

Sherrill discusses old days at N.C. State

Former N.C. State star guard Scooter Sherrill is one of those players you may not think about until you see a Wolfpack basketball game on ESPN Classic from a couple years ago. Then, you might begin to wonder what he's doing nowadays.

Sherrill is presently doing his thing overseas, playing last season in a basketball league in Poland. He's still hoping to get into the NBA, though. An injury his senior year seemed to have slowed his process down. Coming out of high school, anyone would tell you Sherrill was on his way to the league. I mean, Scooter was a McDonald's All American with guys like Zach Randolph, Jared Jeffries, Chris Duhon, Gerald Wallace, Luke Ridnour and Darius Miles. They're all in the NBA now.

Some of you may remember his West Rowan team that lost a state championship game to Cliff Crawford and Danny Gathings when they were at Parkland. Scooter still did his thing. Personally, I always think about the game where Sherrill shut down Justin Gray in the second half of a game to help erase a 16-point Wake halftime lead. J-Gray only scored 2 points in the second half, and N.C. State won. I called Scooter up this week to find out what's new. Find out what Scoot had to tell me during a conversation on Tuesday.

Anthony: What's good, Scoot?
Scooter: Nothing, man. Chillin'. Same ole, same ole. Just trying to make it.

Anthony: What's been going on with you this summer?
Scooter: Ah man, just a lot of basketball. I'm constantly in the gym. I'm just constantly trying to get better. Trying to stay working.

Anthony: Are you playing in any summer leagues this year?
Scooter: Uh, I'm on some rosters and everything. But, personally — if it's not the summer league I want to do, which is the NBA Summer League, I'm not really trying to do it. I've just been doing a lot of individual stuff. I did go to a few summer leagues and play. But nothing like that.

Anthony: Speaking of the NBA. How disappointing were you when you didn't make it straight out of college?

Scooter: Uh, you know there were some mixed emotions. I didn't really have the opportunity to do anything that summer. I got hurt during one of my last games during my senior year. When other seniors were working out for scouts, I was sitting at home trying to rehab. It was disappointing in a way. But I know I haven't had the opportunity yet. I haven't given up on it yet. The sky is the limit when I get the opportunity.

Anthony: But it's so hard for guards to slip in the NBA, especially from overseas.
Scooter: It is. It is. Guards are a dime a dozen, ya know. There's guards everywhere, man. It's a challenge. But I'm just looking forward to the opportunity to show what I can do.

Anthony: How much fun are you having overseas, though?
Scooter: I'm having fun. It's cool because you get to see the world and get paid for it. A lot of people really don't have that chance. I'm just trying to see the world. I'm also trying to stay focused on what I've got to do. Like I said, my ultimate goal was to make it to the NBA. I'd much rather be playing in that league. But it is what it is. I'm just trying to make the best out of my situation.

Anthony: How do you keep a humble attitude when you go overseas, though? Everybody thinks they have NBA talent. How do you maintain a humble attitude when you go over there?
Scooter: There's really a lot of great players out there. Every time you step on the court you're facing a great player. There's other Americans that work just as hard. You just have to stay focused. I know I have NBA talent, but there's good basketball over there.

Anthony: Do you think it's time for EA Sports to produce an overseas basketball game?
Scooter: Hey, that would be nice. Take it to another level, ya know. That would be nice.

Anthony: How much do you remember your days at West Rowan?
Scooter: I will never forget those days. People never let you forget high school. And, my parents still live in the same area as my high school. (Laughs.) I relive high school everyday. I always see someone I went to high school with.

Anthony: (Smiles.) No one can forget you around there. You were that guy back then.



Here, Sherrill dribbles past defenders in the Venezuela basketball league.

Scooter: Yeah, high school was good.
Anthony: Didn't you all lose to Parkland when you were in high school?
Scooter: We lost to them my sophomore year. I will never forget that game. Parkland had a good team. We had a good team as well. That's something I will never forget because I still see Cliff Crawford all of the time. He's in Raleigh. I go up there to work out every now and then. Cliff still wears his ring. (Both laugh.) It's funny because I just saw Cliff the other day. He was playing ball and I saw his ring on the sideline. I'm like, "I know this is not Cliff's ring." All these years and he's still wearing that ring. He'll never let me forget that game.

Anthony: Let me ask you this. Did you ever think about transferring from N.C. State? Personally, I didn't like you in (Herb) Sendek's system.
Scooter: I did. But I do not regret going to N.C. State. I got a good education, and went to an ACC school for free. My parents got to come see me play. Looking back, I wish I

were in a better system. When I first got there we were in a different system. We were running. They changed it up my sophomore year. But I didn't transfer because I always thought next year was going to be better.

Anthony: What's your most memorable moment?
Scooter: There was so many memorable moments. Everyday was fun. There's nothing like college. Probably my most memorable moment was probably beating North Carolina my junior year at Carolina. I was the player of the game.

Anthony: What was the last movie you enjoyed?
Scooter: I don't know. I love movies, especially being overseas. That's all you can do. I rented Braveheart while I was in Poland. I've seen it a million times, but it's my favorite.

Anthony: OK. What was the last CD you got?
Scooter: I got the T.I. and Lil Wayne. (Laughs.) I got the bootleg Lil Wayne.

Anthony: You got to tell ya boy about the women over there (overseas). (Smiles.) It looks like you're getting major love from them nowadays.
Scooter: It's crazy over there. The women love Americans over there. I've had a girlfriend the whole time I've been there. So I'm like, "Hey, how you doing." I'm low key. But they love Americans, especially brothers. They approach us. There's a lot of love over there. We really get NBA treatment over there.

Anthony: Let's finish with free association.
Scooter: OK.
Anthony: Scooter Sherrill.
Scooter: Persistent.
Anthony: Cliff Crawford
Scooter: Crazy dude. (Both laugh.) In a good way.

Anthony: I got you. Um, N.C. State.
Scooter: Great school.
Anthony: Danny Gathings.
Scooter: Athlete.
Anthony: North Carolina (the state).
Scooter: Best state.
Anthony: Favorite food.
Scooter: Steak.
Anthony: And, Kobe Bryant.
Scooter: Best player in the league.



Scooter Sherrill on the court during his days at North Carolina State. Sherrill played his high school ball at West Rowan High.

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