

OFF TO COLLEGE

BY SDPREP STAFF

On November 12, 2008 Seven San Diego area stars signed letter of Intents to play at the next-level. Over the last few years San Diego basketball has produced a large number of great high school players. layers such as Mercedes Fox-Griffin (Oregon State), Allison Duffy (San Diego State), Charlotte Otero (U of Idaho), Latoya Cunningham (Miami), Jordan Franey (UC Santa Barbra), Jerica Williams (SDSU), Paris Johnson (SDSU) and many others have played in San Diego and have now moved on to play collegiate basketball. San Diego has had high caliber players in the last few years, Charde Houston (UCONN), Candice Wiggins (Stanford), Linda Pace (Arizona) come to mind. Even dating back to the Terri Mann years. In recent years, though, there has been an over abundance of talent. This has helped to put San Diego Girls' basketball on the map.



DANESIA WILLIAMSON **5'6**
PG **MT. MIGUEL H.S.**

Danesia has had a very solid career at Mt. Miguel High School. Williamson has shown that she is one of the top PG's in the class of 2009 statewide. Williamson has led the Matadors to 3 consecutive CIF section appearances winning 2 of them. Danesia will be attending the University of San Diego next fall, and is expected to contribute immediately at the guard slots...an athletic player who will bring energy on both offense and defense. Williamson, a 5-6 point guard, comes to the Toreros after a stand-out high school career at near-by Mt. Miguel High School where she led her team to a league and CIF championship as a junior, while averaging 20 points per game, 4.7 steals per game and dished out an average of five assist per game. As a junior she was named East County Sports and Tribune Player of the Year. She is a two-time first-team All-League



performer and as a sophomore she averaged 15 ppg, four steals per game and six assists per game. A heavily recruited guard, she chose to attend USD over schools such as Pepperdine University, Providence, Albany and Saint Mary's College.

FROM THE COACHES MOUTH: "Danesia is an exceptional athlete who will give us great speed and athleticism in the back court. We are thrilled to have such a great local talent committed to our USD family," stated Fisher. "Danesia comes from a very well established and well coached team and I expect her to make an impact immediately."



Ashley Duffy attends El Capitan High School in Lakeside, Calif., where she is slated to be a four-year starter under Coach Frank Quinones. Duffy averaged 18.6 points, 7.1 rebounds, 5.0 assists and 6.7 steals as a junior last season to garner Grossmont League North MVP honors for the second year in a row. She helped the Vaqueros to the Division III San Diego Section semifinals in 2008 and was a first-team all-CIF pick. Duffy has twice been tabbed as the San Diego Union-Tribune athlete of the week, including last February when she just missed a triple-double with 24 points, 11 rebounds and nine assists against league rival West Hills. Duffy's older sister, Allison, is a sophomore forward on this year's Aztec squad and the pair played together at El Capitan in 2005-06, when Ashley was the Grossmont League North Freshman of the Year.



FROM THE COACHES MOUTH:

"When you think about (Ashley and Allison Duffy), you think about athleticism and toughness, and Ashley is all of that in a slightly smaller package (than her sister) at 5-9," Burns said. "She has great size to play on the perimeter and is strong and fast." "Teams are extended families and for our team, to go from Desiree to Paris (Johnson), from Q to Coco (Davis) and now from Allison to Ashley, is a great tribute to our coaches and staff that we're doing the right thing. It also makes our team that much closer and we're excited to keep our tradition of sisters alive."



Inga is one of the sections most feared perimeter players. At 6'3 Orekhovas 3pt. shooting ability is that of a female Reggie Miller. Coming off ACL surgery Orekhova is looking to have a POY type of season. Orekhova is expected to make an immediate impact for Northwestern next fall. Orekhova, a 6-foot-3 forward from La Jolla, Calif., is one of this year's most highly-touted recruits. The San Diego area standout is ranked 40th overall by *ESPN's Hoopgurlz.com* and 28th in the nation by *AGSR*. Despite missing more than half her junior season due to injury, Orekhova still averaged 15.9 ppg, 8.0 rpg and 3.2 apg, and is projected to be a top contributor to her team as a senior. The team captain was an All-Coastal League Selection in 2007 and led The Bishops to the Division IV CIF San Diego Finals.



FROM THE COACHES MOUTH: "We are very excited about Inga's decision to come to Northwestern," McKeown said. "The international flavor of the Chicago metropolitan area was attractive to her as was the opportunity to play at a Big Ten school like Northwestern. She brings a lot of offensive firepower to the program and has the potential to be a top player in the Big Ten and in college basketball over the next four years."



Gizelle is an athletic player that thrives on the wing...has a nice first step that allows her to create her own shot opportunities...one of the Counties' best jump shot shooters...established herself as one of the top shooting guards in the nation. Studevent, the 64th-ranked player by Blue Star Basketball, averaged 18.5 points, 4.9 rebounds and 3.0 steals per game in 2007-08 en route to CalHiSports.com All-State honors. The 5-11 guard led The Bishop's School to a 21-10 record and the Coastal South League title. Studevent also tied the national high school record last season with seven three-pointers in a playoff



loss to St. Mary's Academy, finishing the game with 32 points.

FROM THE COACHES MOUTH: "Many people out West have compared Gizelle to Manu Ginobili (of the San Antonio Spurs)," Washington said. "She is like the Energizer Bunny, she just runs, runs, runs all day. She is a phenomenal shooter, she's got a great outside shot and she works really hard. Anytime there is action around the ball, Gizelle is involved with it. She has a good handle and she brings a lot of toughness to that (wing) position. I am excited about her coming to the team."

CHEYENNE CURLEY- PAYNE

5'3

PG

EASTLAKE HS



Cheyenne has had a very solid career at Eastlake. She is one of the most underrated players in the state. She is San Diego Counties All-Time Steals leader. You can almost expect Cheyenne to give you a double-double every single time out. Curley-Payne will be attending Howard University next fall.



ALISHA ECKBERG**5'11****SG****CANYON CREST**

Alisha has been one of the top players in the coastal league the last three seasons. Eckberg has led her team in scoring each of the last two seasons, and is coming off an excellent spring and summer of basketball. Alisha will attend San Jose State next fall. Eckberg is expected to contribute immediately at shooting guard and on the wing...possesses good athleticism which will allow her to be an immediate factor at both ends of the floor...



VICTORIA LIPPERT**5'10****G****CATHEDRAL CATHOLIC HS**

Victoria immediately established herself as one of the sections most dynamic players her freshman year...enters the season as one of the favorites to be named CIF section Player of the Year...a multi-dimensional player who can play just about any position on the floor...has seen the majority of her playing time on the wing and shooting guard. With great academics Lippert will take her skills to Harvard next fall.

