

Unsung Heros: Moore, McRae, Watkins

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Getting up at 6 a.m. to lift weights isn't exactly what you would call fun. For Steve Watkins, Bruce Moore and Tony McRae it's a way of life. That's because they are freshmen members of the Louisburg College basketball team. But Watkins, Moore and McRae say that, despite the early morning wakeup, they enjoy being Hurricanes.

Being at Louisburg, the trio make their own decisions both on and off the court. Their decision-making, though, does have a limit. Sure Steve Watkins, Bruce Moore and Tony McRae would love to be in the Louisburg starting lineup. But for the most part, barring any injuries to Hurricane starters, they will be relegated to the bench. McRae could be the exception.

Looking into the background of the tree freshmen one sees that Steve Watkins played at Friendship Christian while both Moore and McRae went to

Hoke County High School.

Watkins attended Freindship two years. Each year the Raleigh-based Falcons produced a winner. By the end of the 1984-85 basketball year Steve had led Friendship Christian to an honor of being one of the top eight Christian schools in the state. He scored around 17 points per game and dished out an average of five assist in '84-'85.

Louisburg coach Enid Drake classifies Watkins as a "hard-nosed player." "He's a student of the game," said Drake. Watkins is being touted as a point guard in the Hurricane framework. At 5'11", 170, Steve can rob an opponent blind with his fast hands. He is the son of Barbara and John Watkins of Raleigh.

Bruce Moore, meanwhile, should have versatility as his middle name. After all he's capable of playing all five positions. Moore, a 6'5", 160 pounder, lacks experience. Coach Drake says that could be a plus. "Bruce learns quickly because he doesn't have any bad

habits to get rid of," Drake said.

While at Hoke Moore pumped in 11 points per game and collected an average of six rebounds a game.

The Louisburg campus isn't new to Bruce, who is a ping-pong and computer fanatic. This summer he worked ad a counselor at the Hurricanes basketball camp. Coach Enid Drake wants to groom Moore for the point guard position. "With his height and reach it gives him a plus defensively," said Drake. Bruce is the son of Miss Molly Moore of Raeford.

Tony McRae, on the other hand, is a scoring threat whenever he touches the basketball. A 19.6 points per game scorer at Hoke, McRae also pulled down 12.2 rebounds per contest as a Buck. The 6'4", 188 pound McRae is a powerful leaper. "He knows how to score inside and he's a powerful leaper," Drake said. "If he can win the battle with the books he'll be a good player," said Drake. McRae is the son of Miss Carolyn McRae of Raeford.

Riley: "Instant Offense"

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Louisburg College men's basketball coach Enid Drake calls him instant offense because of the range he has with his jump shot. Opposing teams fear him because he's back for his sophomore season bigger, quicker and stronger.

The person who is being referred to is Dee Riley, who played only nineteen games of a twenty-nine game season for the Hurricanes in '84-'85. Riley was out of the final ten games last year due to having broke two bones in his wrist.

It's not easy to sit on the bench and watch your teammates play without you. You can lend them your vocal support but that's about the limit. Dee Riley was handcuffed in a way and no one had the key. There was only so much he was capable of doing to help the Hurricanes.

Dee, however, has now completely recovered from his injury of the past season. The graduate of Northern Durham has also put on over ten pounds during the off-season. Now at a trim 6'4", 187 pounds, Riley is



DEE RILEY

Photo by Richard Byrd

and against the likes of the Chicago Bulls Michael Jordan, Duke signee Danny Ferry and present UNC player Steve Hale.

As of now, however, Riley is focusing his sights on playing at Louisburg College. One of his main concerns this season is putting the clamps on an opponents number two guard. In most cases the number two guard is the other team's best scorer.

While defense lays heavy in the mind of Dee Riley, offense doesn't. Last season before the wrist injury Riley scored at an 11.7 points per game average. From the free throw line he was even more amazing by sinking 81.8% of his attempts. "Dee is a knowledgable offensive player," said coach Drake. "If he keeps working to improve his defensive play I feel he can become a division I prospect."

Riley knows that it takes work both on and off the court to be a winner. His head coach taught him that point. "Coach Drake has helped me grow alot since I came to Louisburg," said Riley.

Sports



"BLUE" SKIES

Photo by Buddy Hyde



"BLUE" TAPPING

Photo by Buddy Hyde