

# Maori Davenport set to play for Charles Henderson on Friday

By D'Arcy Maine | Jan 11, 2019  
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TROY, Ala. -- For the first time since Nov. 29, it's game day for Maori Davenport.

Circuit Court Judge Sonny Reagan granted an emergency motion Friday morning filed by Mario and Tara Davenport, Maori Davenport's parents, asking that the court review the facts surrounding their daughter's case and restrain the Alabama High School Athletic Association from stripping Davenport of her eligibility.

Charles Henderson is scheduled to play Carroll High School at approximately 6:30 p.m. ET, and Davenport plans to play.

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"It's show time," Davenport said when she learned of the news.

AHSAA executive director Steve Savarese ruled Davenport ineligible on Nov. 30 after learning that Davenport deposited a check from USA Basketball in the amount of \$857.20, which was sent to Davenport by mistake. Davenport had led the U.S. to a gold medal at the FIBA Americas U18 Championship in Mexico City this past August. USA Basketball routinely sends players a stipend check for lost wages, but it admits it failed to check the AHSAA rules. The association's amateurism rules stipulate that a player can't accept more than \$250.

After initially depositing the check, Davenport repaid the \$857.20 when USA Basketball discovered its error in November.

Savarese's ruling was upheld on two appeals.

The case has drawn national attention, and Davenport has received support from Billie Jean King and Kobe Bryant, among others.

Davenport, a 6-foot-4 forward/center, is the No. 15 prospect in the espnW HoopGurlz Top 100 for the 2019 class and helped lead her high school team to a state championship in 2018. She has committed to play at Rutgers University next year.

