

2016 USJN Battle of Programs & Oktoberfest Recap

September 24th

Chicago, Illinois

Sixteen Indiana teams, from nine clubs, including five that participated in the Battle of the Programs were in action at the USJN Fall Exposure event. Two of those squads were able to advance to the championship games of their respective BOP brackets. Those teams being the Indiana Flight Thunder and Indiana Elite Team Indiana. The Flight Thunder, featuring several D1 prospects, were able to claim the championship in the Battle of the Programs top bracket.

The #5 seed Flight Thunder were able to defeat the #2 seed EYBL Midwest Elite in the opening round of what may have been a matchup of the top two teams in the event. 2018 Purdue commit Kayana Traylor, Martinsville, was outstanding in the matchup propelling her team past Midwest Elite and into the semis. The Thunder were never really challenged after that, cruising to the semi win and a 61-36 championship win over the Wisconsin Lakers. In the championship the Thunder were led by a strong performance from their frontcourt, which included a game high 19 points from 6'2 C Mackenzie Blazek of Whiteland. 2018 SG Cassidy Hardin, Center Grove, kept the defense honest by connecting on 5 triples and 17 points. 2018 PG Sam Olinger, Plainfield, should also be noted as well for her intensity on defense and the energy she brought on both ends throughout the event for her squad.



L-R Back K.Kirtley (Hamilton Heights), E.Kiser (Noblesville), M.Blazek (Whiteland), K.Bostic (Northwestern)
L-R Front K.Traylor (Martsinsville), M.Layden(Northwestern), C.Hardin (Center Grove), S.Olinger (Plainfield)
Coaches: Tony Marlin, Greg Hardin

Following are several Indiana prospects that had notable performances in games we were able to view Saturday at the USJN Fall Exposure.

Always 100 Julius

Leigha Brown 6'1 G 2018 DeKalb

Leigha has been one of the top stock risers in the Hoosier state over the last six months. She has carried her high level of play from the club season into elite showcases and camps during August & September and continued to shine in fall exposure play. She is a 6'1 shooting guard that has deep range, a smooth mid-range pull up jumper, and is capable of handling the ball and taking smaller matchups to the rim with her length. Multiple D1 offers.

Always 100 Wright 2019 (BOP)

Haley Swing 5'11 W 2019 Homestead

Haley continues to expand her game and improve on her skill set. The last couple times we've seen her she has played more physical and been more of a presence around the basket and on the boards. At the same time she is adding to her skill set on the wing with improved ball handling and more fluid play.

Always 100 Parker 2020

Sydney Graber 6'0 W 2020 Homestead

Sydney is smooth shooting 6'0 lefty with a forward frame. She has a good feel for the game and displays ability to handle the ball in the open court and can put it on the floor going to basket. Needs to continue to develop explosiveness off the bounce but the skill set is there. Was dominate at times on the offensive end and displayed some lethal shooting from behind the arc.

Indiana Elite Team Indiana (BOP)

Delany Richason 6'1 F 2019 Zionsville

Delany has a good feel for the game in the post and combines that with solid skills and a physical presence. She makes good decisions with the ball around the basket, which is aided by her passing ability. Her game will continue to grow as she adds to her skill set away from the basket. Defends well and goes hard to the boards on both ends.

Family (BOP)

Kendall Fisher 5'1 PG 2018 Tindley

Very small in stature but don't doubt her game. Explosive with the ball, can knock down the three and doesn't let her size keep her from attacking the basket and using her handles and quickness to create the space to finish with runners or setup teammates. Good anticipation and feel on the defensive end lends to her getting her hands on a lot of balls and generating turnovers.

Flight Thunder (BOP)

Mackinzie Blazek 6'2 C 2018 Whiteland

Big strong post frame with a nice wingspan. Has solid hands and feet around the basket and reacts well to the ball off the rim. She is comfortable with the ball at the high post and displays the ability to pass out of the post. Good at owning her space around the basket and using her physical attributes. Had a 19 point 8 rebound performance in championship of BOP. Multiple D1 offers

Hoosier Premier Black

Reganne Pate 5'6 G 2020 Penn

Reganne has a solid fundamental skill set. She makes good decisions with the ball for a youngster, can shoot the three and demonstrates that she has the skill and athleticism to score the ball in multiple ways. As she fills out her frame and adds additional strength she will be a 2020 to keep an eye on.

MBA Select (BOP)

McKenzie Hudgen 5'5 PG 2021 John Glen

Our first look at McKenzie, while her young squad were taking their lumps against much older competition in BOP play, she demonstrated that she could compete playing up. High motor guard, solid handles, and made good decisions with the ball. Most of all she was fearless against the older competition in going hard to the rim, defending and getting after 50/50 balls.

MBA Select

Hallie Vale 6'2 C 2018 Chesterton

Hallie is a 6'2 post that is notably improving each time we see her. Long with a good wingspan, she is becoming a more physical and aggressive presence around the basket as she plays with more confidence. Also becoming more fluid with her post moves and displaying added skill in her face-up game.

NWI Thunder Gold

Taelynn Oelling 6'0 F 2018 Valparaiso

A little under the radar but a six footer to keep an eye for certain. Each time we see her play she seems to be both improved on her skill set and shows off her versatility in a new light. 6'0 with a strong forward frame but has the evolving skills to play multiple spots. Has displayed ability to shoot the jumper, post up and even handle the ball some when called upon. Seems to have good feel for the game, works hard on both ends and not afraid of the dirty or physical work.

Sky Digg Elite (BOP)

Sophia Kreag 5'8 SG 2018 Westfield

Sophia had some big games for SDE over the summer, most noted for her shooting. She plays physical at both ends, is capable of handling the ball, and able to take it to the rim if her preferred jumper isn't available. She has been developing behind a strong 2016 Westfield cast over the last couple years but with their departure she should step into the spotlight this year.