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DANTE TAYLOR

6-9 ■ 240 ■ Freshman ■ Forward

Greenburgh, N.Y. ■ National Christian Academy (Md.)

THE STORYLINE

A consensus top-30 ranked recruit, Dante Taylor is described as a highly skilled, athletic post player who can shoot. His strengths are his quickness and athleticism around the basket. A raw talent with great upside, Taylor is very fast up and down the court, exhibits expanded range with his jumper and is a big-time post-player. A sturdy power forward who knows how to score and has the ability to play with both skill and athleticism, Taylor is a physically gifted player who runs, rebounds and prefers to play facing the basket. He has an impressive mid-range game and exceptional ball-handling skills for a big man.

HIGH SCHOOL

A 2009 graduate of National Christian Academy in Fort Washington, Md. where he played four seasons of basketball for Head Coach Trevor Brown...Named a McDonald's All-American and participated in the McDonald's All-America Game (April 1 in Miami, Fla.)...Became the fifth Pitt signee in school history to earn McDonald's All-America team honors joining Charles Smith (1984), Jerome Lane (1985), Bobby Martin (1987) and Brian Shorter (1987)...Scored 15 points (6-11 FG) and grabbed six rebounds for the East All-Stars in the 2009 McDonald's All-America Game...Won the McDonald's All-American Skills Competition, in which he completed a full-court dribbling and shooting course in 37 seconds...Named to the Parade All-America Second Team...*Washington Post* All-MET Player of the Year...Averaged 23.8 points (665 total points), 13 rebounds and three blocked shots per game and hit 65 percent (161-247) of his free throws as a senior...Guided NCA to a 26-6 overall record...Named First Team All-MET by the *Washington*

Post and earned Independent private school all-league honors... Scored over 30 points eight times and finished with 20 or more 19 times...Registered 23 double-doubles in 28 contests on the year...Scored 30 points and converted 18-24 free throws in NCA's season finale vs. Mount Zion (NC)...Scored season-high 34 points two times against both Mount Zion (NC) and Jericho Christian... Scored 31 points with a career-high 21 rebounds vs. Theodore Roosevelt...Finished with 33 points and 15 rebounds vs. Friendship Collegiate...Named Most Valuable Player after scoring 33 points and totaling 11 rebounds vs. Oak Hill Academy...Hit four 3-pointers, scored 31 points and pulled down 11 rebounds vs. Living Faith... Named the game MVP after scoring 26 points and grabbing nine rebounds in the Reebok All-American All-Star Game...Averaged 18 points and 11 rebounds per game as a junior...Named Second Team All-MET by the *Washington Post* and earned Independent private school all-league honors... Guided National Christian Academy to a 22-7 record and No. 11 ranking in the Washington D.C. metro area as a junior...Averaged 8.6 points per game as a sophomore...Transferred to National Christian Academy following his freshman season... Ranked the nation's No. 4 recruit by hoopscooponline and Clark Francis...Ranked the nation's No. 14 recruit nationally by Bob Gibbons Report...Rated the No. 16 recruit nationally by ESPN-U...Ranked the No. 17 recruit nationally by Scout.com's Dave Telep...Rated the nation's No. 16 player by Scout.com...Ranked the nation's No. 24 player by Rivals.com... Ranked the No. 24 player nationally by *USA Today*...Rated the nation's No. 28 player by *PrepStars Magazine*...Ranked the nation's No. 36 recruit by *Rise Magazine*...

Named to *The Sporting News* Washington D.C. All-Metro team... Named one of the top performers at the LeBron James United States Skills Academy...Voted Best Post Player at the NBA Top-100 Camp... Played AAU basketball with NCA... Visited Pitt when his AAU team competed at the Pittsburgh Jam Fest.

PERSONAL

Born Dante Taylor on March 18, 1990...Son of Lisa Sharpe of White Plains, N.Y., located 20 miles north of New York City...Has a sister Michelle and brother Michael...

Committed to Pitt at the 2008 summer Triple S. Harley Davidson Shootout in Morgantown, W.Va.... Honored by his hometown of Greenburgh as being a "native son" during halftime of the Frankie Williams All-Star game in June, 2009...Named MVP of the game after scoring 32 points...2008 NBA draft picks Patrick Ewing, Jr., Kevin Durant and Deron Washington all played basketball recently at National Christian Academy...Pitt recruited him since his sophomore season... With

hard work, claims that he went from a "raw, chubby kid to a McDonald's All-American"... Developed and improved over his four years at NCA...Earned honor roll academic status two times as a high school student...Chose Pitt because of its continued loyalty, style of play, coaching staff, academic support, family atmosphere, Big East Conference and proximity to his home of New York...Selected Pitt over Kansas, Maryland, Florida, Connecticut, Villanova, West Virginia, Syracuse, Georgetown, Indiana and Memphis...Enrolled in the School of Arts and Sciences.

