basket against the Cagers. This is another good outing for Moore this summer as one of the future pieces for the Rams.

Jenna Sparks 6-foot-0 F Castro Valley (2015) Club Sport Varsity: For a younger player, Sparks handles herself well around the court and appeared comfortable working in close range. She still has plenty of room to grow athletically, but Sparks is a nice underclassman to watch.

Asha Thomas 5-foot-6 PG Bishop O'Dowd (2015) CA Ballaz 1: The 2015 prospect was once again steady in playing with a good basketball IQ. She breaks down the defense in the paint and finished through contact and with a floater. Thomas also displayed good vision in seeing plays develop early, especially in transition. She helped pace a balanced effort in a win over Team Concept Fire in opening day action.

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