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City of Palms Classic's top ranked players 1995-2010

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NEWS-PRESS.COM • DECEMBER 15, 2010

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The City of Palms Classic has had some highly-hyped players over the years. Two players in this year's tournament, senior Michael Gilchrist of Elizabeth (N.J.) St. Patrick and junior Shabazz Muhammad of Las Vegas (Nev.) Bishop Gorman are the top-ranked players in the nation in their respective classes. Time will tell how they fare down the road.

For now, here's a then-and-now look at some No. 1 nationally-ranked players from previous City of Palms Classics:

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1995: Tim Thomas, Patterson (N.J.) Catholic: This 6-foot-10 forward was labeled an underachiever despite playing 13 NBA seasons. The New Jersey Nets took him with the No. 7 overall pick in the 1997 draft out of Villanova. Now 33, he is not on a roster this season. He averaged 11.5 points per game and played on eight teams.

1997: Al Harrington, Elizabeth (N.J.) St. Patrick: This 6-9 forward turned pro out of high school and was selected 25th by the Indiana Pacers in 1998. He has averaged 14 points per game over 13 seasons with six teams. Now 30, he plays for the Denver Nuggets.

1998: Donnell Harvey, Cuthbert (Ga.) Randolph Clay: The 6-8 forward went to the University of Florida for a season. The New York Knicks took Harvey with the 22nd overall pick in the 2000 NBA Draft. He spent five seasons with five NBA teams. Now 30, he's playing overseas in Bosnia.

1999: Gerald Wallace, Childersburg, Ala.: The 6-7 forward played for one season at Alabama before being selected with the 25th overall pick in the first round of the 2001 NBA Draft by the Sacramento Kings. He had a slow start to his career but averaged 18 points per game last season as captain of the Charlotte Bobcats.

2000: Kwame Brown, Brunswick (Ga.) Glynn Academy: The 6-11 forward went from high school to the NBA as the No. 1 overall pick in 2001. He is on his fifth NBA team, the Charlotte Bobcats, in 11 seasons and has averaged 6.6

points per game.

2001: Shavlik Randolph, Raleigh (N.J.) Broughton: The 6-11 forward averaged 27 points and 14 rebounds per game as the top-ranked junior in the country by the Sporting News. He went to Duke, declared himself eligible for the NBA Draft following his junior season and did not get drafted. Now 27, he is a free agent.

— David Dorsey

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2002: Derrick Character, Elizabeth (N.J.) St. Patrick: He was labeled the top freshman in his class and made his varsity debut in the Classic. He attended three high schools and two colleges (Louisville and UTEP) and is now a Los Angeles Laker. The team drafted him in the second round this year with the 58th overall pick.

2004: Martell Webster, Seattle Prep: The 6-7 guard turned pro out of high school, going to the Portland Trailblazers as the No. 6 pick in the 2005 draft. He has averaged 8.5 points per game. Now 24, he's on the Minnesota Timberwolves and has not played this season.

2005: Lance Stephenson, Brooklyn (N.Y.) Lincoln: Ranked the No. 1 freshman in his class, the 6-foot-5 guard played one season at Cincinnati. The Indiana Pacers drafted him in the second round this year with the 40th overall pick. He has yet to appear in a game this season.

2005: Wayne Ellington, Merion Station (Penn.) Episcopal Academy: The 6-4 guard attended North Carolina for a season before joining the Timberwolves as the No. 28 pick in the 2009 draft. He has averaged 6.6 points per game.

2006: Kevin Love, Lake Oswego (Ore.): The 6-8 forward went to UCLA for a season and entered the NBA as the fifth overall pick by the Memphis Grizzlies before being traded to the Timberwolves. He's averaging 20 points and 15 rebounds per game this season.

2008: John Wall, Raleigh (N.C.) Word of God Christian: The 6-4 guard went to Kentucky for one season and then became the No. 1 pick in this year's NBA Draft. His is considered a Rookie of the Year candidate with the Washington Wizards, averaging about 18 points per game.

— David Dorsey

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