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Doug Benton/Ell-Sean Smith
 NorCalPreps.com Analyst

6-foot-4 post players with skill quickly attract the attention of coaches around the country. In the recruiting season's first big piece of news, Albany center [Deanna Calhoun](#), who recently made verbal commitment two weeks before the July viewing period begins.

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After visiting over the weekend, Calhoun has decided to verbally commit to USC, coached by former LA Lakers star Michael Cooper. She chose the Trojans over interest from a wide range of schools, including Cal, Clemson, Oregon, Arizona State and Arizona. USC went 19-12 last season in missing the NCAA tournament.

"I've always really wanted to go to USC," Calhoun said. "When I met with them, I felt like this is where I wanted to be and you don't get that feeling too often when visiting schools." She is looking to major in psychology and communications.

A solid performance at the recent Boo Williams Invitational helped Calhoun's stock rise considerably. Naysayers always protested that the soft-spoken Calhoun lacked a certain mean streak, reminiscent of how NBA experts always spoke of Hall of fame center David Robinson, but she has improved tremendously in that regard.

Calhoun's summer coach, Leroy Hurt of the Cal Ballaz, says that on the offensive side of the ball Calhoun has simply learned to deal with the contact that comes from playing in the paint. "At Boo Williams," said Hurt, "Deanna did a classic drop-step on a defender and knocked her over on her way to the basket, but no foul was called because the referee recognized that she had just done a great post move."

Also, sized up last summer as "strong and agile with tremendous hands," Calhoun has added, according to her father Derrick Calhoun, an improved jumper to her game. She currently works out with a trainer as she continues to focus on performing at a higher level not only for the upcoming travel season, but also for her last hurrah in high school and her promising career at Southern Cal.

A budding Psychologist, Deanna, much like David Robinson, is all business in the classroom as evidenced by a 3.8 grade point average. Just as impressive is that she has maintained that average from her 10th grade academic year and she earned the same marks in advanced placement classes, so academics should not be an issue at the collegiate level.

As a junior, she averaged 15.6 points, nearly 10 rebounds and two blocks for Albany.

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