

RITE NOW @ ROP



Christmas Day was extra special for Oak Grove Academy with a visit from University of Alabama guard, Keon Ellis. In high school, Keon led Leesburg High to back-to-back state titles before moving on to Florida Southwestern JUCO College in Fort Myers where he dominated and broke school records to be named an NJCAA All-American. For his junior and senior years, Keon proceeded to the University of Alabama where he has been a heavy contributor for the team this season. His career highlights include: Second Team NJCAA All-American (2020), First Team All-Conference (2020), First Team All-State (2020), and Single-season school scoring record holder (562 points in 2020).

Known for being humble and unselfish both on and off the court, Keon has always been an extremely coachable leader and has been heavily relied upon as an athletic swingman for the Crimson Tide. Noted by his coach as a “very well the best two-way player in the country”, Mr. Ellis is currently projected to be a first or second-round prospect for the 2022 NBA Draft.

While at OGA, Keon spoke with the students and led a staff vs. student basketball game along with his brother Kavon Ellis who is currently playing collegiate football at Iowa Central. He answered questions about his basketball career, overcoming adversity, living life as a student-athlete, and dealing with self-control and disappointments (among other things). While everyone was excited, most of the inquiries came from our upperclassmen that are contemplating college and careers. It was incredibly inspiring to watch our student-athletes interact with Keon, not just as an NBA hopeful, but as a young man that came from humble beginnings and is making his dreams happen. When asked about the biggest takeaways from his visit, students reflected, “There are no shortcuts to attaining your biggest goals”, “Even when your path doesn’t look like you want it to, you can never give up”, and “Success begins and is maintained through a willingness to learn at every stage of the game”.

Read more on this outstanding mentor at <https://rolltide.com/sports/mens-basketball/roster> and cheer him on along with Oak Grove Academy as he helps move his time forward in the 2022 season.
