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Montverde academy basketball

A former collegiate basketball player is making the community she grew up in her home court.DeKalb native A'jah Davis's dream was to play basketball overseas, but her sense of community brought her back home. Her parents were student athletes at Northern Illinois University. Her mom played basketball, and her dad played football. Davis said after graduation, they stayed in the city and started a family. She's the youngest of three children.Davis attended DeKalb High School in her freshman year but then transferred to Montverde Academy in Florida and continued playing basketball there. When it was time for her to go to college, she followed in her parents' footsteps and chose to attend NIU. Davis picked up where her mom left off and joined the university's basketball team."My mom got sick my junior year," she said, "and I was like, 'I'm the youngest of three. Like, I want to be back home, close to my family.' So, when Coach Carlsen offered me, I was like, almost quick on my feet to just commit."She's referring to Lisa Carlsen, the former head women's basketball coach at NIU. Carlsen said Davis cares deeply about DeKalb."Even in the recruiting process, while she wasn't going to high school here, "Carlsen said, "it was always very evident that this community was really, really important to her and her family, and I think because of that, it was kind of a no brainer in the process of trying to get her back home."Davis garnered national attention at NIU. She holds the record for the most career double-doubles in NIU's women's basketball history. A'jah Davis She went to Seton Hall in New Jersey as a graduate transfer. She said this move shook her world. She no longer had the home court advantage and her per game averages drastically decreased. She said her desire to play overseas started to dribble away even after she received a call to play in Portugal."I had three of those, four of those calls, sorry, with different teams," she said, "and they all fell through once they saw my stats at Seton Hall, and it was like, you know, 'she went from being top five in the country with double-doubles to not even, her stats are worse than her freshman year. So, like, what happened?" And it turned the teams, a lot of teams away."Davis said this gave her a feeling of defeat. She needed a rebound in life. She talked with her coach to come up with a plan. She started volunteering at the local Boys and Girls Club. Davis ran summer basketball camps back home, so this work complemented that. She wanted to continue these camps but needed to find a way to fund them. Friends and family had helped her in the past.A friend who leads foundations suggested she start one. She said as a college student she didn't have the money it took to start the foundation, so she brushed that suggestion off.She came back home in April of 2024 and thought about the idea. She was going to give it a try. Then, she said, out of nowhere she received a call from a team in Mexico. She went to play in July. Davis said her numbers picked up and things were fine, but something was missing."The three pillars of my life, family, community and basketball," she explained. "Those things coexist, like those things have to work in my life for me to be happy." A'jah Davis with children from one of the summer camps that she hosted. Her plan was to go back overseas after the winter holidays. During that time, she was licensed to be a long-term substitute teacher with the DeKalb School District. She volunteered at her original high school and was hired as an assistant coach."I'm like, this is the basketball piece I'm missing," she said. "I'm able to coach basketball. I'm able to have my community back. I have my family here. I am okay, like, I feel at peace."Davis said she no longer has the desire to get back on a plane to play overseas. She circled back to the foundation idea and will tip off the A'jah Davis Foundation this year. She said she wants to continue to give back to the community she grew up in."They say a lot of good things don't come out of there," she added, "and I'm a product of it. Like ... there's something good that does come out of the University Village."Davis said the children need all the support that they can get."Some of them, have no idea about basketball, but like, they see someone that is positive in their life, that shows up for them every single day at school," she said. "And I'm willing to get my hands dirty when it comes to basketball because that's what I play."Carlsen said Davis is one of those players that she will continue to have fond memories of."Such a great success story, right? And I think anytime you have somebody that really understands how to use their profile and their," she said, "you know, status for the things that she's doing right now, it'll continue to be a great story."A charity weekend for the foundation will take place next week. Starting with a gala on Friday, May 23, followed by a basketball and wellness camp from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 24, at DeKalb High School. More than 100 children have signed up for this free camp. Davis will also offer mini camps during the city's summer Fun Jam. The 24-year-old said she is working on bringing a basketball tournament to DeKalb. © 2025 ABG-SI LLC - SPORTS ILLUSTRATED IS A REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF ABG-SI LLC. - All Rights Reserved. The content on this site is for entertainment and educational purposes only. 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The use of software that blocks ads hinders our ability to serve you the content you came here to enjoy. We ask that you consider turning off your ad blocker so we can deliver you the best experience possible while you are here. Thank you for your support! The legendary 2024 Montverde Class is heading to the NBA, a little over a year after their undefeated run to the Chipotle National Championship. Cooper Flagg, Derik Queen, Liam McNeely and Asa Newell, four players from that 2024 Eagles team, entered the NBA Draft. But were they that good? During the 2023-2024 season, Montverde Academy defeated all of the best high school squads the cuntry had to offer at that time. The squad finished the season not just with a 33-0 record, but also with the national championship, and they did so against some of the top emerging talent in the United States. They defeated VJ Edgecomb and Kiyon Anthony's Long Island Lutheran, AJ Dybantsa and Tyran Stokes' Prolific Prep. They also defeated this year's Chipotle National Champions, Cameron and Cayden Boozer's Columbus Explorers. All of them were swept aside during the 2024 Montverde Class' undefeated run. In addition, each member of the Eagles' starting five was also a five-star prospect, with point guard Robert Wright being the team's fifth five-star player. Three of them were named McDonald's All-Americans (Flagg, Queen and McNeely). If they were playing for a different team, Newell and Wright would have also made it to the game, but were not picked due to the roster restrictions, which only allowed schools to nominate up to three players for consideration. After graduating, the starting five of the 2024 Montverde Class each went their separate ways, with No. 1-ranked Cooper Flagg heading to Duke and leading the Blue Devils to the Final Four. He led the team with 16.5 points, 7.5 rebounds, 1.6 steals, 2.8 assists and 2.7 blocks per game. Queen was just as dominant, averaging 16.4 points and 7.5 rebounds per game, while McNeely averaged 2.5 points. 3.8 rebounds and 2.8 assists per game. Newell averaged 11.4 points, 6.1 rebounds and 1.8 assists per game as a senior. 2024 Montverde Class during the 2024 Chipotle NationalsThe 2024 Montverde Class was the team to beat during the 2024 Chipotle Nationals, arriving in Indiana as the heavy favorite.They defeated AZ Compass Prep National in their opening game, 64-49, before beating Cameron and Cayden Boozer's Columbus Explorers in the semifinals, 84-70. Finally, they defeated Paul VI in the final on April 6, 2024, beating them 79-63. About the author Edited by Krutik Jain Montverde Academy Eagles forward Trent Sisley (12) handles the ball as Archbishop Carroll Patriots forward Drew Corrao (22) guards him during the third quarter of the first round of the 51st annual City of Palms Classic at Suncoast Credit Union Arena in Fort Myers, Fla., on Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2024. / Jonah Hinebaugh/Naples Daily News/USA Today Network-Florida / USA TODAY NETWORK Incoming Indiana basketball freshman Trent Sisley spent just one season at Florida-based prep school Montverde Academy, but the Lincoln City, Ind. native made it count.Sisley was named MVP of Montverde Academy's 2025 team. Feegs.com first reported Sisley's accomplishment.Sisley averaged 10.7 points, 5.7 rebounds and 1.7 assists for the Eagles. Sisley was third-leading scorer behind CJ Ingram (12.6 ppg) and Hudson Greer (10.8 ppg), but Sisley was Montverde's most accurate 3-point shooter at 44%. Sisley made 21 of 48 attempts from long range.Montverde, an Orlando, Fla. area prep school that does not play a traditional high school basketball schedule, went 19-8 in its nationwide schedule. The Eagles took part in the Chipotle Nationals at Hamilton Southeastern High School in Fishers in April. Montverde lost 67-52 to Dynamic Prep in the competition.Sisley originally played at Heritage Hills High School in southwestern Indiana. Sisley averaged 19.9, 26.3 and 24.2 points in his three seasons at Heritage Hills.Sisley was the only Class of 2025 player to be successfully recruited by former Indiana men's basketball coach Mike Woodson. Sisley fits the mold of what new coach Darian DeVries likes to have in his players. He is 6-foot-7 and can spread the floor with his shooting ability. Trinity Catholic softball traveled to the Montverde Academy Eagles for the Region 2-2A title game as underdogs. And after defeating the nationally ranked Eagles 3-0, the Celtics left the ballpark regional champions for the first time in program history.Defeating Montverde adds a ton of lore to this historic run for Trinity Catholic softball. Montverde was the sixth-ranked softball team in the country and the second-best softball team in the state, according to MaxPreps.For Trinity Catholic, Thursday's win concluded a six-game losing streak to a team that regularly has some of the top prospects, like Florida State signee Danika Spinogatti and Georgia commit Luna Taboas, on its roster."You know it's a miracle, power of prayer," Trinity Catholic head softball coach Mike Young said. "I don't know. (Gayleae Barbe) was phenomenal in the circle. It made a lot of defensive plays. Then games like this, it was one mistake. They made it and we didn't. And, you know, stole a couple runs and created another run."Barbe continued her season of terror on pitching lane with nine strikeouts and zero errors in the win. Barbe and Montverde junior Neveah Williams, who threw 15 strikeouts of her own, left both teams hitting below .200. Juliana Ortega and Emma Simms both recorded hits, making them the only Celtics to record a hit through every regional tournament game. The search for a complete game continues to elude the Celtics, but they make winning moves in critical moments. On a night where the pitchers out-performed batters, it was Trinity Catholic's discipline that pushed them to one of the biggest wins in program history."I thought we were up against it last night," Young said. "I mean, we talked about this practice. We had nothing to lose. I mean, every day at everything, it's Montverde Academy. I don't know, the girls, everything I said to them and challenged them to, they — you could tell it just stuck on them, and they just came in and competed."Young projects Trinity Catholic will be a third or fourth seed, possibly matching them up with Clearwater-based Calvary Christian or Miami-based Westminster Christian during the 2A state final four.We'll find out how the ball will bounce during the evening of May 16.The state semifinal game begins 6 p.m. Tuesday May 20th at Boombah-Soldiers Creek Park in Longwood."How proud I am of them, you know, is probably beyond what I thought it would be at this point," Young said. "So to be in a Final Four is, I hate to say it's, it's not where I thought we'd be."Vanguard pitcher Cooper Ragle breaks down his complete game shut outVanguard senior pitcher breaks down his complete game shut outMontverde senior pitcher breaks down his complete game shut outThe Duke Blue Devils' Duke star Cooper Flagg has led the Blue Devils to a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament and his mom explains what the journey has been like.Cooper Flagg, Derik Queen, Liam McNeely and Asa Newell all led their teams to the men's NCAA Tournament in 2025, with Flagg and Queen still alive as the Sweet 16 gets underway.The group of true freshmen were some of the best players of the 2024-25 college basketball season and are all projected first-round picks as one-and-done prospects. Fans might be wondering why those are four being grouped together. Well, they were all teammates at one point in time.And that was only a year ago.Flagg, Queen, McNeely and Newell — all five-star prospects and freshmen studs this season — played at Montverde Academy last season, a prep school in Montverde, Florida. As expected, they dominated their competition, finishing the 2023-24 season with a 33-0 record, winning all but three games by double-digits.Here's a look back at the NCAA Tournament participants' time as teammates at Montverde, with Flagg and Queen hoping to lead Duke and Maryland, respectively, to the Elite Eight.Flagg, Queen, McNeely and Newell were all rated as five-star recruits, all ranked inside the top 20 of 247Sports' Composite rankings.Fans know Flagg as the projected No. 1 pick in the upcoming NBA draft and potential player of the year candidate at Duke, who's leading the Blue Devils against Arizona on Thursday in the Sweet 16. Queen, a 6-foot-10 forward, made a fadeaway game-winning shot at the buzzer in Maryland's second-round win over Colorado State.McNeely and UConn fell to 1-seed Florida in the second round and Newell and Georgia lost to Gonzaga in the first round.Put those four on the same roster, and you have one of the best high school teams ever assembled.Of course, Montverde is known for producing high-end NBA talent, as players like No. 1 picks Cade Cunningham and Ben Simmons, and Joel Embiid, R.J. Barrett, D'Angelo Russell and Scottie Barnes, to name a few, attended the prep school.Flagg led the team averaging 16.5 points per game last season at Montverde, with Queen right behind at 16.4 points. McNeely and Newell averaged 12.5 and 11.4 points per game, respectively, as well.Baylor guard Robert Wright, who scored 19 points in the Bears' first-round win over Mississippi State, also played at Montverde last season, although he's not yet at the same level of NBA projection as his four former teammates yet. LSU guard Curtis Givens also played at Montverde during the 2023-24 season."They would have been the modern-day Fab Five," Arizona Compass Prep coach Pete Kaffey told Yahoo Sports earlier this season.Those four players were all stars in their first college season and yet had to fight for shots last season for a high school program.Here are the college stats of each member of Montverde's big four from this season:Cooper Flagg (Duke): 18.7 points, 7.5 rebounds, 4.2 assists per game on 48.8% shootingDerik Queen (Maryland): 16.2 points, 9.1 rebounds, 1.9 assists per game on 52.9% shootingLiam McNeely (UConn): 14.5 points, 6.0 rebounds, 2.3 assists per game on 38.1% shootingAsa Newell (Georgia): 15.4 points, 6.9 rebounds, 0.9 assists per game on 54.3% shooting Thanks for visiting ! The use of software that blocks ads hinders our ability to serve you the content you came here to enjoy. 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