



News

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Philadelphia University hosts Reebok Breakout Challenge basketball camp featuring some of the nation's top high school hoopsters July 6 to 9

PHILADELPHIA, July 6, 2011— Some of the nation's best high school basketball prospects will compete for the attention of top college coaches and scouts at the Reebok Breakout Challenge basketball camp at Philadelphia University July 6 to 9.

To earn one of the 100 invitations to this year's camp, players competed in free, open tryouts throughout the spring. The top performers were selected to attend this week's showcase at PhilaU, making for an interesting mix of well-known prospects and unknown talents.

This is the fourth time PhilaU is hosting Reebok's basketball camp to audition some of the nation's top basketball recruits. The University hosted a similar competition from 2007 to 2009, and there was no camp in 2010.

The 2011 Breakout Challenge was revived, in part, by John Wall, the prolific Washington Wizards guard and former No. 1 overall pick in the NBA Draft. In 2007, Wall was unranked in top prospect lists, but after driving 18 hours from his home in North Carolina to a Chicago Breakout Challenge, Wall wowed scouts and quickly became one of the most heavily recruited high school players.

This year, Wall played an active role in promoting the Reebok Challenge, hoping to give similarly unheralded high school players a chance to prove their game in front of college recruiters. "I'm glad to have a part in providing the same opportunity to all those players that are in the same place today as I was a few years ago," Wall said in a press release for the event.

In addition to having the opportunity to show off their skills, the top players from the competition will be selected by Wall for a private training camp at the end of the summer.

The local talent at the camp will include Shep Garner, a 6'2" shooting guard from Roman Catholic High School, who is ranked by ESPN as a top-75 recruit nationwide. Miles Overton, a 6'3" shooting guard from St. Joe's Prep and son of former 76er Doug Overton, also will attend. Overton is ranked outside of the top 100, but dominated the Philadelphia-area try out earlier this year.

Other local players include Donovan Tate, an unranked forward from Reading Central Catholic High School, and 6'8" Benjamin Bentil, originally from Ghana and now playing for The Haverford School. Bentil came to Haverford through the RunHouse Hoops Gold Coast Project, a recruiting program that helps West African's get an education in the U.S. through athletic scholarships.

"We are happy to continue our longstanding partnership with Reebok and Brian Lee '94, Reebok director of global marketing, for this event," said Tom Shirley, director of athletics and women's basketball coach. "Our outstanding facilities and time-honored tradition of basketball excellence make Philadelphia University a great fit to host some of the nation's best high school athletes."

The camp is open to the public July 6 to 9. The doors will be open each day from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. and admission is \$5 per day. The Gallagher Athletic Center at Philadelphia University is located on Henry Ave. just west of School House Lane in East Falls.

Philadelphia University, founded in 1884, is a private university with 3,500 students enrolled in more than 60 undergraduate and graduate programs. As the model for professional university education, the University prepares students to be leaders in their professions in an active, collaborative and real-world learning environment infused with the liberal arts. Philadelphia University includes the innovative College of Design, Engineering and Commerce; the College of Architecture and the Built Environment; and the College of Science, Health and the Liberal Arts. For more information, go to www.PhilaU.edu.