

Sports Profile

Bulldog guard Primm climbs up the record books

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To help prepare for the 2010-11 basketball season, UNC Asheville's men's basketball guard J.P. Primm did something that is unique compared to ordinary practice drills.

"I made a summer challenge to make 100,000 shots in 84 days and I finished it in July," Primm said. "That really helped my shot out a lot."

Primm made some noise his freshman year on the court, most notably for his assists. He led the team in assists as a freshman with 139, and for the first month of the season, he led the nation for all freshmen.

Now in his third year as a Bulldog, Primm has become a versatile guard who can not only dish out assists, but he can also shoot the long ball and come up with steals.

Despite leading the team in three categories last season, including assists, steals and points per game, Primm said he feels like there is always room for improvement.

"I could always play better and I think I need to take care of the ball a little more than I have been doing, but every night I try to lay it all on the court," he said. "I'm never satisfied with how I play, and I think that's what drives me."

Primm had a team-high 116 turnovers last season in the 30 games that he started, but this season he is looking to decrease that number.

"I really want to improve on taking care of the ball and not forcing the issue all the time," he said. "I also really want to get my teammates involved in the game early."

Unselfish play led Primm to 172 assists last season, which was good enough to place him eighth on the Big South Conference all-time list. Primm has 22 assists so far this season after five games.

The Bulldogs had a tough season last year, finishing 15-16 overall and 11-7 in conference play. As this is the last season the team will play in the Justice Center, Primm is hoping to go out on a high note.

"I want to lead my team to a winning season this year with at least 20-plus wins," Primm said. "I also want to lead the league in steals and assists and break the school record in assists in a single game, which I have tied twice but haven't broken it."

Primm focused on stepping up his game this summer by going to his home state of Tennessee to train with some professionals.

"I traveled around working out and doing different drills with some older professional guys I know and playing in the



Photo courtesy of UNCA Athletics

Junior guard J.P. Primm races past University of Kentucky players in their matchup early last year.

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- J.P. Primm,

men's basketball player

Rocky Top League, which is a summer league in Knoxville, and it helped me stay in shape," Primm said.

As one of five juniors, Primm will be as-

suming a leadership role on the team this season. Since much of the team is fairly young, Primm will be looked to for his experience and work ethic.

"I try to lead them in the right direction and just take them all under my wing by showing them the ropes on and off the court," he said. "I tell them about basketball and still let them know that school is also a big factor."

The Bulldogs recently fought a very hard battle against the No. 25-ranked UNC Chapel Hill. To the surprise of many, the Tar Heels had only a six-point lead with less than five minutes remaining in the game. The Bulldogs would eventually fall 80-69, with Primm's 21 points leading the way.

"At that point, I was thinking that if we really play our game, we can play with anybody in the country," Primm said. "I told (Matt) Dickey that we have to be up-

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