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Tradition Of Excellence Continues At 2008 Deep South Classic

Each of the past nine summers, the Deep South Classic has proven to be a pivotal event for top-flight high school women's basketball players from around the country. Once again in 2008, Eighty-Five Michael T. White Signature Sponsored Programs from 35 states will wear the name that will accelerate careers and launch new stars when the Michael T. White Inc. event is held in North Carolina from April 18-20.

The 2008 Deep South Classic will be hosted by three universities – North Carolina, Duke and N.C. State – and it will be presented by the Greater Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau. The tournament will have six divisions, with a total of 192 teams from across the nation competing.

The list of past Classic performers is a veritable Who's Who of the game. More than 60 McDonald's High School All-Americans have played in the event, including superstars such as Candace Parker, Courtney Paris, Erlana Larkins, Noelle Quinn and Tiffany Jackson.

Which star will shine the brightest in 2008? There will be a long list of players at the event who have impressive credentials. Here is a look at some of those athletes, along with a quick report from *All Star Girls Report* analyst Bret McCormick.

Cierra Warren (Class of 2009, 6-3, C, Cal Sparks Gold): This big-time post player out of California has polished her resume by piling up amazing statistics this winter. Warren is currently listed as the nation's No. 21 prospect in the Class of '09 by *ASGR*, and she has already received a scholarship offer from many of the nation's elite programs.

Kelly Faris (2009, 5-11, SG, Indiana Legends): Connecticut and Notre Dame appear to be the early leaders for this talented big guard. Faris, who is listed at No. 6 by *ASGR*, has a wonderful skill set and the ability to play multiple positions.

Taylor Hill (2009, 5-10, PG, Minnesota NC Heat): Hill is a point guard with size, and she is being targeted by most of the major programs. The No. 7 prospect in the country according to *ASGR*, Hill is a tremendous athlete with phenomenal skills and a great basketball mind.

Alexis Rogers (2009, 6-1, G-F, Cincinnati Heat Premier): This is an incredible athlete who has the ability to play the 2, 3 or 4 spots on the D-I level. Rodgers is being pursued by top programs from the ACC and Big Ten. She has been on the rise in the national rankings, and currently stands at No. 18 on the *ASGR* list.

Waltia Rolle (2009, 6-5, C, Cy-Fair Houstonians): This long-armed, athletic post player made her mark previously as a shot blocker who could run the floor. However, her skills have improved dramatically, and she has jumped up to No. 54 in the *ASGR* rankings. Most of the Big 12 programs see tremendous potential in Rolle's game.

Melissa McFarland (2009, 6-6, C, Cornhusker Shooting Stars): McFarland, who is *ASGR*'s No. 64 recruit, brings outstanding size to the low post. She also has solid fundamentals, and that combination has drawn considerable recruiting interest.

Whitney Bays (2010, 6-0, F-G, West Virginia Thunder): This magnificent athlete has already established herself as the finest prep player in West Virginia, and she will be a Top 40 national recruit in her class. Bays will be a big-time recruiting target for the WVU program.

Jeraldine Campbell (2011, 5-8, PG, MS Hoop Dreams): Campbell is simply a born floor leader who has already caught the eye of countless college recruiters, and she is at No. 3 on the *ASGR* chart for '11. This Mississippi native already has an outstanding skill set, and she is destined to be a huge recruit.

Alicia DeVaughn (2010, 6-5, C, Hollywood Eagles): The daughter of Yolanda Griffin, DeVaughn has great size and bloodlines. She is currently working her way back from an injury, so this summer will be an important time. Plenty of college coaches will be watching DeVaughn, who is currently at No. 12 in her class.

Madison Williams (2010, 6-5, C, Michigan Monarchs Book 15): Williams is a long, lean post player who already has excellent skills. She is clearly the best post player in the Class of 2010, and she may well be the top overall recruit in the class.

Antoinette Bannister (2012, 5-8, G, Jacksonville Lady Rams): This is a big guard who possesses a true scorer's mentality. Bannister has the size, strength and skills to play on the wing or in the backcourt.

Theresa Plaisance (2010, 6-4, F, Domino's): This versatile athlete has a wonderful skill set. Plaisance can hit the three, she passes well, and she has a strong understanding of the game. Connecticut has already identified her as a key recruit, and *ASGR* has her rated as the No. 3 prospect in her class.

Morgan Jones (2011, 6-1, F-G, DEBO): Her older sister, Taylor, is a 2008 signee with the Florida Gators, and Morgan will likely outshine her sister. Morgan has the size and the athleticism to dominate on the wing, and she is rated at No. 16 nationally.

Rachel Coffey (2010, 5-8, PG, City Rocks): This athletic combo guard is the type of young player who could really explode at the Deep South Classic. Coffey is a special athlete, and if she displays solid skills this summer she should move up the rankings from her current spot at No. 16.

For more information, please visit us on the web at www.MichaelTWhite.com and click on view events (04) about 2008 Deep South Classic registration, hotel and college coaches information.

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