**M**7th Grade/13U Review

***With the middle school season now underway we thought we’d give our take on the twelve kids we feel are the top in the area.We saw them all summer long in and out of town. Then we got a closer look at most them in* MBA FIRST48*.There was no way we could do a Top 5, Top 5, Top 5. It was just too close to call. Truth be told it was hard to narrow it down to twelve. Here’s our take!***

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**(In Alphabetical Order)**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Rank** | **Player** | **Pos.** | **School** | **AAU Affiliation** |
| N/A | AJ DILWORTH | G | BELLEVUE | MEMPHIS BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION |
| N/A | JAYDEN FORREST | F | MARION | TENN. DREAMCHASERS |
| N/A | RYAN FORREST | G | MARION | TENN. DREAMCHASERS |
| N/A | JAMARION HARVEY | G | LESTER PREP | TEAM PAYNE WAREAGLES |
| N/A | JOSH HOLLOWAY | G | HIGHLAND OAKS | MEMPHIS BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION |
| N/A | JAYE NASH | G | WHITE STATION | M33M |
| N/A | REGALE MOORE | G | HIGHLAND OAKS | TENN. ASSASSINS |
| N/A | BRAYLEN RAGLAND | G/F | BRIARCREST | MEMPHIS BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION |
| N/A | EJ SMITH | G | RIDGEWAY | MEMPHIS WILDCATS |
| N/A | KHRISTIAN SPENCER | F | RIDGEWAY | TENN. DREAMCHASERS |
| N/A | SNOODY WILKINSON | G | LESTER PREP | MEMPHIS BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION |
| N/A | RASHAD WILLIAMS | F/C | ARLINGTON | TEAM PAYNE WAREAGLES |

**AJ DILWORTH (Guard).**

Arguably the best player in the class, AJ is an instant game changer. A pure athlete for sure, he is as fast, as quick, and as strong as any kid in the class. His offense is what makes him most attractive. He’s a scorer! AJ can do whatever he wants to do on the court. A born slasher, he has mastered attacking the baseline and pulling up for the midrange, floating it, or finishing at the rim, contact or not. AJ is also one of the better outside shooters in the class. His high arching shot is deadly and when he gets it’s going he can knock them down in bunches.

**JAYDEN FORREST (Forward).**

A beast! Right now, Jayden Forrest is the most effective big in the class. In the post, his strength and athleticism allow him to rebound with and defend larger opponents. He has solid post moves and scores well in the paint. You can tell he has been working on expanding his game to the perimeter. He handles the ball well and can shoot it from midrange all the way out to the perimeter.

**RYAN FORREST (Guard).**

Ryan is as high energy as they come. When he first hit the scene, he was regarded as merely a lockdown defender. Though he is still an exceptional defender, he has since expanded his game and is now quite the scorer. Forrest is best scoring at the rim, but he has a decent midrange shot that he knocks down more often than most.

**JAMARION HARVEY (Guard).**

“Woody”, as they call him, is easily one of the best, if not THE best, scorer in the class. He’s capable of running up 20, 30, or even 40 points in a single game. He can score it from anywhere even though he’s best at the rim. But he can float it or pull up, and he can even shoot the three. This big guard is not just a scorer. He defends well and no doubt is one of the best rebounding guards in the class.

**JOSH HOLLOWAY (Guard).**

Josh has long been the staple of this class. And to this day his play still demands the respect of his peers. We like to say he is “ranked for a reason”. Though Josh is often placed at the point position, he has always been a scorer at heart. His quickness and handles have always allowed him the luxury of being to create scoring opportunities for himself. The addition of an outside shot to his arsenal has made him even more lethal.

If you’ve seen him play lately you can see that he has been adding “pure PG” attributes to his game as well.

**JAYE NASH (Guard)**

Nash has long been considered the classes top, pure PG. He’s a high IQ players with top notch handles and a knack for making the right decisions. He is more than a capable scorer inside the arc and has been working to become high percentage outside shooter.

**REGALE MOORE (Guard)**

Big Guard! Now more than just a 3point specialist, Regale has surely separated himself from the pack and is easily one of the elites. He has the size of an undersized big but is comfortable at the 2,3, or even the 1. He’s still one of the premiere shooters in the class, but his scoring is not just limited to the arc.

**BRAYLEN RAGLAND (Guard/Forward)**

Bray is emerging as one of the premiere players in the class. His versatility is what separates him from most others in the class, as he may be the only player at this point capable enough to play every position on the floor. He has two very important assets working in his favor; size and skill. He is a well-rounded ball player with the guard skills to play the one, the outside shot and slashing ability to play the two or three, and the post moves to play the four or five.

**EJ SMITH (Guard)**

EJ is a bucket getter plain and simple. He’s just a baller. A long scoring guard that can run the point or play the two or three if need be, he has long been considered one of the top 3 kids in the class, and at this point it’s hard to argue against that. EJ has a knack for putting the ball in the hole. And he does it from all over the floor, including the free throw line and the three-point line.

**KHRISTIAN SPENCER (Forward)**

Spencer may be THE MOST athletic 13U kid in the area, raw & uncut athleticism. His speed is staggering, his strength is devastating, AND he can jump out of the gym. He’ll probably be the first kid in the class to dunk it.

**LEMARCUS WILKINSON (Guard)**

“Snoody” is easily the most dominant player in the class. A big left handed guard that can handle it like a PG and get to the rack harder and stronger than any other kid in the class. At the rim he finishes everything, with or without contact. And he has a decent outside shot. He commits on defense like none other and is probably the most effective defender in middle school. His High energy and high motor, teamed with his strength and athleticism separate him from his peers.

**RASHAD WILLIAMS (Center)**

Clearly the best big in the class, the 6’3 Williams is the definition of “post presence”. He is a walking block party. His height, length, and timing make him the perfect candidate to block anything within a mile of the gym. Aside from being an exceptional defender, Rashad is also a superb rebounder. You can clearly see he has been working on his game on the offensive end as well. And the moment he becomes a major offensive threat is the moment he will be considered one of the top players in the nation!

HONORABLE MENTION🏅(In Alphabetical Order)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Rank** | **Player** | **Pos.** | **School** | **AAU Affiliation** |
| N/A | Marcus Crawford | G | Lester Prep | Team Payne Wareagles |
| N/A | Curtis Givens | G | MUS | Tenn. DreamChasers |
| N/A | Matthew Stokes | F/C | Schilling Farms | Team Payne Wareagles |
| N/A | Andre Watson | G | Lowrance | Tenn. Assassins |

**MARCUS CRAWFORD (Guard)**

It was very hard to leave “Lil Marcus” out of our Dandy Dozen. He’s a BIG guard that runs the one with precision. He’s a high IQ, pass first kid that always seems to find the open man. But he’s not too unselfish to get a bucket and can easily be a double-digit scorer. Offense aside, he will commit on defense and his size and athleticism will cause problems for smaller guards.

**CURTIS GIVENS (Guard)**

“Lil Curtis” is not just the 3-point specialist that most know him as. Though he is easily one of the top outside shooters in the class, he has a very well-rounded skillset and is quite the capable scorer. His above average ball handling skills make him a combo guard that can score it or facilitate.

**MATTHEW STOKES (Forward/Center)**

Bigs in this city are so few and far between but Matthew Stokes is that 6’2, 6’3 giant that the game’s been missing. He’s athletic and can run the floor like a deer, he’s relentless on the boards and is a rebound and put back machine, and when it comes to scoring in the post he’s far from a slouch. Two words come to mind; Game Changer.

**ANDRE WATSON (Guard)**

Dre was another kid that we had a hard time not putting in the dandy dozen. Watson is easily one of the Top 3 PGs in the city, some would argue that he is the best. He’s a ballhandling whiz and a one-man press-breaker, as unselfish as they come, and he can score it. Dre can knock down the open three, which is very important for a point guard. And he’ll get in it on defense.

SLEEPERS 😴💤

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Rank** | **Player** | **Pos.** | **School** | **AAU Affiliation** |
| N/A | Montrellis Green | G/F | West | Memphis Basketball Association |
| N/A | Zach Hayslett | F | Bellevue | Memphis Dragons |
| N/A | Simeon Powell | G | Ridgeway | Memphis Wildcats |
| N/A | Langston Rogers | F | JP Freeman | Team Payne Wareagles |

**MONTRELLIS GREEN (Guard/Forward)**

Montrellis is a kid that burst onto the scene this past Spring and Summer and turned a lot of heads. He’s a high motor type that specializes in committing on the defensive end. His length causes opponents fits. On the offensive end he’s best at the rim where he is a known finisher. He is also good at getting out and running the break.

**ZACH HAYSLETT (Forward)**

Zach may be the most productive of all our sleepers. He’s a very athletic, high motor forwards that scores well around the rim. He’s relentless on defense and on the boards. Look for him to make a big name for himself in the months ahead.

**SIMEON POWELL (Guard)**

Simeon is one of very few kids who we can honestly say we had never heard of. But now we are his biggest fans. The boy is a bucket getter! And you know how we feel about bucket getters. He’s a sniper from long range but he can score it from any and everywhere.

**LANGSTON ROGERS (Forward)**

Langston emerged on the scene as virtual unknown at the beginning of this past AAU season and turned heads with his size and athleticism alone. A clear-cut forward instead of a true big Langston’s height, strength, and agility affords him the luxury of being able to guard the three to the five. He’s a good rebounder and even better defender AND he can score it.