

TSU's Cooper-Dyke signs 1st Recruiting Class

Written by Yolande Y. Lezine

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Texas Southern University head women's basketball coach Cynthia Cooper-Dyke has announced the signing of her 1st Lady Tigers recruiting class.

Keiana Vines (Oxnard, California), Victoria Wells (Los Angeles, California), Tashara Jones (Douglasville, Georgia), Ashley Ferguson (Arlington, Texas) and Jazzmin Parker (Houston, Texas) signed a National Letter of Intent (NLI) during the early signing period to continue their education and basketball careers at Texas Southern University.

“With four talented seniors in our program and a couple of extra scholarships that were available, we are excited about the class that we’ve gotten,” Cooper-Dyke said. “It needed to be a bigger class. It needed to be a class that could come in and contribute right away and we feel like we have five players who feel like they can come in and make a difference and are talented enough to come in and make a difference.”

Vines, a 6-5 center from Trinity Valley CC, was the 2009 Pacific View League girls basketball Co-Player of the Year. At Pacific, she averaged 15.6 points, 8.0 rebounds and 4.1 blocks per game. She then transferred to Santa Clara High School, where she averaged 16.1 points, 10.8 rebounds, and 5.1 blocks per game.

Despite her imposing size she has a soft touch around the basket, good hands, and is a left-handed post. In 2011, Vines was named the CIF Southern Section Division 5AA Player of the Year. She also led her team to a CIF Championship that season. She was ranked #8 by ESPN Hoopgurlz. She originally signed with UC-Santa Barbara out of high school before enrolling at Trinity Valley CC.

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Wells, a 5-10 forward, attended Marshall University and Trinity Valley CC. She attended Sierra Canyon High School and was named Athlete of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year. She garnered first team All-CIF Southern Section honors and led her team to a CIF Southern Section championship title, as well as a league championship title. She was voted team MVP by her team and also earned league MVP honors. She was named War of the Floor MVP after finishing with 12 points, 10 rebounds, 5 assists, and 4 steals during the California All-Star game. Victoria was selected to her school's dean list during her high school career and was selected as student-athlete of the year. She signed with Marshall University out of High School before transferring to Trinity Valley CC.

Jones, a 5-10 guard, attends Lithia Springs High School. She was named 2011-12 Douglas County Sentinel Girls Co-Player of the Year. She served as a team captain, and was the shining star for Lithia Springs. Her individual accolades include leading the county in scoring with 18.8 points per game and dropping a career-high 42 points versus Kell. She finished her junior campaign as the team's leading scorer and third leading rebounder.

A native of Pensacola, Florida, Jones athletic talents have also been on display playing with the AAU Atlanta Celtics. She chose Texas Southern over Miami, Clemson, Auburn, and Prairie View.

Parker, a 5-8, guard from Houston, attended TCU and Blinn CC. She played at Mayde Creek High School and was named MVP in 2009, 2010, and 2011. She was also named all-state in 2010 and 2011 by the TABC. She was named 3-Time 1st Team All-District honoree, 2-Time TABC All-Region, District MVP and Houston Girls Coaches Association All-Star Selection in 2011.

Parker was ranked as the 34th best guard in the nation by ESPN HoopGurlz, 7th best guard in Texas by Premier Basketball Report, and the No. 18 ranked player in Texas. She was also ranked as the No. 96th ranked player in the country by Dan Olson of the Collegiate Girls Report. She averaged 23 points, 8 rebounds, and 4 assists in her senior campaign. She closed her school career owning a total of six school records, including career points (1,892), most points in a single season (750), and best career average (19.5). She signed with TCU in 2011 before transferring to Blinn JC.

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Ferguson, a 6-1 forward from Arlington Bowie High School, will arrive on the TSU campus after an impressive career at Arlington Bowie. She was named first Team All-District Newcomer of the Year her sophomore season. She was named 1st Team All-District as a junior. She was also named to the All-District team.

She chose Texas Southern University over Southern Mississippi and the University of Alabama-Birmingham.

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