

Thames breaking records

A.W. Prince
BearTerritory.net

A number of Bay Area hoops tournaments took flight just after Christmas Day, and as usual, most were extremely entertaining. One of the best tournaments we watched was the Marin Catholic Don Bambauer Memorial Christmas Classic, where Elk Grove (Calif.) Pleasant Grove high point guard [Xavier Thames](#) tore up the tournament record book. The 2009 prospect is fast becoming one of the top backcourt targets in Northern California.

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Thames is no X-Factor.

Against Oakland high, where former Cal star [Ayinde Ubaka](#) - who Thames reminds us of a lot - prepped, the Pleasant Grove standout blew up for a Marin Catholic Tournament record 41 points. After the tournament ended, Thames had broken the tournament record for most points, racking up 125 in 4 games. That eclipses the record of another Pac-10 All-League star [Casey Jacobson](#), who tallied 116 points back in 1996. Thames 31 points per game average also set a tournament record.

Not only were Thames points the most ever, but they were timely for Pleasant Grove. He hit a game winning, half-court shot at the buzzer versus Millbrae (Calif.) Mills high to break a 69-69 tie. Thames had just tied the game seconds earlier, but when Mills turned it over with 1.3 on the clock, it gave Thames a chance to win it.

He didn't miss.

You can see the shot by clicking the following link; [Game Winning Shot](#)

Thames, who ran this summer with AAU program Compton Magic alongside future Cal guard [D.J. Seeley](#), is now averaging 26.7 points, 6.8 rebounds, 4.1 assists, and 2.2 steals on the season. He leads his team in all categories. He's also shooting an impressive 58 percent from the floor and 45 percent from three.

To see some of Thames highlights from his record-setting performance, please click the following link; [Thames Video](#)

What's the latest on Thames recruitment?

"I think if it was signing day right now I'd definitely go with Washington State," Thames said. "I feel I have a great connection with Coach Bennett and Coach Sanchez - they've recruited me real hard. It is the Pac-10 too, and I know Coach Bennett played point guard in the NBA."

"I like to play defense, and I want to get better at it, so I think it fits me."

Thames father also played at Washington State, however, that has nothing to do with his decision.

"My dad played up there for a year, but that doesn't have anything to do with it," Thames added. "It is more coincidence if anything. I just like the way I could develop there."

A.W. Prince is the senior writer and publisher of [BearTerritory](#). He pens numerous recruiting features, including "The Weekly Spin", on some of the most talented and highly sought after student-athletes in the country. Along with his recruiting work, Prince has photographed a number of future Div. 1 student-athletes for exclusive Rivals photo segments and Videography's.