

MEET NORTH FORSYTH'S JAIRUS SIMMS

North Forsyth's senior point guard Jairus Simms is an official baller. I only needed to watch one game to recognize that. He instantly became one of my favorite ballers in the city when I saw him play last week.

The six foot, 185-pound star transferred to North Forsyth after moving from High Point over the summer. J-Simms played his first two seasons at High Point Central, then played last season at High Point Christian, where he averaged 17 points and almost 10 assists per game. He also recently committed to play his college ball at High Point University.

I caught up with one of the city's newest standouts to see what he thought about the talent in Winston-Salem — before North beat a talented Winston-Salem Prep squad on Tuesday. He and I also talked about how he ended up at North, Mt. Tabor's C.J. Harris, girls, coach Sean Vestal and his Scout.com rating.

I definitely enjoyed talking with J-Simms. Take a look at some of the cool things we discussed earlier this week.

Anthony: What's good, J?

Jairus: What's goin' on.

Anthony: You got it. I'm chilling. (Smiles.) I saw you get down on Carver last week. I was impressed, bruh.

Jairus: Ye-sir.

Anthony: (Smiles.) It looks like you're doing your thing. Is this going to be your year?

Jairus: Ye-sir.

Anthony: What do you think about the talent here in Winston?

Jairus: I think it's real diverse. It's a lot better than High Point. There's more schools and competition. I thought this would be a great place for me to spend my senior year.

Anthony: That's what's up. Why did you choose North?

Jairus: My mom and I actually moved to Winston. She works like, right down the street from North Forsyth High School. It was between Mt. Tabor and North Forsyth. I knew a couple players over here. I thought it would be a good, new home for me.

Anthony: Interesting that you mentioned Mt. Tabor. You've made this rivalry more intense with your move. (Both laugh.)

Jairus: Yes sir. (Giggles.) I've played with C.J., Mike and Josh (Hicks) when I was young. We played AAU together. I felt like this was a better system over here. I felt like I could run and have more freedom with coach Vestal. I like the way he runs things over here.

Anthony: What's the best part about the North team? You guys look really long.

Jairus: Oh yeah. We're real athletic too. We run every chance that we get.

Anthony: Are you guys already talking about winning a state championship?

Jairus: Yeah. It's either state championship or failure. I believe we're the best team in the city. We can be the state champions with work. I think so.

Anthony: OK. I like what I saw from you in that Carver game. But someone beside me told me that you weren't showing half your game. Were you holding back?

Jairus: (Laughs.) Nah, I mean. It was kind of first game jitters. I believe that as long as we got the W everything was OK.

Anthony: I hate it this interview is coming out after the Prep game. I would've loved to talk about that.

Jairus: Ye-sir. (Giggles.) We're ready tonight. It's going to be tough. But I think we're going to go in there and take care of business.

Anthony: What's the best part of your game?

Jairus: Uh, I believe it's my ability to get past the defender and getting into the lane. I also feel like I make the right decisions.

Anthony: (Smiles.) Your pin move is crazy.

Jairus: (Smiles.) Yeah, I like that too.



North Forsyth's talented point guard Jairus Simms skies over the Carver defense during a game last week.



Simms

trade places with any baller who would it be?

Jairus: I'd say Derrick Rose. I like his game. I believe he should get Rookie of the Year.

Anthony: I saw they had you as a two star baller on Scout.com. (Jairus laughs.) What's up with that?

Jairus: I definitely think I'm underrated. It was really my fault. I've been playing with the Gators since I was 14. I was being loyal to the Gators. And, 17-and-under is really when you showcase your talents to the coaches and show them what you really have.

We only participated in about two of those showcases, where scouts could really see me. That's why I think I'm two star. But I believe that I'm better than a lot of point guards around the nation. I'm underrated right now. That's something I need to live with.

Anthony: OK. Let's finish with free association.

Jairus: OK.

Anthony: Uh, Chip Walls. (North teammate)

Jairus: Buckets.

Anthony: Coach Vestal.

Jairus: Dedication.

Anthony: Winston-Salem.

Jairus: Tough competition.

Anthony: Vikings.

Jairus: Excellent.

Anthony: 4-A State Champs.

Jairus: North Forsyth.

Anthony: Winston-Salem Prep.

Jairus: A loss tonight.

Anthony: Allan Jones. (West star.)

Jairus: Muscle.

Anthony: (Laughs.) J-Simms.

Jairus: Tie your shoes tight.

Anthony: (Both laugh.) I like that.

Anthony: What things did you work on during the off season?

Jairus: My perimeter shot. I really felt like I needed to work on that. My mid-range game is pretty good. I just needed to work on my set shot in the perimeter.

Anthony: You recently committed to High Point. What made that the school for you?

Jairus: I really enjoyed the campus when I took my official visit. Being around High Point all my life, I felt

like that would be a good look for me.

Anthony: I ask all of the area guys for a Top 5 of Winston players. So, give me your top five.

Jairus: A top five? OK. Me, C.J. (Harris), Mike (Grace), Kemeko Walls, Gerry Hairston and Josh Hicks. That's my boy.

Anthony: How are the

little ladies treating J-Simms at North?

Jairus: Oh, it's lovely. (Both laugh.)

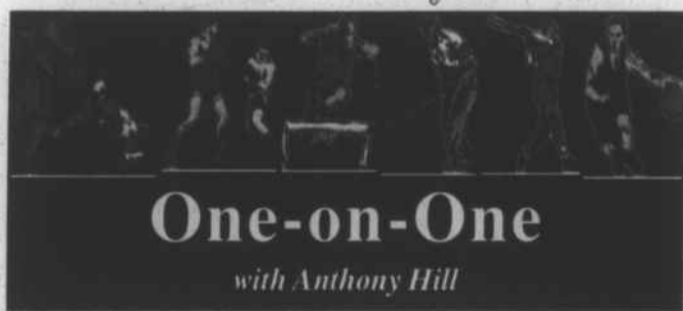
Anthony: If you could date any celebrity who would she be?

Jairus: Stacy Dash. She's old school. But she's bad, though.

Anthony: No doubt. What gets you hyped before games?

Jairus: Uh, Lil' Wayne, Gucci Mane and O.J. Da Juiceman.

Anthony: If you could



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