

# Sophomore Lawrence Massey could be key to 49ers hope

By John Edwards  
 "I'm just an ordinary, everyday person who enjoys the simple things. I like to get along with everybody." Such is the self-description of one Lew Massey, a vital cog in UNCC's 1975 basketball plans.

Currently Massey, a 6'6", 205 pound

sophomore, is being placed in a definite position of responsibility as a returnee off of UNCC's 23-3 nationally-ranked team. Last season that 49er unit featured the shooting of George Jackson and the board play of Geoff Bommer and Jon Heath, consequently taking much

pressure off of the Pineville, N.C. forward and allowing him to "play looser because I didn't have to be a leading scorer." This year, despite the added responsibility as a scorer and rebounder, Massey feels "more encouraged, because I am starting."

Early tutoring for Massey's specialty came from Charlotte's South Mecklenburg High, where he played for state-renowned coach Dave Price. Price discusses Massey: "Lew was always an offensive-minded player—one of the best shooters we've ever had. As a senior, he was an outstanding captain and leader. We had no problems with him." Price added that Lew remains the school's all-time leader in scoring average and at South Mecklenburg, a school known statewide for having won numerous

championships, that is an accomplishment. Having watched Lew play since his high school graduation, Price feels that he has improved all facets of his game, especially passing and defense, and "filled out more" to become a player with "just tremendous potential."

With the talent Lew possesses as a prolific shooter who knows the game, he also owns an obvious degree of confidence. "When I'm on the court," Lew says, "I don't hear or see anyone, I just take it easy. I've got a lot of confidence in my game, on the court, off the court." And well he should. Massey played a vital role coming off the bench as a freshman last year and in the annual Green-White scrimmage held Saturday, November 22, he led the White unit to a 101-70 victory with 26 points.

To some, Massey is so loose and easygoing on the court yet in merely talking to him he does appear somewhat conceited.

Lew enjoys the basketball program much more this year and finds it quite interesting, mainly due to the presence of new mentor Lee Rose and an all-new "look" to the 49er style of play. About Rose, Lew feels, "Coach Rose will tell you what's on his mind—he's very direct and to the point. The team likes him and I know that I'll play harder for him." Contrary to past 49er teams which have featured a full-court pressing defense and a full tilt running offense from the opening tip, Massey says that 1975-1976 brings "a new style of ball. The philosophy is to win and do whatever it takes to win. We will run zones and a little bit of everything."

Carolina Journal photo by David Wagoner



Lew Massey, starting forward.



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