

# LAKERS 15 TEAM SOLID!

Craig Wind is the owner/author of Michigan's oldest and most revered basketball recruiting service, 'Prime Time High School Sports' founded in 1990. He served as a recruiting analyst from 2005 to 2009 at [www.michiganpreps.rivals.com](http://www.michiganpreps.rivals.com). Only college coaches can subscribe to his service. Michigan, Michigan State, Notre Dame, Kansas, Syracuse, Boston College, North Carolina, Purdue, Iowa, USC, and many others around the country actively listen to the words and wisdom of Craig Wind where Michigan players are concerned. Hear what he has to say about Kevin Tringali's 15 & under West Michigan Laker 2010 AAU basketball team ...

This team went down to the Spiece Gym Rat 'Run N Slam' event a few weeks back, and I couldn't have been more impressed. They played the Mean Streets 15's who were loaded with future high D-1 players like Alex Foster, Tyler Wideman, and Russell Woods, ALL THREE 6'7" with pro-like bodies. Those Mean Streets players just kept knocking this team down, and Mark Werley's team just kept on standing back up for more. They're a tough minded group that Kevin Tringali and his staff have piece-mealed together in short order. Very nice.

You've gotta start with Zeeland East's Josh Groenhof, who started 20 games on the varsity as a freshman and came really close to averaging double digits this past season. His dad is 7 foot and he's still 14 years old at 6'4" with a size 15 shoe. If he grows to 6'9", I see a high D-1 player in 4 years with good fundamentals, a very nice shooting touch with range, and he plays really hard. You seem to get the same consistent effort out of Groenhof which is refreshing.

Jordan Van Dort may be a D-1 basketball player, but his upside to play right tackle on Sunday afternoon in the NFL might trump his basketball skills some day. This 6'4" 235 pound eighth grader is a like a freight train in the paint. He plows his way to the rim and figures out a way to score the basketball nine times out of ten. Zeeland West will love their new post man, though my only question on Jordan is whether he'll grow or not.

I kinda like Spencer Popma from Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern. He's 6'4" as well and I don't know that he can 'pop' up there quite as far as Groenhof. But he's really smart and tough in the paint. When he consistently plays tough in the paint, he's very good. As he continues to mature on and off the court, Popma has terrific upside. He could end up 6'7" easily and D-1 as a result.

Mark Thomas will line up with Popma this winter playing both outside AND inside at Forest Hills Northern. At 6'3", he has the emerging skills to accomplish both facing up and with his back to the basket. Dad played at Michigan State, so the gene-pool is there. If Thomas can grow to 6'6", he'll have mid D-1's and higher chomping at the bit.

Then with all that size, there are perimeter guys for this Laker team to get the ball inside and score the basketball. Guys like Zeeland West's Braden Werley, Forest Hills Northern's Michael McLaughlin, Holland West Ottawa's Trevor Van Tubbergen, Hastings' Luke Heide, and Zeeland East's Tyler Smith all contribute mightily to the cause. They're all good 15-under players, all very tough kids. Werley and McLaughlin are skilled combo guards. This team MAY need a pure point!

Which players grow and develop? Which players commit 100% to being gym rats and great basketball players? Which players get disinterested in fall in love with anything else but basketball? Like every young team, these are the questions and issues which get answered in three years time. Time will tell. The Laker faithful will have fun watching them grow up and develop in the meantime.

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