



Riverside Academy 66, Melrose 56

BY CRAIG HANDEL • CHANDEL@NEWS-PRESS.COM • DECEMBER 23, 2010

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- One of the teams to look out for in the 2011 City of Palms Classic will be Reserve (La.) Riverside Academy, which beat Memphis (Tenn.) Melrose 66-56 in a consolation game Wednesday.

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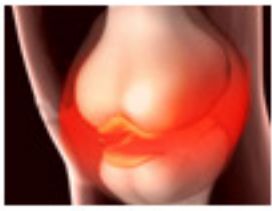
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Riverside Academy beat two top-10 teams in this year's tournament.

All of the Rebels' top players are juniors. They'll also have 6-foot-8 Khalia Turner, who is rated one of the top seventh-graders in the country.

"He might be 6-11 by the time he's here next year," Riverside coach Tim Byrd said. "The doctors said he could grow to 7-2."

Riverside showed balance in Wednesday's win, as Ricardo Gathers scored 19 while adding 13 rebounds. Louis Dabney had 16 points and Donald Thomas and Zelvin Smith added 12 each.

"This tournament has shown me a lot of character about this team," said Gathers, who is being recruited by LSU, USC, California, Oregon, Arizona, Washington, Tennessee, Mississippi and Mississippi State. "All our guys can play big on any night."

One area in which Riverside will have to improve is handling the press. Twice the Rebels built double-digit leads only to see turnovers help Melrose get back in the game.

"The characteristic of a young team is that they don't put seven consecutive minutes together and bury a team," Byrd said. "It's a process."

Memphis-bound Adonis Thomas scored 30 to lead Melrose.

- Craig Handel

Memphis Melrose (56): Cedrick McAfee 2-5 0-0 5, Adonis Thomas 12-16 4-4 30, Davonte Hampton 2-4 0-0 4, Willie Atwood 1-2 0-0 2, Telvin Wilkerson 3-8 2-3 8, Kenneth Goodwin 0-0 0-0 0, Markel Crawford 0-0 1-2 1, Jamerio Jones 0-1 0-0 0, Joseph Northington 2-6 0-0 6, Darrius Moore 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 22-42 7-9 56.

Reserve Riverside (La.) Academy (66): Louis Dabney 5-9 6-8 16, Ricardo Gathers 7-13 5-6 19, Donald Thomas 4-8 0-0 12, Zelvin Smith 3-7 5-6 12, Lucas Martin Julien 1-4 2-2 4, Tremaine Johnson 0-0 0-0 0, John Lewis 1-2 0-0 3, Charvon Julien 0-1 0-0 0, Trevon Woods 0-0 0-0 0, Trevin Woods 0-0 0-1 0. Totals 21-45 18-22 66.

Memphis Melrose 15 6 16 19 - 56

Riverside Academy 16 14 16 20 - 66

3-pointers: Melrose 5-15 (McAfee 1-3, Thomas 2-2, Hampton 0-1, Wilkerson 0-2, Jones 0-1, Northington 2-6), Riverside Academy 6-18 (Dabney 0-3, Gathers 0-1, Thomas 4-7, Smith 1-1, Martin Julien 0-3, Lewis 1-2, Julien 0-1). Rebounds: Melrose 19 (Wilkerson 5), Riverside Academy 26 (Gathers 13). Fouls: Melrose 21, Riverside Academy 11. Fouled out: Wilkerson. Assists: Melrose 12 (McAfee, Hampton, Wilkerson 3), Riverside Academy 13 (Martin Julien 5). Blocks: Melrose 2 (Thomas 2), Riverside Academy 2 (Trevin Woods, Smith 1). Steals: Melrose 5 (Thomas 2), Riverside Academy 6 (Smith, Martin Julien 2). Turnovers: Melrose 15, Riverside Academy 9.

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