



Oakland 'teams' for win

Taylor brothers help lift Wildcats past Skyline

By Steve Herendeen, STAFF WRITER

Article Created: 02/16/2008 02:33:19 AM PST

OAKLAND — The marquee name belongs to Damian Lillard. He's the Oakland High boys basketball player who gets most of the ink and most of the attention from opposing teams' defenses.

The thing is, the Wildcats are much more than a one-man show and proved it again Friday. Behind brothers P.J. and T.J. Taylor, who combined for 30 points, including six 3-pointers, Oakland hammered out a 73-56 Oakland Athletic League win over hosting Skyline.

P.J. Taylor had a team-high 20 points — including a game-turning 12 in the second quarter — and T.J. finished with 10, eight in the third quarter when the Wildcats (20-7, 7-2 OAL) held off a mild rally by Skyline (15-12, 5-4).

True, Lillard scored Oakland's first six points finished with 13, but the key figures in this win were the Taylor kids.

"The thing is both Taylors are really good shooters," said Wildcats coach Orlando Watkins, whose team locked up second place. "When teams focus on Damian, they forget the other players. Damian knows if (the defense) is on him, his teammates are open, and he has a lot of faith in his teammates."

Lillard had just one point in the second quarter, but that was fine for the Wildcats because P.J. Taylor

caught fire. He hit four 3-pointers to help turn an 11-8 first-quarter lead into a 32-20 halftime edge.

Skyline pulled to within 11-10 at the top of the second quarter before P.J. Taylor hit his first 3-pointer. The teams exchanged two baskets each, then Taylor swished another bomb from the left side. He then answered baskets by Skyline's Greg Brown and Kwame Vaughn (21 points) with back-to-back 3-pointers for a 27-18 Oakland lead.

"I found the touch again," said Taylor, who was in a mild 3-pointer slump for a few games. "My little brother said to keep shooting. I wasn't confident with it before, but now my eyes zoom in, and the basket just looks so big."

T.J. Taylor's big effort came in the third quarter. Skyline had pulled to within 35-28 with 5:45 left on a 3-pointer by Vaughn, but Drake Green (10 points) hit a layup for Oakland. Skyline then missed an inside shot and three follow shots. T.J. Taylor made them pay by drilling back-to-back 3-pointers.

A Skyline win would have vaulted the Titans into the playoffs. They still hold a one-game lead over Fremont for the last playoff spot but have to play McClymonds next Wednesday while the Tigers finish with Castlemont.

More and more it looks as if a playoff game between Skyline and Fremont is in order next Friday. The game would be at Oakland Tech at 3:45 p.m.

"We're just not playing inspired basketball," sighed coach Terrence Ransom, who also got 15 points from Nefi Perdomo.

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Questions or comments? Please contact Coach Blake Spiering at (831) 645-1385 or bspiering@mpc.edu



Front Row: Terrance Baker-Leyva, R J Pua, Elias Rivera, Harvey Todd, Tyler Brown, Jermaine Carter
 Back Row: Coach Martel Israel, Quinczy Spencer, Austin Bracey, Matt Baker, Coach Blake Spiering, Denarrio Tatmon, Solomon Wiseman, **Dondrale Campbell**, Josh O'Neal, Manly Hines, Coach Aaron Landon

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#10 - PJ Taylor

Position: PG

Year: Fr.

Hometown: Oakland, Calif.

High School: Oakland

Height: 5-10

Weight: 180

Two-time Second Team All-OAL selection, being named First Team OAL in his senior season... honorable mention All-Bay Area selection... favorite movie is Lova and Basketball... favorite actor is Will Smith... favorite book is William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet... his special talents include swimming and bowling... favorite athlete is Jason Kidd... favorite team are the Golden State Warriors... personal quote is "The harder you work, the easier life can be"... undecided major.



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#1 - Drake Green



Position: G

Year: Fr.

Hometown: Oakland, Calif.

High School: Oakland

Height: 6-2

Weight: 185

Played three years of varsity basketball at Oakland High, being named to the Skyline Tournament All-Tournament team... also ran one year of track at OHS... favorite movie is American Gangster... favorite actor is Denzel Washington... loves to draw and listen to music... favorite athlete is Allen Iverson... favorite team is the LA Lakers... personal quote is "You see things and ask why. I dream things that never were and ask why not"... Communication major.



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MEN'S BASKETBALL



Courtesy: Weber State



BIOGRAPHY

Damian Lillard

1

Guard - G
Height: 6-2 Weight: 180
Freshman

Previous Affiliations

Oakland HS
Oakland, CA



Courtesy: Weber State
Release: 05/09/2008

WEBER STATE: ...Signed with the Wildcats during the early signing period in November 2006. ... Turns out he developed into one of the best prep players in the greater Oakland area last season, an area which has produced some tremendous athletes in many sports. ... A tremendous shooter with the ball handling skills of a point guard. He is expected to play both positions. ... His out going personality, positive attitude and playing skills are akin to former WSU standout guard Jermaine Boyette.

HIGH SCHOOL: ...Played for Coach Orlando Watkins at Oakland High where he was First Team all-league his junior and senior seasons. ... Averaged just over 28 points per last year as a senior with a single game high of 45. ... Averaged 20 points, four rebounds and four assists his junior season.

PERSONAL

Full Name Damian Lamonte Ollie Lillard Born July 15, 1990

Major General Studies

COACH RAHE ON LILLARD: "Damian is a very talented player, a great kid and loves to be in the gym. He's a very bright guy who picks up things quickly which makes me excited. He has a very high level skill level and can play both guard positions equally well. Even though he's scorer, he plays with an unselfish attitude and when needed, can really pass the basketball. Damian has an extremely bright future here at Weber State."

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School Ranking

NCP Boys BB Top 20 | [NorCalPreps.com](#) | last sorted on 3/17/2008



Team	City	Record	Pvs.
1 McClymonds	Oakland	32-0	1
2 Archbishop Mitty	San Jose	32-2	2
3 De La Salle	Concord	28-4	3
4 St. Mary's	Berkeley	33-2	4
5 Modesto Christian	Modesto	29-5	5
6 Sacramento	Sacramento	30-4	6
7 Fairfield	Fairfield	28-6	9
8 Rocklin	Rocklin	30-3	8
9 Newark Memorial	Newark	26-7	10
10 John F Kennedy	Richmond	27-6	11
11 Oakland	Oakland	23-9	12
12 Branson	Ross	32-3	15
13 Ponderosa	Shingle Springs	25-4	13
14 Castro Valley	Castro Valley	24-4	14
15 Monte Vista	Danville	22-7	16
16 San Leandro	San Leandro	20-6	17
17 El Camino	Sacramento	26-6	7
18 Bellarmine Prep	San Jose	19-10	18
19 Hayward	Hayward	23-8	19
20 Riordan	San Francisco	21-11	20

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The Chronicle girls basketball Top 20

Team	W-L	PV
1. SH Cathedral	33-0	1
2. St. Pat/St. Vincent	30-5	2
3. Berkeley	30-4	3
4. Branson	29-7	7
5. Miramonte	27-4	4
6. Justin-Siena	29-4	9
7. Mitty	22-11	10
8. Castlemont	24-5	11
9. Hercules	24-7	8
10. Valley Christian	27-7	15
11. Deer Valley	25-5	5
12. Carondelet	26-4	6
13. Wilcox	25-4	19
14. Moreau Catholic	23-4	12
15. St. Mary's-Berk.	24-6	13
16. St. Ignatius	19-12	14
17. Piedmont	23-7	16
18. Maria Carrillo	28-2	18
19. Monte Vista	25-3	NR
20. Eastside Prep	31-2	17

Honorables: Alcalanes 16-12, Albany 17-10, Alhambra 19-9, American 21-7, Bishop O'Dowd 23-5, Carmont 24-8, Dublin 21-6, Gunn 26-2, Lowell 26-5, Mercy-SF 22-6, Northgate 25-5, Notre Dame-Belmont 18-11, Petaluma 20-8, Pinole Valley 17-10, Redwood 22-8, Sonoma Valley 21-7, Washington-Fremont 24-4.

The Chronicle boys basketball Top 20

Team	W-L	PV
1. McClymonds	32-0	1
2. Mitty	32-2	2
3. St. Mary's	33-2	3
4. De La Salle	28-4	4
5. Branson	31-3	5
6. Newark Memorial	25-6	6
7. Oakland	23-9	7
8. Riordan	21-11	12
9. JFK-Richmond	21-11	8
10. Castro Valley	24-4	9
11. Monte Vista	21-7	10
12. San Leandro	20-6	11
13. SH Cathedral	21-13	18

14. Hayward	23-8	13
15. Campolindo	22-8	14
16. Bellarmine	19-10	20
17. Fremont-Oak	16-12	15
18. Salesian	21-9	16
19. St. Ignatius	18-10	17
20. Antioch	19-9	19

Honorables: Acalanes 19-9, Amador Valley 18-10, Berkeley 19-10, Burlingame 22-7, Casa Grande 19-10, Cupertino 23-6, Dublin 23-8, El Cerrito 20-8, Foothill 19-8, Lick-Wilmerding 26-9, Lincoln 25-11, Logan 21-8, Menlo School 23-8, Menlo-Atherton 21-11, Mission 26-5, Pittsburg 20-8, Serra 18-11, Skyline 15-14, Windsor 20-8, Woodside Priory 25-6.

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This article appeared on page C - 2 of the San Francisco Chronicle

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Final East Bay Boys super poll

Contra Costa Times

Article Launched: 03/21/2008 03:07:08 AM PDT
Rank School Record Comment

1. McClymonds 32-0 Warriors send coach Dwight Nathaniel into retirement with school's first state title
2. St. Mary's 33-2 Panthers fall short of Division IV state title but return three starters
3. De La Salle 28-4 Spartans can't find outside touch in 50-37 loss to McClymonds in NorCal final
4. Oakland 23-9 Wildcats' run ends in Division I NorCal semis with 49-45 OT loss to De La Salle
5. Newark Memorial 26-7 E.J. Farris, Chris Jones held to combined 11 points in NorCal loss to McClymonds
6. Kennedy-Rich. 27-6 Jonathon Williams has 41 points in 87-72 NorCal loss to Modesto Christian
7. Castro Valley 24-4 Trojans' historic run ends with double-OT loss to Newark Memorial in NCS semis
8. Monte Vista 22-7 Brian Barbour scores 14, but Mustangs fall short in NCS semifinal loss to DLS
9. Campolindo 22-8 Jack Trotter, Cougars nearly rally from 22-point deficit in NorCal loss to Sacramento
10. Berkeley 19-10 Yellow Jackets end season winning 7 of 9 but fall to Newark Memorial in NCS

11. Las Lomas (18-12) 12. Hayward (18-6) 13. Dublin (23-8) 14. San Leandro (20-6) 15. Salesian (21-9)

Also receiving votes: Antioch (19-9), Fremont-Oakland (17-11), Pittsburg (20-8), James Logan (21-8), Acalanes (19-9), Foothill (19-8). The East Bay Super Poll incorporates all East Bay high schools and is compiled by the staff of Bay Area News Group-East Bay.

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