

## US Colleges Snap Up Queensland's Best Females

**Four of Queensland's top female basketball players have just secured coveted scholarships to a number of high-profile colleges in the United States.**



L to R: Sammi Deakin-Sharpe, Courtney Woods, Basketball Queensland Deputy Chairman Bronwyn Marshall, Meg Essex, and Tylah King.

Heading over to the US in late July, the girls will join the growing community of Australian basketball stars playing in the US competition, putting them on course for successful future playing careers.

The four Brisbane girls, Courtney Woods, Tylah King, Sammi Deakin-Sharpe, and Meg Essex were scouted through a College Recruitment Service after outstanding performances at this year's State Championships.

"This is a testament to the strength of basketball in Queensland, and especially in our young women," says Basketball Queensland CEO, Graham Burns.

"Over the past few years Basketball Queensland has really focused on the development of young players in order to help them further their careers, and this is a testament to those efforts."

**Courtney Woods** who currently plays for Brisbane Basketball has secured a scholarship with the Northern Illinois University. As a member of the Queensland State team for five years,

Courtney was one of the top scorers at the 2015 U20's State Championships.

The second scholarship recipient, **Tylah King** currently plays for the Northside Wizards and has signed with the University of Pacific in San Francisco. Tylah has been playing competitive Basketball for five years and is a consummate team player, very well rounded and versatile, and an excellent 3-point shooter.

**Sammi Deakin-Sharpe** from South West Metro Basketball has signed with Nicholls State University in Louisiana. Sammi has been a member of the state team for four years and is a dedicated point guard. She has an extremely high basketball IQ and has great vision as a player.

**Meg Essex** from Ipswich Basketball will be joining the team at Newberry University in South Carolina. A late developer Meg has only been playing basketball for four years, but has been very quick to impress, joining the state team in her second year of play. Meg is a long athletic post player; she has a great feel around the Basket, runs the floor well and is great at rebounding the ball.

Basketball Queensland's High Performance Director Leonard King has seen the increasing interest in Queensland players saying, "The fact that these four girls, and a great deal many other players across the state are attracting the attention of US colleges shows that Queensland is definitely on the map when it comes to basketball talent and development.

"In the last two years I've had more contact from college coaches than ever before, the fact they are making the effort to come to Queensland to evaluate and meet players to actively recruit is excellent – it shows that basketball in Queensland is very healthy and has a strong future."

#### **More information or interviews:**

Lauren Kippin  
Communications Manager  
Basketball Queensland  
P: 07 3377 9119  
M: 0416 234 763  
E: [lauren.kippin@basketballqld.net.au](mailto:lauren.kippin@basketballqld.net.au)

**OR:**  
Tahlia Edwards  
PR Consultant  
Outsource2Us  
M: 0415 372 169  
E: [tahliaedwards@outsource2us.com.au](mailto:tahliaedwards@outsource2us.com.au)