

JumpOffPlus.com High School: 9th Grade Watch List

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The evaluation periods of the summer and fall provided us with a baseline of information on a number of rising freshmen who are poised to make an impact for their high school teams. Here are a few players that are sure to step in and make an impact for their school teams. The combination of their talent and the opportunity at their school makes these players ready to make headlines.

Lashann Higgs, 5'8", Point Guard Houston, TX/St. Marks

Higgs is one of the most exciting freshmen in the country. Interestingly, she moved into the continental United States almost a year ago from the island of Jamaica. She burst onto the scene this summer with the DFW program and is positioned to become a dominant point guard in the country. Her combination of strength, explosiveness and skill make her an impossible match-up for players on the summer scene, which equates to even more trouble for players who she will encounter during the school season. The path in front of Higgs is wide open. It will be fun to watch how it unfolds for her in the state of Texas.

Ayanna Mitchell, 6'1", Power Forward Conyers, GA/Salem

The lengthy combo- forward is set to make a big impact for her high school team this season. She is ready to put up big numbers, because she steps in for a team that has struggled to find consistency in the past. Couple that with a favorable schedule and Mitchell is sure to make a splash in 4A ball in Georgia. She is a versatile forward because she can defend inside the paint area and on the arc. If the Seminoles chose to speed the game up, Mitchell will thrive in that setting as she can make plays hounding the ball on defense or finishing in transition. Her biggest strength at this point in her game is her ability to snatch rebounds on both ends. Look for Mitchell to make the Seminoles a competitive squad this season.

Maci Morris, 6', Forward Pineville, KY/Bell County

We can predict that Morris could be a great player even without seeing one high school game. She has the pedigree to be terrific, because she comes from a basketball rich background. Morris' father is the boys' basketball coach in Bell County, which means that she probably has shut the lights out in the gym late at night many times. She even gives off the aura of a basketball player before she steps onto the court. When on the court the slender 6 foot wing is a skilled player who can make a number of plays including scoring the ball off the jumper beyond the arc. Her strength is her versatility of being able to move without the ball and even posting a smaller defender.

Jonathan Hemingway is the Assistant Director of Scouting for the JumpOffPlus.com. The service is used by more than 150 colleges and universities nationwide. He also serves on the selection committee for the EBA All-American, Fab Five and Super 64 Camps. He has been involved in the community since 2002 as a coach, camp director and evaluator. You can reach him via email at JLHemingway@gmail.com and follow him on twitter @JLHemingway