

HIGH SCHOOLS

Oakland's Brown is OKd to play

Mitch Stephens, Special to The Chronicle

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Oakland Section Commissioner **Michael Moore** on Monday ruled Oakland High guard **Jabari Brown** eligible for five of his team's final seven regular-season games and all of the postseason.

Brown, one of the nation's top junior guards, transferred from Findlay Prep (Henderson, Nev.) during the winter break and played in two games for Oakland before his eligibility came into question. He sat out the last three games before Monday's ruling.

Brown led Salesian-Richmond to a state title last year and then transferred in June to Findlay, where he played 19 games. Players and teams in California are allowed to play 26 regular-season games; thus Moore put a cap on Brown's season. No word late Monday on which games Brown will miss.

More news and observation from a busy week:

-- They almost filled Campolindo's gymnasium in Moraga on Saturday night to watch the nation's top-ranked girls basketball team, the St. Mary's High School Rams of Stockton.

Fans certainly got their money's worth of the Rams and All-Americans **Chelsea Gray** (a Duke commit) and Cal-bound **Afure Jemerigbe**, and nobody felt pinched checking out Berkeley, The Chronicle's second-ranked team which raced to a 13-point second-quarter lead only to fall 72-61 in the best matchup of the seven-game Campolindo Shootout.

As dynamic as Gray (18 points, nine assists) and Jemerigbe (10 points, nine rebounds, four blocks) were, Berkeley's backcourt of junior **Brittany Boyd** (19 points) and sophomore **Elisha Davis**, along with junior front-liners **Charise Culberson** (14 points, 11 rebounds) and **Ashley Webster** (12 points, 10 rebounds) showed that if it isn't a top-50 team nationally this year, it most certainly will be a top-25 next season. Berkeley will lose only one senior, UC Riverside-bound forward **Taylor Wallace**.

"We didn't win, but I think we proved to ourselves we can win a state championship this season," Boyd said.

-- Dublin, which had lost two starters to injury in 24 hours, fell behind by double digits in the second quarter to Alameda before rallying for a 58-51 win behind senior guards **Nikki Beckman** (19 points) and **Chereese Thomas** (18 points, eight rebounds).

-- One of the Bay Area's best secrets is Lincoln guard **Hallie Meneses**, who poured in a career-high 32 points to go with 10 steals in a 71-60 loss to No. 18 Campolindo. San Francisco public teams don't get



much basketball cred, but Meneses is a big reason why 19th-ranked Lincoln is deserving of attention. The 5-foot-5 senior is extremely quick and fearless to the basket. She's a reflection of a team short on height - no one is taller than 5-9 - but long on skill and tenacity.

-- Lincoln coach **Jason Lee** has put together a "Hoops for Haiti" tournament at Lincoln starting at 10 a.m. Saturday. All proceeds from the five-game girls basketball event go to a Haiti relief fund. The standout game will be Lowell against Lincoln at 2:30 p.m.

-- Bishop O'Dowd-Oakland assistant coach **Lou Richie** and his Triple Threat Academy foundation have helped started the Project Shoe Assist drive to send "gently worn" shoes to Haiti. Athletic clubs Bladium (Alameda) and 24-Hour Fitness (San Ramon) are drop-off points. The drive ends Saturday.

-- Washington State received its eighth Metro Area verbal commitment Monday, this one from James Logan-Union City tight end/defensive end **Tony Pole**, a second-team All-Metro selection. ... Serra's **Adonis Smith** has changed his commitment from Washington State to Northwestern, and College Park-Pleasant Hill linebacker **Travis Raciti** is going to San Jose State.

-- De La Salle and defending Nevada state champion Bishop Gorman-Las Vegas verbally have agreed to play a football game next fall.

Chronicle top 20 boys basketball

Rk.	School	Rec.	Pv.
1.	Salesian	17-1	1
2.	Bishop O'Dowd	15-3	3
3.	Newark Memorial	16-3	4
4.	San Ramon Valley	17-1	5
5.	St. Francis	15-2	9
6.	Serra	15-2	2
7.	De La Salle	16-2	8
8.	Bellarmino	15-2	7
9.	Castro Valley	15-3	11
10.	Analy	19-1	10
11.	St. Mary's	14-6	6
12.	Redwood	17-2	12
13.	Campolindo	15-4	13
14.	El Cerrito	17-2	15
15.	Oakland	11-9	17
16.	St. Joseph	15-5	14
17.	St. Patrick- St. Vincent	16-3	NR
18.	Fremont	15-8	16

19. Heritage 14-4 20

20. Antioch 14-4 18

Chronicle top 20 girls basketball

Rk.	School	Rec.	Pv.
1.	Bishop O'Dowd	15-3	1
2.	Berkeley	15-3	2
3.	Mitty	13-5	3
4.	Carondelet	13-5	4
5.	Eastside Prep	15-2	5
6.	Miramonte	14-3	6
7.	St. Mary's	15-3	7
8.	Northgate	16-2	8
9.	St. Ignatius	13-4	9
10.	Dougherty Valley	15-2	10
11.	Dublin	15-4	11
12.	Pinewood	11-5	12
13.	Piedmont	16-4	13
14.	Valley Christian	12-3	15
15.	Deer Valley	12-6	17
16.	Justin Siena	17-2	NR
17.	Mercy- San Francisco	16-2	NR
18.	Campolindo	13-6	19
19.	Lincoln	16-4	14
20.	Monte Vista	14-4	20

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<http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2010/01/26/SPFM1BNCN4.DTL>

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