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Calhoun gets aggressive



by Eil-Sean Smith
The old adage that "size can't be taught" is very true, especially in the case of Albany rising junior **Deanna Calhoun**. Standing a firm 6-foot-3 with a solid build, Calhoun, currently on the travel circuit with Cal Ballaz, has turned many heads based on her sheer size, if not her on-court demeanor. [\[details\]](#)

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by Kevin McCarthy
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by Douglas Benton
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Balog cut from traditional mold

by Douglas Benton
In sports, we have a clear picture of what certain players should look like - whether it be a crafty left-hander or a lean, athletic centerfielder. Mitty first baseman **Alex Balog** fits the mold of a tall first ...



Northern California

2009 Baseball Rankings

Name	Pos	Height	Weight	School
Max Stassi	C	5-11	185	Yuba City
Andrew Susac	C	6-1	190	Jesuit
Scott Griggs	RHP	6-2	190	San Ramon Valley
Mark Appel	RHP	6-4	185	Monte Vista
Andrew Aplin	OF	6-0	190	Vanden
Danny Hayes	3B	6-4	195	Jesuit
Dylan Floro	RHP	6-1	165	Buhach Colony
Cody Keefer	OF	6-1	185	Davis High
Billy Wardell	LHP	6-1	170	Freedom
Justin Jones	LHP	6-3	175	Oakdale

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Team	Record
1. Bishop Gorman Las Vegas (Nevada)	40-4
2. Naples Naples (Florida)	33-1
3. Sumrall Sumrall (Mississippi)	36-0
4. Farragut Knoxville (Tennessee)	39-5
5. Owasso Owasso (Oklahoma)	35-4
6. Northshore Slidell (Louisiana)	34-2
7. Socorro Socorro (Texas)	35-4
8. Alonso Tampa (Florida)	30-3
9. Pendleton (IMG) Bradenton (Florida)	31-1
10. Desert Ridge Mesa (Arizona)	29-5

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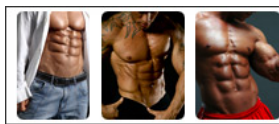
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July 20, 2009

Calhoun gets aggressive

Eli-Sean Smith
NorCalPreps.com Basketball Analyst

The old adage that "size can't be taught" is very true, especially in the case of Albany rising junior [Deanna Calhoun](#). Standing a firm 6-foot-3 with a solid build, Calhoun, currently on the travel circuit with Cal Ballaz, has turned many heads based on her sheer size.

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A scouting report from the spring of 2008 spoke of Calhoun as "closer to 6-1 than the listed 6-3, and strong and agile with tremendous hands." A couple of parties disagree, sort of. Her dad, Derrick Calhoun says, "during her latest physical it was confirmed that she is a solid 6-foot-3 inches tall." Her high school coach, Raymond Newsome, in his first season as Albany's head coach after four years as the varsity assistant and head JV coach, says of Deanna, "she is really a good kid."

Newsome emphasized "good" and it is that very trait that some basketball critics hold against the astute Cougar as some say she needs to pick up her level of aggressiveness on the court.

If that knock sounds familiar, it is because it was the very same words said about soon-to-be Hall of Famer David Robinson.

Although Deanna would be the first to admit that she could stand to play with more attitude, she has done a good job so far at Albany. "She could improve on her conditioning and catching the ball in the paint," says Newsome, but he added later, "she can run the floor and that is a big plus."

Indeed, for a player of her size, Calhoun can get up and down the floor, catch the ball in traffic, and finish a fast break. But, on many occasions she doesn't quite show the fire some feel she lacks as a post player. The unseen pressure to act as if the paint is your domain, and no one is allowed in it, exist in a major way for the young center.

Newsome lamented how during a recent conversation with Calhoun, she gave a self-assessment of her game that sounded mostly negative and nothing could be further from the truth. True, the student with a 3.7 GPA, at one of the bay area's most esteemed public high schools could improve on her footwork and ability to pass out of the obvious double-teams she faces because of her size, but she is a willing learner and in Newsome, who's JV squads at Albany have performed in impressive fashion during his tenure, she will have a willingly patient instructor.

Deanna's father is one of those who thinks she could be more aggressive as well, but does say, "when someone upsets her on the floor, she does get more aggressive and makes plays."

Calhoun has played the game since the fifth grade with the YMCA and shortly thereafter advanced to Albany middle school's squad and the Cal Ballaz AAU team.

The shy and introverted post has been playing more of a secondary role in her first two years and this is all the more impressive because she led the way in scoring (12.2 points), rebounding (8.4), blocked shots (3.4), and shooting (62% from the field) for a 11-15 squad.

Calhoun is receiving communiqués from the likes of California, Maryland, North Carolina, and a transcript request from Stanford. Needless to say, Deanna's junior year will be critical as she increases her role as a player and a leader in order to justify the attention she is garnering from the aforementioned institutions.

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