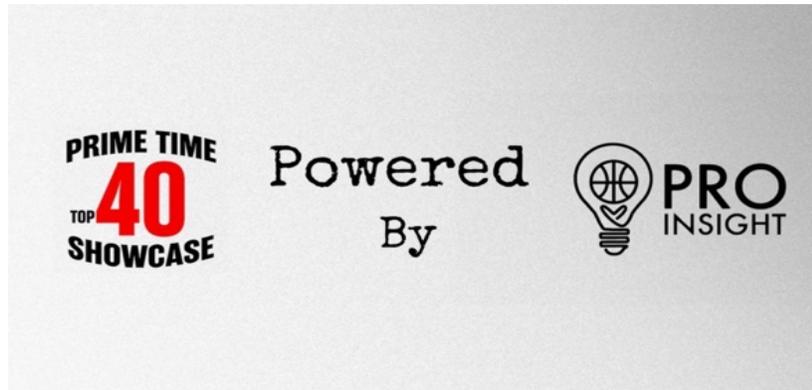


# STANDOUTS BY CLASS - 2021



November 14, 2019

Matt McKay, Jr. - Pro Insight

## **Nathan Bittle / Crater HS (OR) / 2021 / PF/C / 6'11 / 192lbs. / 7'5 WS / 16.5**

*Recruitment: holds offers from Oregon, UCLA, Arizona, Cal, Georgia Tech, Gonzaga, Oregon State, USC, and Vanderbilt*

- High-level skills for someone his size. Still growing — big time length, already. Just needs to continue to get stronger
- Can really stretch the floor. Seemingly limitless range and an effortless stroke. Shoots a very soft ball. If he gets his feet set and a clean look, it's typically going in
- Underrated ball skills. Can handle the ball in space — capable of grabbing a board and pushing it up the floor, himself
- Good passer both in the half court setting as well as in transition
- Uses length well on D - really alters shots all over the place. Blocked guys at the rim as well as jump shots. Shows signs of being able to guard in space, as well
- High upside — ultimate ceiling is closely tethered to how much functional strength he can add

Bottom Line: Bittle is a stretch big that's more than just a shooter: he can handle, pass, make advanced reads, as well as affect shots left and right on the defensive end. He already possesses a ton of tangible skills yet there's still plenty of upside, here — especially once his body matures and he turns his motor up on every possession. There's a strong foundation here and with continued seasoning at the college level, Bittle will have a shot at providing impactful minutes in the NBA, down the line.

**Darius Gakwasi / Central Catholic HS (OR) / 2021 / W / 6'5 / 189lbs. / 6'6 WS / 17.2**

*Recruitment: has received offers from Portland and Portland State, with interest from Montana, Stanford, Oregon State, Santa Clara, and UC-Santa Barbara*

- Intriguing wing frame...good positional size. Lacks ideal length, but still brings some physical tools to the table
- Smooth. Inherent easy scoring ability...has a knack for putting the ball in the hole and making it look easy
- Displayed some nice touch with either hand w/ his floaters
- Natural shooter. Shoots a nice, soft ball. Clean shooting mechanics. Repeatable shooting motion. Legit C& S threat
- High-level natural talent and ability, but somewhat questionable BBIQ and motor? How much does he want it?
- Effort on D must improve. Offensive game & defensive game, at this stage. He has the frame to be able to bully smaller opponents, so tapping into/exploiting that should unlock a new level for him

Bottom Line: Gakwasi is an intriguing prospect. It's tough to ignore his scoring and shooting ability. Not an elite athlete, but gets by in this department. Seems most engaged with the ball in his hands. If he can become more well-rounded over these next two HS seasons, watch out. Plenty of upside, here.

**Keshawn "KD" Hall / Jefferson HS (OR) / 2021 / PG / 6'0 / 156lbs. / 6'1 WS / 18.1**

*Recruitment: has received interest from Portland and Portland State*

- Small, but dynamic lead guard. Lefty
- Can really handle the rock. Has the ball on a string as a handler - got past the first line of defense into the paint, at will
- Comfortable and effective in one-on-one situations, as a playmaker for both himself and for others. Can create something out of nothing on O
- Had some nice finishes in transition in live play, including one euro-step, in particular.
- Creativity stood out. Ambidextrous finisher at the rim
- Slightly unorthodox mechanics, but capable range shooter. Shoots more of a set shot, but can nail it if left open
- Made his mark more on the offensive end vs. defensive end in this event

Bottom Line: Hall is older for the 2021 class, but brings plenty of tangible skills to the table, starting with his elusive handle. Don't overlook his smaller stature...Hall does a great job of using his low center of gravity and quickness to get wherever he needs to on the floor. He'll be a difference-maker for Jefferson this year and with continued seasoning, he'll have a chance to make his mark at the college level.

**Nolan Hickman / Eastside Catholic HS (WA) / 2021 / CG / 6'2.5 / 182lbs. / 6'6 WS / 16.5**

*Recruitment: holds offers from Oklahoma, Washington, Washington State, Montana, Cal Poly, and Portland*

- Mature, confident, skilled CG. More 1 than 2, but has the ability to succeed playing either backcourt spot

- Holds his own athletically...has some quick twitch in him. Excellent body control
- Acts like he's been there before (and he has — he tore up the Peach Jam in July)
- Seemingly in total control as a ball handler / playmaker
- Shifty as a mover and as a handler
- Improved jump shooter. Comfortable shooting off the catch of off the bounce.
- Comfortable letting it go out past the college 3 line
- Flashes glimpses as a plus-defender. Capable on-ball and a good anticipator off the ball

Bottom Line: Not only was Hickman the best guard in attendance, he's one of the best guards on the west coast. He never gets too high or too low. Calm, cool, collected, and poised at all times. This trait will serve him well, over time. That said, his motor could stand to improve as that would assist in him maximizing his ultimate ceiling. If everything goes like it should, Nolan Hickman will soon be following the footsteps of his godfather, Nate Robinson, in route to becoming the next Seattle guard to make it to the NBA.

**Kam Robinson / Jefferson HS (OR) / 2021 / PF/C / 6'9 / 218lbs. / 7'0 WS / 17.0**

*Recruitment: has received offers from Montana and Pacific, with interest from Washington*

- Big frame that's really transformed over the past year, or so. Is currently in the best shape he's ever looked. Has dropped apprx. 80lbs. Since end of his frosh season
- More fluid than explosive as an athlete. An above-average mover, overall. Still figuring out how to maximize his athleticism
- Good touch in the paint - has a knack for finishing from 3-7' out. Did a nice job finishing bunnies around the paint throughout the event
- Shows flashes as a straight-line driver and as a mid-range jump shooter
- His length allows him to contest shots in the paint
- His upside will be somewhat connected to his ability to guard in space, as well as his overall motor

Bottom Line: Robinson has always had great hands and soft feet, now other pieces are beginning to click. He's more mobile now, than ever. 7' WS allows him to cover ground efficiently on D and get to more balls as a rebounder. He may not have the upside of his uncle (longtime NBA player Clifford Robinson), but if he can learn to play hard with consistency, he will have a shot to be an impact player at the collegiate level.

**Trace Salton / Lake Oswego HS (OR) / 2021 / F / 6'5 / 208lbs. / 6'7 WS / 17.0**

*Recruitment: has received an offer from St. Martin's, with interest from Portland and Eastern Washington*

- Checks the "positional versatility" box pretty emphatically. Size + foundational skill set to play either forward position
- Decent athlete. Still figuring out how to properly utilize his natural physical tools
- Good lift on his J. Mechanics are decent. More comfortable from midrange than from deep, but projects as someone who will be able to extend his range over time
- Flashes potential as a straight line driver
- At his best when keeping things simple. Can be as effective on O as he needs to be with two dribbles or less
- Has the tools to become an impactful defender as long as he's focused and his motor is turned up

Bottom Line: fits the mold as a modern forward who can slide between the 3 and the 4 depending on who he's matched up against. Has the ability to overpower smaller wings or take slower bigs off the bounce. Still formulating his offensive repertoire under HC Marshall Cho at Lake O, and will have a shot to be featured more in 2019-20. Confidence and assertiveness will be huge factors for Salton in terms of reaching his ceiling, long term.

*2021 Honorable Mentions:*

*Damontae Burns - Parkrose HS (OR)*

*Dane Erikstrup - Beaverton HS (OR)*

*Noah Pepper - Selah HS (WA)*

*Nathan Rawlins-Kibonge - Jefferson HS (OR)*