

Derrick Favors of Atlanta is our 2009 Player of the Year

Meet PARADE's All-America High School Boys Basketball Team

by Michael O'Shea

was just a "tall, skinny, shy" eighth-grader. "He was willing to work really hard to improve himself, and he was a fast learner. He has matured so much as an athlete and as a person in the last five years. I couldn't be more proud of him."

Favors is quick to respond in kind. "Coach Reddick has always been there for me," he says. "He taught me discipline and hard work. I owe him a lot."

Reddick compares Favors to another former Atlanta-area talent—current Orlando Magic all-star Dwight Howard. "Dwight's bigger, but Derrick's skills and offense stand out more," Reddick says. "Derrick is a total player, offensively and defensively."

He's also a "very good person," Reddick adds. "He's humble—nothing goes to his head. And he has helped coach kids in the summer and worked distributing food to the needy."

Favors will stay close to home next year, when he enrolls at Georgia Tech. For now, he can savor the honor of headlining our 40-man roster selected by coaches, scouts, and recruiters across the country. This year's team includes players from 21 states, with California leading the way with five. All but six of the honorees are seniors. Repeat selections from last year include Favors and fellow First Team picks Xavier Henry of Oklahoma City, Renardo Sidney of Los Angeles, Lance Stephenson of Brooklyn, and Dexter Strickland of Elizabeth, N.J.

'Derrick has matured so much as an athlete'

DERRICK FAVORS, THE 2009 Player of the Year on PARADE's 53rd annual All-America High School Boys Basketball Team, is already well on his way to becoming a star. At 17, the 6-foot-9 South Atlanta High player is a standout known for both his all-around game and his highlight videos on YouTube. One 2008 reel shows Favors scoring 42 points—mostly on showstopping dunks—against Jeannette, Pa., with 20 rebounds and 12 blocked shots. This season, he averaged 27.5 points, 13.3 rebounds, five blocked shots, and four steals a game while shooting 73% from the two-point range. And in the state championship game against Westover, Ga., he racked up an impressive 38 points to help his team to victory.

"I saw a lot of potential in Derrick," says South Atlanta coach Michael Reddick, who has known Favors since he

Name	School	City	Ht.
First Team			
Derrick Favors	South Atlanta	Atlanta, Ga.	6'9"
Xavier Henry	Putnam City	Oklahoma City, Okla.	6'6"
John Henson	Sickles	Tampa, Fla.	6'10"
DeMarcus Cousins	John LeFlore	Mobile, Ala.	6'11"
Renardo Sidney	Fairfax	Los Angeles, Calif.	6'10"
Lance Stephenson	Abraham Lincoln	Brooklyn, N.Y.	6'5"
Kenny Boynton	American Heritage	Plantation, Fla.	6'3"
Ryan Kelly	Ravenscroft	Raleigh, N.C.	6'9"
Avery Bradley	Findlay College Prep	Henderson, Nev.	6'3"
Dexter Strickland	St. Patrick	Elizabeth, N.J.	6'3"
Second Team			
Abdul Gaddy	Bellarmino Prep	Tacoma, Wash.	6'3"
Jared Sullinger	Northland	Columbus, Ohio	6'8"
Alex Oriakhi	The Tilton School	Tilton, N.H.	6'9"
Josh Smith	Kentwood	Covington, Wash.	6'10"
Dante Taylor	National Christian	Fort Washington, Md.	6'9"
Jeremy Tyler	San Diego	San Diego, Calif.	6'11"
Wallace Judge	Arlington Country Day	Jacksonville, Fla.	6'10"
Harrison Barnes	Ames	Ames, Iowa	6'6"
Brandon Knight	Pine Crest	Fort Lauderdale, Fla.	6'3"
Milton Jennings	Pinewood Prep	Summerville, S.C.	6'9"
Third Team			
Dominic Cheek	St. Anthony	Jersey City, N.J.	6'6"
Mason Plumlee	Christ School	Arden, N.C.	6'11"
Mouptau Yarou	Montrose Christian	Rockville, Md.	6'10"
Keith Gallon	Oak Hill Academy	Mouth of Wilson, Va.	6'9"
Maalik Wayns	Roman Catholic	Philadelphia, Pa.	6'1"
Tyler Honeycutt	Sylmar	Sylmar, Calif.	6'8"
John Jenkins	Station Camp	Gallatin, Tenn.	6'5"
Mfon Udofia	Miller Grove	Lithonia, Ga.	6'3"
Peyton Siva	Franklin	Seattle, Wash.	6'1"
Durand Scott	Rice	New York, N.Y.	6'5"
Fourth Team			
David Wear	Mater Dei	Santa Ana, Calif.	6'10"
Travis Wear	Mater Dei	Santa Ana, Calif.	6'10"
Terrell Vinson	St. Frances	Baltimore, Md.	6'6"
Deshaun Thomas	Bishop Luers	Fort Wayne, Ind.	6'7"
Lorenzo Brown	Centennial	Roswell, Ga.	6'5"
Thomas Robinson	Brewster Academy	Wolfeboro, N.H.	6'8"
Leslie McDonald	Briarcrest Christian	Eads, Tenn.	6'5"
Erik Murphy	St. Mark's	Southborough, Mass.	6'10"
Roger Franklin	Duncanville	Duncanville, Tex.	6'5"
D.J. Richardson	Findlay College Prep	Henderson, Nev.	6'3"

Top Players

Xavier Henry

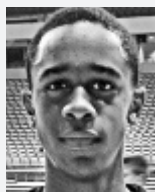


The Oklahoma shooting guard missed nine games after a car accident but came back to average 28.3 points a

game for Putnam City High. He'll attend the University of Memphis.

John Henson

After moving to Florida from Texas, the UNC-bound power forward made his mark at Tampa's Sickles High, averaging 17.7 points and 12.4 rebounds a game.



DeMarcus Cousins



Cousins has anchored two nationally ranked teams at John LeFlore High in Alabama. This season, the

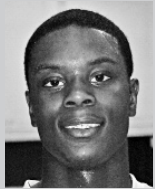
future Memphis Tiger averaged 26 points and 11 rebounds.

Renardo Sidney

Three-time all-state honoree Sidney averaged 24 points, four assists, and 10.7 rebounds a game for Fairfax High in Los Angeles this season. He's committed to USC.



Lance Stephenson



With nearly 2900 career points, Stephenson is the top scorer in New York history. This season, he

averaged 31 points and 12 rebounds and recorded 50- and 46-point games.



See Derrick dunk!
Watch our Player of
the Year in action at
Parade.com/basketball

Top Players

These First Team All-Americans are already making their mark.

Xavier Henry



The Oklahoma shooting guard missed nine games after a car accident but came back to average 28.3 points. He has a 3.57 GPA

at Putnam City High and plans to attend the University of Memphis.

John Henson

After moving to Florida from Texas, the UNC-bound power forward made a name for himself at Tampa's Sickles High, averaging 17.7 points, 12.4 rebounds, and 6.1 blocked shots a game.



DeMarcus Cousins



Cousins has anchored two nationally ranked teams at John LeFlore High in Mobile, Ala. This season, the future

Memphis Tiger averaged 26 points and 11 rebounds a game.

Renardo Sidney

Three-time all-state honoree Sidney "has unlimited potential," says coach Harvey Kitani. This season, he averaged 24 points and 10.7 rebounds for Fairfax High in Los Angeles. He's committed to USC.



Lance Stephenson



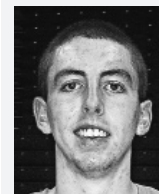
With nearly 2900 career points, Stephenson is the top scorer in New York history. This season, he averaged 31 points and 12 rebounds and recorded 50- and 46-point games.

Kenny Boynton

Boynton, the No. 3 scorer in Florida history, once racked up 61 points for American Heritage School in one game. This season, the future Gator shot 58% from the two-point range, averaging 31 points.



Ryan Kelly



Kelly averaged 25.2 points and 10.2 rebounds at Ravenscroft High in Raleigh, N.C. He has a 4.2 GPA, plays in the orchestra, and will be a fourth-generation college player when he enrolls at Duke.

Avery Bradley

Bradley helped Findlay College Prep in Henderson, Nev., to an undefeated regular season. The University of Texas-bound wing guard averaged 18.8 points a game and shot 54% from the floor.



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