

### Facts

### General Information

LocationGa.
Enrollment7,400
Founded
Nickname
Colors Orange & Black
Affiliation NCAA Division I
Conference Atlantic Sun
Arena Center
Capacity
President Dr. R. Kirby Godsey
Alma Mater Samford (1957)
Athletics Director Bobby Pope
Alma Mater Georgia College (1970)
Athletics Phone (478) 301-2994
Athletics Fax
Faculty Ath. Rep Dr. Mary Jo Vaughan
Senior Woman Administrator. Sybil Blalock
Director of Compliance Daniel McCarthy
Director of Sports Medicine Rob Murphy

### Coaching Staff

Head Coach Mark Slonaker
Alma Mater Georgia '80
Record at Mercer 79-122/Seven seasons
Career Record Same
E-mail slonaker_mw@mercer.edu
Best time to reach Contact SID
Assistant Coach Cleveland Jackson
Assistant Coach Jeremy Luther
Assistant Coach Patrick Henry
Basketball Phone (478) 301-5211
Basketball Fax (478) 301-5222

### History

First year of basketball 1908-09
All-time record
Conference Championships1
Last
Conference Tournament Titles 2
Last 1985
NCAA Tournament Appearances 2
Last 1985
Record

### 2002-03 Results

Overall Record	12-18
A-Sun Record/Finish	9-11/6th
Home/Road/Neutral 1	0-2/1-15/1-1
Starters returning/lost	3/2
Letterwinners returning/lost	8/5

### Sports Information

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Website www.m	ercerbears.com

Mercer

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### **Mercer Sports Information**



Joel Lamp Director MBKB Contact Office: (478) 301-5350 Home: (478) 475-1478 Cell: (478) 951-7111

### **Mercer Sports Network**



Joel Lamp (right) and Daniel McCarthy return for their second season as the radio crew for the Mercer Sports Network. All game can be heard live via the Internet at Mercerbears.com or WMAC, AM-740.

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### **Something Old - Something New**

### Mercer looks to use a blend of veterans and newcomers to make a run in 2004-05

What a difference a year makes.

Last year, Mercer returned one of the most experienced teams in the Atlantic Sun Conference and was picked third in the league.

Now as the Bears prepare for the 2004-05 campaign, they return three starters from last year's team, but lose two key cogs to the 2003 A-Sun Championship team in Scott Emerson and Delmar Wilson.

And those aren't the kind of guys you replace overnight.

"We felt four years ago that we would be good for three years," Slonaker said. "I felt that this year would be a rebuilding year because we would be losing so many good players. I felt that once we got good, we would stay good. This year is going to be a transition year as we have a new look and a new face for the program."

But this team got some unexpected good news late in February when the NCAA granted Wesley Duke a sixth-year of eligibility.

"That is a big bonus for us this year," Slonaker said. "He's got a lot of experience and is going to be the leader for this team."

With Duke coming back and the return of long-range bomber James Odoms, the Bears return two of the top four scorers from last year.

On top of that, sophomore scoring sensation Jacob Skogen is slated to start on the opposite wing of Odoms.

Will Emerson looks to break out of the shadows of his older brother as he is poised to get the starting nod to be Duke's partner in the post.

But the biggest question mark is the point guard position as Mercer signed two players in the offseason to help solidify the position.

"I feel good about our starting lineup,"

Slonaker said. "We have two seniors, two juniors and one sophomore which gives us a nice balance. We're lacking some experience off the bench and these guys are going to play critical roles in our rotation."

In what looks to be a wide-open race in the A-Sun, if Mercer can answer all of their questions correctly, the Bears could be in the hunt again in March.

### POINT GUARD

Last year, the point guard position was an Achilles heel for the Bears. Mercer used a lot of different

players at this position with four players earning starts at the position.

During the offseason, Slonaker and his coaching staff went out looking for a point guard and went to the junior college ranks, adding transfer Damitrius Coleman.

"Last year we had four players run the point and we never had consistent play which was very frustrating,"

Slonaker said. "We lost a couple of close games and turned the ball over 20 or more times. We wanted to upgrade this position and wanted a proven point guard and we feel like we accomplished that."

Coleman comes to Mercer after leading St. Petersburg College to back-to-back 20-plus win seasons. A solid point guard, he averaged 15 points and eight assists per game last year and will be the starter at the point as the Bears enter the season.

"Damitirus knows how to play the point," Slonaker said. "He took his high school team to the final four and he played with great junior college players and led St. Petersburg College to two 20-win seasons."

Pushing Coleman for playing time will be senior Tyler McCurry. McCurry will be coming off the bench, a familiar role for him two years ago when he was highly effective on the 2003 championship team.

"Tyler's role is similar to the role he had two years ago," Slonaker said. "He was very efficient last year coming off the bench and we feel like he will be able to do that this year. He knows the offense and is extremely competitive and wants to go out with a bang and will be able to push Damitrius each day."

Michael Slonaker, Coach Slonaker's son, will also battle for some playing time at the point guard with junior

Wesley Emmanuel Hollaway also seeing time at the point as well as the wings.

### Duke wings

Mercer has made its living in the

Andrew Brown and freshman signee

post the past three years. With the ammunition the Bears have at the two wing positions, Mercer has become a perimeter team.

"Over the last three to four years, we have been a power team," Slonaker said. "Now we've got two big wings that are 6-foot-5. James Odoms is one of the top 3-point shooters in the country and when you put Jacob Skogen on the other wing, it is going to extend the defense."

Last year James Odoms came to Mercer and took the A-Sun by storm, finishing the year by averaging double

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figures in points and finished second in the country in 3-point field goal percentage.

Joining the senior Odoms at the other wing position is sophomore Jacob Skogen. Skogen came on strong at the end of last season, scoring 20 points or more twice in the last 10 games.

"J.O. (Odoms) is a stop-and-pop kind of shooter," Slonaker said. "And Jacob is able to manufacture his own shot. He has gotten bigger and stronger and will make a huge leap from his freshman year to his sophomore year. Not too many schools are starting two wings at 6-5 and the combination of these two playing off each other is going to be fun to watch."

With the two starting spots taken, the Bears have unprecedented depth at the two positions with Andrew Brown, Emmanuel Hollaway, Shaddean Aaron, Ross Alacqua, Micalvin Hammonds and Justin Reeves all pushing for playing time off the bench.

Brown had his coming out party at Georgia State in January of last season, scoring eight points in the second half which moved him into the starting lineup. He would go on to take advantage of his opportunity, scoring double figures six times the rest of the year.

"Andrew played a lot last year at the point, but he has a scorer's mentality," Slonaker said. "This year he will move into more of a scoring role. With his experience last year in conference play, he knows how hard it is to play every night and he should have a big impact on this team."

The Bears big-wing depth continues with Aaron. Standing at 6-foot-5, Aaron will see time at both wings and gained valuable experience practicing with the team last spring.

"Shaddean is another slashertype player," Slonaker said. "He is big and athletic and can get in there to do the dirty work on the boards."

Hollaway comes to Mercer after a stellar high school career. Another player with a strong scoring mentality, Hollway will push for playing time at both positions.

"Emmanuel is a good scorer," Slonaker said. "He shoots it well from outside and brings a different element to the team as he can play both wing positions as well as run the point."

Also jumping in the battle for playing time is the long-range bomber Alacqua. He sat out last season as a redshirt and gained valuable experience working and getting better each day in practice.

"Ross is a good shooter," Slonaker said. "I feel like

he is one of the top shooters in the country. He brings a lot to the team because he can help spread the defense and can make a team pay if he is left open."

Also battling for playing time will be sophomore Micalvin Hammonds and freshman walk-on Justin Reeves.

### POST

Mercer's depth and experience in the post was deci-

mated by graduation, losing Scott Emerson and Bobby Hansen. The Bears avoided losing a third when Wesley Duke was granted a sixth year. "With Wesley Duke, you have a sixth-year kid who is the most athletic player in the conference," Slonaker said. "He is a good defender, arguably the best in the league, and worked hard during the offseason on his jump shot and is going to have to pick up his rebounding. With all of our losses in the post, he may show more offensively this year."

With the loss of those two key players, several players are expected to step up. Will Emerson is set to join Duke in the starting front court when the season begins.

"The two players that will be making the biggest jump this year are Jacob

Skogen and Will Emerson," Slonaker said. "This is Will's year to step out of the shadows. At 6-10, he has long arms and can alter shots as well as step out and shoot the three. He has worked hard in the offseason on playing with his back to the basket. He's very versatile and with his height, he gives us a lot of options."

The only other returnee in the post is fifth-year sen-

Jacob Skogen

ior Andrew Walker. Walker has the ability to post up as well as the range to hit from the outside.

"We need Andrew to be good at what he can do," Slonaker said. "In the first third of the sea-

son, he will have a chance to play. What he does with that time will determine the rest of the season. He is the best passer and shooter among our big men. He has to work on his rebounding and not turning the ball over. If he can do that and knock down shots, he can contribute heavily to this team."

Joining the Bears are two freshman that will be/ asked to contribute from day one in Brian Pfohl, a native of Atlanta, and Sam Dolan from St. Johsnville, N.Y. Both players are mature physically and both spent the summer together at Mercer getting ready for their first season.

"When people talk about our program, they talk



2004-05

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about our tough inside guys," Slonaker said. "We feel blessed to get these two guys that fit our mold. Brian is a really good low post player. He's got great hands and good post moves. He is deceptively athletic and has as good of feet as we've ever had.

"Sam comes out of one of the premier prep schools in the country and he's played for one of the best coaches in the country in Jerry Quinn. He is well-coached and is a strong defender and rebounder. Both of these guys should make an impact on this team immediately."

### CONFERENCE

The A-Sun is coming off a banner season after sending three teams to the postseason. Now, the A-Sun takes a new look as all of the top four teams from last year have to replace key personnel from last year.

"The top four teams last year all lost some key players. Georgia State feels like they have a good recruiting class. Troy signed two junior college All-Americans and UCF has its backcourt returning, but has a new front line. Jacksonville has reloaded and Florida Atlantic has quality players surrounding Mike Bell."

With all of the stars of the past season gone, the league race has no clear-cut favorite.

"This is going to be a wide-open race," Slonaker said. "The league as a whole has lost a lot of good players over the past two years. Stetson has the most personnel back and you have to look at them as one of the early favorites.

With the key losses to each team, the race for the top will be tightly contested between all 11 teams.

"Over the last couple of years, our top four to five teams in the league have been really good and our bottom teams haven't been as good," Slonaker said. "I think we'll see a more balanced league than the last few years. This year's race is going to be wide-open and exciting for all the fans in the league."

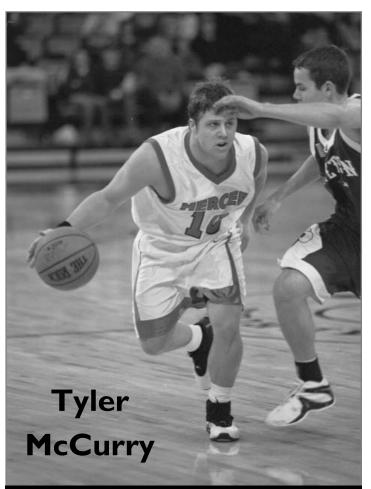
### SCHEDULE

When mid-major schools work on their schedules, it is hard to get home games and even tougher to have more home games than road games.

With a 26-3 record at home over the past two seasons, the Bears will be playing 14 games at home this season and have a schedule that is similar to the one two years ago when Mercer claimed a share of the A-Sun title.

The schedule is highlighted by road games at Maryland and Ohio State as well as a home-and-home with in-state rival Savannah State and visit by Georgia Southern to the University Center.

"We have great fan support and are very fortunate to play 14 games at home," Slonaker said. "This schedule is very similar to the one two years ago. We play one of the



### Bears Experience Runs Deep

Two years ago, Mercer won its first Atlantic Sun Conference regular season title. Three of the four seniors on the 2004-05 squad were members of that team.

Wesley Duke and Tyler McCurry were key components off the bench of that team and are looking to go out on top as seniors in 2004-05.

Duke enters his sixth year in the Mercer program and is closing in on 1,000 points for his career. He needs just 191 points to become the 30th member of the 1,000point club at Mercer.

McCurry gives the Bears valuable experience at the point guard position. During his sophomore year, McCurry came off the bench and gave Mercer some valuable depth at the point. Last year, McCurry led the team in assists with 55. He needs 48 assists this season to tie Aleem Muhammad for 10th on the all-time list.

Walker was redshirted during the 2002-03 season, but gained valuable experience by practicing with the team each day.

The lone senior not to play on the championship team is James Odoms. A junior college transfer, Odoms lit up scoreboards around the A-Sun with his strong 3-point shooting. Odoms finished second in the country in 3-point field goal percentage, hitting 48.8 percent of his attempts.

"Our seniors are going to be the leaders of this team," said Mercer head coach Mark Slonaker. "With a young team like this one, they are going to look to the seniors for guidance on and off the court."

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# Noting the Bears for 2004-05

• Mercer is four wins away from the 1,000th win in school history. The Bears enter the season with a 996-962 record in 95 years of basketball.

 The Bears are looking to avoid backto-back losing seasons for the first time since the 1999-2000/2000-01 campaigns.

• Head coach Mark Slonaker is just 21 wins away from his 100th at Mercer. He has a 79-122 record in charge of the Bears and is currently fourth on the school's all-time wins list. He needs 24 to tie James Cowan for third.

• This year marks the final year of the 20-game conference schedule as Troy and UCF move to other conferences with East Tennessee State joining the league next season.

 Mercer has been dominant at home over the past two seasons, despite changing venues. The Bears were 4-1 last season in the new University Center and never had a crowd less than 1,800.

• Wesley Duke needs 191 points to become the 30th member of the 1,000-point club.

 James Odoms needs 19 3-pointers to crack the school's top 10 career list in that category. He would have to hit a school-record 99 3-pointers to tie the career record of 158 set by Reggie Titus.

Last year the Bears faced one of the toughest schedules in the country as they faced five teams that advanced to the NCAA Tournament, with two of those teams (Xavier and Alabama) advancing to the "Elite Eight."

• The last time the Bears had a losing season, they posted the biggest single-season turnaround in NCAA history, going from 6-23 to 23-6 and won the A-Sun Championship.

Mercer

best programs in the country in Maryland. Ohio State is in transition, but they are going to be a good test for this team. We also renew our rivalry with Savannah State as well as hosting Georgia Southern."

With seven nonconference games, the Bears will play a grueling 20-game schedule in the A-Sun.

"Your league schedule is always going to be grueling," Slonaker said. "Especially when you play 20 games and you have to play two in December. That makes it

tough for everyone with non-veteran teams to open conference play so early. All in all, I like our schedule. We don't have any long road trips and we close

### 2004-05 Atlantic Sun Preseason Poll

### Media

UCF, 156 points
Georgia State, 147 points
Troy, 144 points
Stetson, 136 points
Belmont, 128 points
Florida Atlantic, 116 points
*T. Mercer, 97 points* Jacksonville, 86 points
Gardner-Webb, 52 points
Campbell, 36 points
Lipscomb, 26 points
Tournament Champion: Georgia State

### Coaches

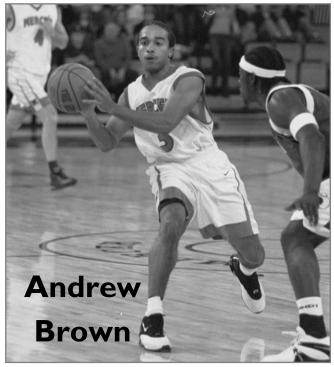
Men's Basketball

Georgia State, 104 points
Stetson, 103 points
UCF, 96 points
Troy, 85 points
T5. Belmont, 74 points
T5. Florida Atlantic, 74 points
Jacksonville, 62 points
Mercer, 58 points
Gardner-Webb, 27 points
Lipscomb, 24 points
Campbell, 19 points
Tournament Champion: Georgia State

All-Conference Team: Mike Bell, FAU; Brian Collins, Belmont; E.J. Gordon, Stetson; Haminn Quaintance, JU; Kevin Thomas, GSU

2004-05

Player-of-the-Year: Mike Bell, FAU



the year with seven of the last 11 at home, which allows us to make a run at home late in the year."

### OUTLOOK

With the loss of two key starters, Mercer's coaching staff is going to have its hands full all season. Despite those losses, the Bears still have several players with experience who have been waiting in the wings and now have the opportunity to excel. If the Bears can get some consistent play at the point and the newcomers mesh with the veterans, Mercer has a chance at parlaying a rebuilding season into a run for the roses.



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### 2004-05 Numerical Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	CI.	Hometown/Previous School
1	Emmanuel Holloway	G	6-1	170	Fr.	Cartersville, Ga./Woodland HS
2	Micalvin Hammonds	G	6-0	175	So.	Whigham, Ga./Cairo HS
3	Andrew Brown	G	6-1	185	Jr.	Pontiac, Mich./Owens C.C.
5	James Odoms	G	6-5	200	Sr.	Gray, Ga./Okaloosa-Walton C.C.
10	Tyler McCurry	G	5-10	190	Sr.	Abingdon, III./Abingdon HS
11	Ross Alacqua	G	5-8	170	So.	Alpharetta, Ga./Chattahoochee HS
12	Michael Slonaker	G	6-1	175	So.	Macon, Ga./Mt. de Sales Academy
14	Jacob Skogen	G	6-5	190	So.	Lookout Mountain, Ga./Tenn. Temple HS
15	Damitrius Coleman	G	6-1	170	Jr.	Key West, Fla./St. Petersburg College
20	Allen Bridges	G	5-10	160	Fr.	Albany, Ga./Albany HS
22	Shaddean Aaron	G	6-5	185	Fr.	Pomona, Calif./Claremont HS
30	Justin Reeves	G	6-3	190	Fr.	Macon, Ga./Tattnall Square Academy
32	Brian Pfohl	F	6-7	220	Fr.	Atlanta, Ga./Pace Academy
33	Sam Dolan	F	6-8	215	Fr.	St. Johnsville, N.Y./St. Thomas Moore Prep
34	Will Emerson	F	6-10	220	Jr.	St. Mary's, Ga./Camden Co. HS
40	Wesley Duke	F	6-5	225	Sr.	Norcross, Ga./Meadowcreek HS
44	Andrew Walker	F	6-9	235	Sr.	Lawrenceville, Ga./Collins Hill HS

Head Coach Assistant Coaches Mark Slonaker (Georgia '80) Cleveland Jackson (Georgia '96) Jeremy Luther (North Greenville College '99) Patrick Henry (Ohio '98)

### 2004-05 Alphabetical Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	CI.	Hometown/Previous School
22	Shaddean Aaron	G	6-5	185	Fr.	Pomona, Calif./Claremont HS
11	Ross Alacqua	G	5-8	170	So.	Alpharetta, Ga./Chattahoochee HS
20	Allen Bridges	G	5-10	160	Fr.	Albany, Ga./Albany HS
3	Andrew Brown	G	6-1	185	Jr.	Pontiac, Mich./Owens C.C.
15	Damitrius Coleman	G	6-1	170	Jr.	Key West, Fla./St. Petersburg College
33	Sam Dolan	F	6-8	215	Fr.	St. Johnsville, N.Y./St. Thomas Moore Prep
40	Wesley Duke	F	6-5	225	Sr.	Norcross, Ga./Meadowcreek HS
34	Will Emerson	F	6-10	220	Jr.	St. Mary's, Ga./Camden Co. HS
2	Micalvin Hammonds	G	6-0	175	So.	Whigham, Ga./Cairo HS
1	Emmanuel Holloway	G	6-1	170	Fr.	Cartersville, Ga./Woodland HS
10	Tyler McCurry	G	5-10	190	Sr.	Abingdon, III./Abingdon HS
5	James Odoms	G	6-5	200	Sr.	Gray, Ga./Okaloosa-Walton C.C.
32	Brian Pfohl	F	6-7	220	Fr.	Atlanta, Ga./Pace Academy
30	Justin Reeves	G	6-3	190	Fr.	Macon, Ga./Tattnall Square Academy
14	Jacob Skogen	G	6-5	190	So.	Lookout Mountain, Ga./Tenn. Temple HS
12	Michael Slonaker	G	6-1	175	So.	Macon, Ga./Mt. de Sales Academy
44	Andrew Walker	F	6-9	235	Sr.	Lawrenceville, Ga./Collins Hill HS



### Pronunciation Guide

Ross ALACQUA	. Uh-lah-kwa
DAMITRIUS Coleman	. Duh-me-tree-us
Brian PFOHL	. Fuh-Ole
Jacob SKOGEN	. Sko-gen
Mark SLONAKER	. Slon-uh-kerr
Michael SLONAKER	. Slon-uh-kerr

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## Roster Breakdown

Starters Ret	turning	q (3)						
Player	Yr.	PPG	RPG	APG	FG%	3FG%	FT%	Notes
James Odoms	Sr.	11.7	3.8	1.5	43.1	48.8	62.5	Finished second in the nation in 3-pt FG pct.
Wesley Duke	Sr.	10.5	6.3	1.4	51.8	0.0	65.7	Granted sixth year by NCAA
Andrew Brown	Jr.	7.8	1.4	2.1	44.9	39.0	88.9	Scored in double figures six times
Starters Lost (2)								
Player	Ŷr.	PPG	RPG	APG	FG%	3FG%	FT%	Notes
Scott Emerson	Grad.	15.3	8.2	2.1	49.8	37.0	76.5	Finished career third on all-time scoring list
Delmar Wilson	Grad.	13.4	6.4	1.9	41.2	38.9	74.1	Named team MVP in 2003-04
Other Letter	rwinne	ers Re	eturnir	ng (5)				
Player	Yr.	PPG	RPG	APG	FG%	3FG%	FT%	Notes
Jacob Skogen	So.	7.1	1.9	1.3	35.7	26.5	73.4	Most points by a freshman since Scott Emerson
Will Emerson	Jr.	5.5	3.5	0.7	46.0	42.9	60.0	Second best 3-pt percentage on the team
Tyler McCurry	Sr.	2.3	1.4	2.2	39.0	41.2	68.8	Led the team in assists
Andrew Walker	Sr.	1.9	1.3	0.5	30.4	17.4	71.4	Hit four 3-pointers during the season
Micalvin Hammor	nds So.	0.7	0.3	0.2	40.0	-	-	Was 2-of-5 from the floor as a freshman
Ross Alacqua	So.	F	Redshirte	ed				Long-range bomber gained a year of experience
Michael Slonaker	So.	F	Redshirte	ed				Another guard that gained valuable experience
Other Letterwinners Lost (3)								
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Player	Yr.	PPG	RPG	APG	FG%	3FG%	FT%
Jay January	Jr.	7.1	2.7	1.8	33.3	31.6	75.7
Bobby Hansen	Grad.	4.6	3.7	0.7	54.9	100.0	50.0
David Matthews	Jr.	0.5	0.5	0.8	28.6	33.3	-

### Newcomers (7)

Player	Yr.	Hometown/Previous School
Shaddean Aaron	Fr.	Pomona, Calif./Claremont HS
Alan Bridges	Fr.	Albany, Ga./Albany HS
Damitrius Coleman	Jr.	Key West, Fla./St. Petersburg College
Sam Dolan	Fr.	St. Johnsville, N.Y./St. Thomas Moore Prep
Emmanuel Holloway	Fr.	Cartersville, Ga./Woodland HS
Brian Pfohl	Fr.	Atlanta, Ga./Pace Academy
Justin Reeves	Fr.	Macon, Ga./Tatnall Sqare Academy

### How The Bears Were Built...

By Class Seniors (4) Wesley Duke, Tyler McCurry, James Odoms, Andrew Walker

*Juniors (3)* Andrew Brown, Damitrius Coleman, Will Emerson

**Sophomore (4)** Ross Alacqua, Micalvin Hammonds, Jacob Skogen, Michael Slonaker

Freshmen (6)

Shaddean Aaron, Alan Bridges, Sam Dolan, Emmanuel Holloway, Brian Pfohl, Justin Reeves

By Height
5'8" - Ross Alacqua

- 5'10" Tyler McCurry, Alan Bridges,
- 6'0" Micalvin Hammonds
- 6'1 Emmanuel Holloway, Andrew Brown,

Michael Slonaker, Damitrius Coleman

- 6'3" Justin Reeves
- 6'5"- James Odoms, Jacob Skogen,

Shaddean Aaron, Wesley Duke

- 6'7" Brian Pfohl
- 6'8" Sam Dolan
- 6'9" Andrew Walker
- 6'10" Will Emerson

By State California - Shaddean Aaron

Florida - Damitrius Coleman

*Georgia* - Emmanuel Holloway, Micalvin Hammonds, James Odoms, Ross Alacqua, Michael Slonaker, Jacob Skogen, Alan Bridges, Justin Reeves, Brian Pfohl, Will Emerson, Wesley Duke

Illinois- Tyler McCurry

Michigan - Andrew Brown

New York - Sam Dolan

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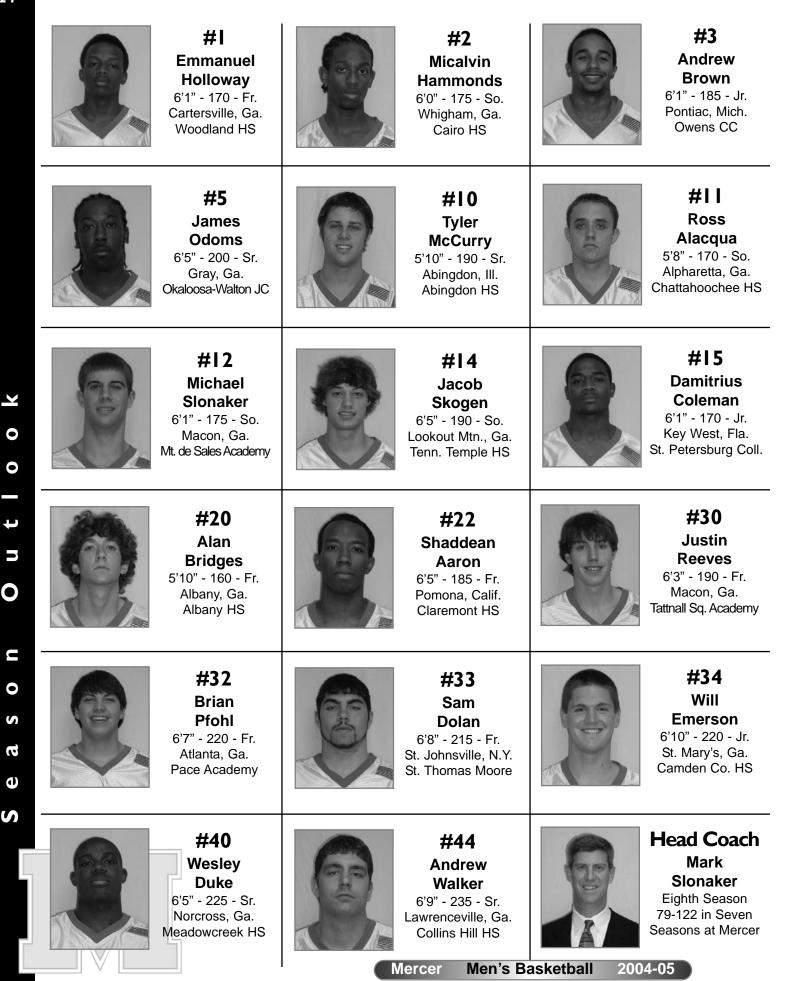
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Mercer Men's Basketball

2004-05

### Radio/TV Roster





Mercer Fact: In just seven seasons, Mercer head coach Mark Slonaker is now fourth on the school's all-time wins list.

Coaching Staff

# Mark Slonaker

### Head Coach - Eighth Season

How do you turn around a basketball program, rich in tradition, but one that had fallen to the depths of Division I basketball?

Ask Mark Slonaker. In his seven seasons at Mercer, Slonaker has resurrected the men's basketball program from the dead and has brought the Bears back to prominence in the Atlantic Sun Conference.

When he came to Mercer in 1997, it was a homecoming of sorts for the former University of Georgia standout. He was coming to Mercer to rebuild a program that was on life support.

And what he inherited was not pretty. The Bears were coming off of a 3-23 sea-

son in which they won just one game in conference play and finished last in the country in RPI.

Not only did Slonaker revive a program that many had considered dead, he took it new heights, culminating in the Bears first-ever A-Sun regular season championship in 2003. On top of that, he has graduated 86 percent of his players that have exhausted their eligibility.

All of this coming from a former wing-man from Rahway, N.J., that had a great knack for scoring and getting his teammates involved as well as making them better.

After earning All-America honors in high school, Slonaker left New Jersey for a scholarship at the University of Georgia in 1976.

Four years later, Slonaker had earned four varsity letters with Bulldogs and had led the team in assists as a sophomore. After being named team captain his senior year, he would finish his career with 211 assists, which still ranks in the top 20 in Georgia' history.

With his playing days behind him, Slonaker jumped right into coaching, serving as a student assistant coach at Georgia for the 1979-80 campaign.

Having a year of coaching experience under his belt, the young college graduate set out on his first rebuilding project as he took over at the Lovett School in Atlanta. There he turned a perennial doormat into a successful program.

Following his two-year stint at Lovett, Slonaker rejoined the college ranks by taking an assistant coach position at Georgia State, where he would remain for the next six seasons, including a stint as interim head coach during the 1984-85 season.

During his time at Georgia State, Slonaker was a key member of the staff that helped set the then-school record for most wins in a season. He was also responsible for signing the school's first all-conference performer as well as the school's all-time leading rebounder.

It was during the 1984-85 season that he took over as interim head coach three games into the season and oversaw a rocky transition with a young team as the Panthers won just one the rest of the year, dropping seven games by 10 points or less.

With his first taste of college coaching, Slonaker returned to his alma mater in 1989 as an assistant coach at

Georgia under Hugh Durham, a place where he would spend the next six seasons.

One of the top assistant coaches in the Southeastern Conference, Slonaker helped guide the Bulldogs to their only SEC Championship in school history. It was also during this time that Georgia advanced to back-to-back NCAA Tournaments for the first time in school history on top of two NIT appearances.

In 1992, Slonaker was responsible for one of the highest ranked recruiting classes and coached six players who eventually played in the NBA, led by

Dominique Wilkins. Other standouts coached by Slonaker include Alec Kessler, Litterial Green, Charles Claxton, Shandon Anderson and Carlos Strong.

Having six years of experience as a top assistant in the SEC, Slonaker moved on to his next challenge as the head coach at perennial power Pensacola Junior College in 1995. In his first season, he guided Pensacola to a 20-12 record and a spot in the state tournament. The next year, he improved on that with a 21-9 record.

But Slonaker was longing for a return to Georgia and the opportunity came along as he took over at Mercer. Slonaker was taking over a program that

### <u>Moving On Up</u>

Entering the 2003-04 season, Mark Slonaker is fourth on the school's alltime wins list with 79. With 21 more wins, he would become the fourth coach ever at Mercer to win 100 games at the helm of the Bears. Here's a look at where Slonaker stands on Mercer's all-time wins list:

Coach	Wins	Years
Bill Bibb	222	1974-89
Robert Wilder	147	1957-70
James Cowan	103	1946-51, 53-57
Mark Slonaker	79	1997-present
Bill Hodges	62	1991-97

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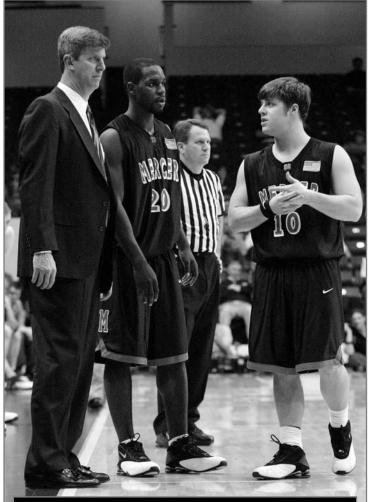
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### **Turning It Around**

After going 6-23 during the 2001-02 campaign, Mark Slonaker and his staff oversaw the biggest single-season turnaround in NCAA history. The 2002-03 season saw Mercer go 23-6 and win its first Atlantic Sun Conference regular season championship. The 17-game improvement was the best in Division I history, breaking the old record of 16.5. Here's the top five single-season turnarounds in NCAA history:

Team	Season	W-L Record	Previous Yr. W-L Record	Games Up
Mercer	2003	23-6	6-23	17
North Carolina A&	F 1978	20-8	3-24	16.5
Murray State	1980	23-8	4-22	16.5
Liberty	1992	22-7	5-23	16.5
North Texas	1976	22-4	6-20	16
Ohio State	1999	27-9	8-22	16

had been fallen from its lofty perch as a perennial contender of the A-Sun title.

It started with his first team that featured eight underclassmen and two junior college transfers. That young Bears team finished the 1997-98 season with a 5-21 record, losing nine games by 10 points or less. This team started to show some signs of the program turning around by going 5-8 at home.

The reclamation project was getting on track as the Bears improved on Slonaker's first season by going 8-18 and 5-11 in conference play the next season. The youth movement that was instituted in his first season continued as the Bears had six underclassmen on the roster that saw a significant amount of playing time.

Men's Basketball

Mercer

2004-05

Once again, the Bears were in a lot of games, losing seven by 10 points or less, but played better away from home, picking up three wins, including an 81-75 win at Troy State.

Slonaker's rebuilding project was gaining momentum and really picked up steam in his third season, as the Bears finished with a 12-21 record and a 7-11 finish in the A-Sun.

To go along with the four-game improvement, the Bears made a Cinderella run through the A-Sun Tournament, knocking off Jacksonville in the opening round and then upsetting No.1 seed Troy State in the quarterfinals.

This was also the coming-out party for freshman Scott Emerson. Tabbed as the future of Mercer basketball, Emerson earned second-team all-conference honors as a freshman.

With three years under his belt, Slonaker had Mercer poised to continue its resurgence.

And in the 2000-01 opener, the Bears showed that Slonaker had been working wonders in Macon, knocking off SEC foe Auburn, 92-88. The Bears would go on to finish the year with a 13-15 record but held a 10-8 record in conference play, their first winning conference mark since 1992-93, snapping a streak of seven straight sub-.500 seasons.

On top of breaking that streak, Slonaker had two players earn all-conference honors. Emerson was named to the first team with Rodney Kirtz earning second-team honors.

With an experienced group returning that had tasted success the previous year, Slonaker had Mercer gunning for a title run in 2001-02. Instead of being a run for the roses, it turned into a battle for survival.

The injury bug hit the Bears early in the season, taking away three of the Bears top players and forcing Slonaker to throw a very young and untested team to the wolves.

The result was a 6-23 season, but a team that showed flashes of brilliance and a promise of great things to come by winning three of their last six. Aleem Muhammed stepped up down the stretch, leading Mercer in scoring at 17.2 points per game. For the third straight year, the Bears placed a player on the all-conference team with Muhammed earning second-team honors.

With a young group that had to learn on the job before getting Emerson and Wesley Duke back from injuries, Mercer once again was again predicted to make a run for the title in 2002-03.

This time, the Bears didn't disappoint. Mercer jumped out of the gates by winning seven of their first 10 and never looked back. In the process, the Bears set a school record for most wins in a season with 23, including a 12-game winning streak that sent Mercer into the Collegeinsider.com Mid-Major Top 25 for the first time.

The Bears were once again rewarded for their hard work, winning their first-ever A-Sun regular season championship with a 14-2 conference record. Emerson earned firstteam all-conference honors with Muhammed being named to the second team.

For Slonaker, it was also a crowning season for him. He was honored as the A-Sun "Coach of the Year" by his peers and won the Jim Phelan Award as the national coach of the year.

On top of that, Slonaker had authored the greatest single-season turnaround in NCAA history, improving on the previous season by 17 games.

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### he Slonaker File

COLLEGE EXPERIENCE	
Mercer University	
Head Coach (Six years)	
1997-present	67-104
Pensacola Junior College	
Head Coach (Two years)	
1995–1997	41-21
University of Georgia	
Assistant Coach (Six years)	
1989–95	
1909 93	
Georgia State University	
Assistant Coach (Six years)	
1983-89	
1903-09	
CAREER	
	108-125
head coach	100-120
HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENC	ידי
The Lovett School	. <u>E</u>
Head Coach (Three years)	
1980–1983	
PLAYING EXPERIENCE	
University of Georgia	
	1976-80
	1970 00
EDUCATION	
University of Georgia	
BS, 1980	
PERSONAL	
-Wife, Kathy	
-Three children: Michael (19),	
Meaghan (17) and Patrick (15)	5)
HONORS	
A-Sun Coach of the Year	2003
Naismith Coach of the Year	2003
Jim Phelan Coach of the Year	
	2005
CONFERENCE TITLES	2002
A-Sun Regular Season	2003
ence champs and making an	other run
Once again, the injur	
Mercer didn't play with its cor	nnlata roc

The Slonakers (L to R): Michael, Meghan, Mark, Kathy and Patrick

Slonaker's Coaching Record									
	Overall		A-Sun	-					
Year	W-L	Pct.	W-L	Pct.	Finish	Tournament			
1997-98	5-21	.192	2-14	.125	6th-West	None			
1998-99	8-18	.307	5-11	.313	9th	None			
1999-2000	12-21	.364	7-11	.389	8th	Semis (2-1)			
2000-01	13-15	.464	10-8	.556	6th	Quarters (0-1)			
2001-02	6-23	.207	4-16	.200	11th	None			
2002-03	23-6	.793	14-2	.875	T1st-South	Semis (1-1)			
2003-04	12-18	.400	9-11	.450	6th	Quarters (0-1)			
TOTAL	79-122	.393	51-73	.411		3-4			
	W-L Pct.								
Pensacola Ju	unior Colle	eae (19	95-97)	41-21	.661				
Mercer (1997				79-122	.393				
COLLEGIAT			ORD	120-143	.456				

With Emerson and Duke returning for the 2003-04 season, the Bears were set to make a run at repeating as confer-

at the "Big Dance." the Bears hard.

cer didn't play with its complete roster until Jan. 30. Mercer had eight players miss a total of 38 games, including Emerson missing 12 games after being named the preseason "Player of the Year" by the A-Sun.

The bright side of the season came on Jan. 27 when Slonaker sent his team on the floor of the Bears' new home court - the University Center.

His team responded to its new home by winning three of its four games in its new home, including a win over in-state rival Georgia State.

Mercer battled through the season, finishing with a 12-18 mark and a 9-11 record in conference play.

The bright spot on the season was newcomer James Odoms. The junior sharp-shooter finished second in the country in 3-point field goal percentage, hitting 59 of 121 from behind the arc, a 48.8 percent clip.

With all of his success on the court, Slonaker has experienced a great amount of success off the court as well.

Slonaker received his bachelor's degree from Georgia in physical education in 1980 and received his master's degree in sports administration from Georgia State in 1989.

Slonaker and his wife Kathy are the proud parents of three children. Their oldest son, Michael, 20, is a sophomore at Mercer and is expected to contribute this season. The couple also has a daughter, Meghan, 18, and a son Patrick, 16.

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Men's Basketball 2004-05 Mercer



# **Cleveland Jackson** Assistant Coach - Fourth Season

It's not often that you get the call to come back to your roots.

After being recruited by Mark Slonaker to come to the University of Georgia, Cleveland Jackson starred for two years with the Bulldogs.

Following graduation, a professional career and a successful high school coaching stint at Campbell Hall High School in California, Jackson got the call from Slonaker four years ago to come back to Georgia and help build something special.

It was an offer that Jackson couldn't pass up.

Now entering his fourth season as an assistant coach on Slonaker's staff, Jackson is responsible for scouting, on the floor coaching, recruiting as well as conditioning.

What does Jackson bring to Mercer? A tremendous work ethic on top of a vast knowledge of the game.

Jackson's journey to Macon began in high school as a star at St. Monica Catholic High School in Los Angeles, Calif.

A three-year starter, Jackson led the team to an average of 25 wins per season. During his junior year, he averaged 17 points per game as the team's leading scorer and hit 51 percent from the floor and 76 percent of his free throws.

How does he follow that up? By averaging 16.5 points and 7.7 rebounds as a senior to earn all-league and all-region honors as well as being named MVP of the El Camino Conference.

With his high school career behind him, Jackson moved to the next level at Butler Community College in Kansas.

During his freshman year, he came out firing, averaging 11 points and seven rebounds per game.

With a year under his belt, Jackson came out of his shell as a sophomore. He finished the season averaging 25.9 points and 8.8 rebounds while leading his team to the national tournament.

It was also during that campaign that he scored 49 points in a game, setting the school for most points in a game that still stands today.

And with those numbers came the accolades and the attention. He was named "Junior College Player of the Year" by the Basketball Times and was a consensus first-team All-America pick by the National Junior College Athletics Association, Basketball Times and Basketball Weekly.

He also was honored by having his jersey retired by the school.

With all of the success he had, Jackson was hungry for more as he came to Georgia. A force at 6-foot-5, he finished his career by averaging 9.3 points and 2.9 rebounds per game.

He became familiar with Mercer early in his career at Georgia, scoring 19 points and pulling down 10 rebounds while dishing out six assists in his first appearance as a Bulldog.

> During his career, Jackson led the Bulldogs to the postseason both seasons as Georgia advanced to the NIT in 1993 and 1994.

With his college career behind him, Jackson played professionally in South America before entering the coaching ranks.

He spent four seasons as the head coach at Campbell Hall High School before joining the staff at Mercer.

Since joining the staff, Jackson has been a vital part of the Bears' success. In his four seasons, the Bears claimed their firstever Atlantic Sun regular season championship as well as seen their talent

### <u> The Jackson File</u>

I ne Jackson File		
OLLEGE EXPERIENCE		
lercer University		
Assistant Coach (Three years)		
2001-present 41-47		
AREER		
ssistant Coach 41-47		
IIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCE		
ampbell Hall High School		
Head Coach (Four years)		
1997-2001		
LAYING EXPERIENCE		
hiversity of Georgia		
Two seasons 1992-94		
utler Community College (Kan.)		
Two seasons 1990-92		
outh America - Professionally		
One season 1994–95		
DUCATION		
niversity of Georgia		
s, 1994		
PERSONAL		
Wife, Shawn		
Three children: Cleveland Jr. (8),		
amiya (5) and Camryn (2)		
ONFERENCE TITLES		
-Sun Regular Season 2003		
vel increase each year.		
"I am very fortunate to have		

level increase each year. "I am very fortunate to have Cleveland as an assistant," Slonaker said. "He has a great knowledge of the game to go along with a great passion to coach it as well."

Jackson and his wife Shawn are the proud parents of three children, Cleveland Jr. (8), Camiya (5) and Camryn (2).





Mercer

Men's Basketball 2004-05

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# Jeremy Luther Assistant Coach - Fourth Season

The game of basketball has been a way of life for Jeremy Luther.

Since his playing days in high school, he has been involved either playing or coaching basketball at some level and now he enters his fourth season as an assistant coach at Mercer.

The "Luther Legend" begins with his school career where the star was named North Florida "Male Player of the Year" after leading the state in scoring, averaging 30 points per game.

Following his sensational high school career, Luther began his collegiate career at Robert Morris College. Playing just one season, he appeared

in all 28 games. After the season, he transferred to Liberty University, attending there for two years before moving to Covenant College.

There Luther found his niche. He would go on to score 1,300 points in his two seasons at Covenant. Following his senior year, he was named to the NAIA Division II All-America team after finishing fourth in the country in scoring, averaging 26 points per contest. With his college

career behind him, Luther began playing professionally overseas. He started with Athletes in Action, touring Australia and New Zealand. He also played with the Dakota Wizards of the IBA.

Having tread into the waters of professional basketball, Luther came back home to start his coaching career at North Greenville College, serving as an assistant coach while finishing his degree.

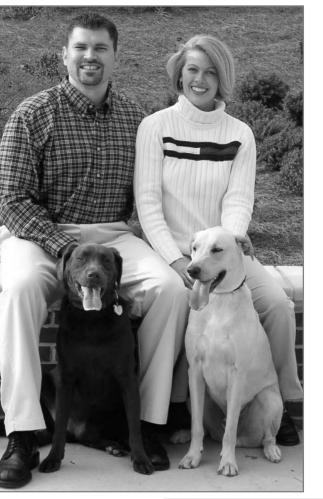
Upon graduation, Luther came to Macon, taking the head basketball coach position at Windsor Academy for one season before joining Mark Slonaker's staff.

Since joining the staff at Mercer, Luther has played a key role in the recruitment of student-athletes as well as helping lead the Bears to their first-ever conference championship in 2003.

His primary responsibilities at Mercer include scouting, recruiting, team travel as well as the team's strength and conditioning program.

On top of that, Luther served as the head coach of the men's and women's cross country teams for the past three seasons.

An avid Miami Dolphins fan, he and his wife Ginny have two dogs, Marino and Rebound.



### <u>The Luther File</u>

COLLEGE EXPERIENCE	
Mercer University	
Assistant Coach (Three ye	ærs)
2001-present	41-47
CAREER	
Assistant Coach	41-47
PLAYING EXPERIENCE	
Robert Morris College	
One season	1992-93
Covenant College	
Two seasons	1995-97
Athletes in Action	
One season	1997-98
Dakota Wizards (IBA)	
One season	1997-98
EDUCATION	
North Greenville College	
BS, 2000	
PERSONAL	
-Wife, Ginny	
-Have two dogs, Marino a	nd Rebound
CONFERENCE TITLES	
A-Sun Regular Season	2003



# **Patrick Henry** Assistant Coach - Third Season

With six years of coaching experience, Patrick Henry begins his third season on the staff at Mercer as an assistant coach.

His responsibilities include advance scouting, on-the-floor coaching, tape exchange and recruiting.

"Patrick is great young coach who has a great passion for coaching basketball," said Mercer head coach Mark Slonaker. "He has a great mind for the game and he does such a thorough job on everything he does."

Henry got his start in basketball at Florida State in 1993, working as a student manager for the women's basketball team.



After attending FSU for two years, he transferred to Ohio University, serving two years as a student manager under head coach Larry Hunter. While at Ohio, he earned his bachelor's degree in communication while also earning a letter for his hard work as a manager.

Following his graduation from Ohio in 1998, Henry got his first taste of coaching at his alma mater, Northside High School in Warner Robins, Ga.

Henry's next stop brought him to the college ranks as he joined the staff at Florida Southern as an assistant coach. Under Gordon Gibbons, the third all-time winningest coach in

> Division II, Henry helped lead FSC to the "Elite Eight," a 32-2 record and a No. 1 ranking in the final regular season poll.

On top of the sensational season, the Moccasins claimed the San Juan Shootout tournament title and the Sunshine State Conference regular season and conference tournament championships.

Next up for Henry was a stop at Frank Phillips Junior College for a year before getting his first break at the Division I level as the administrative assistant at Georgia Southern for the 2001-02 season.

It was during that year that the Eagles claimed their first-ever regular season title,

### <u>The Henry File</u>

COLLEGE EXPERIENCE Mercer University Assistant Coach (Two years) 2002-present 35-24 Georgia Southern University Administrative Assistant (One year) 2001-02 Florida Southern College Assistant Coach (Two seasons) 1999-2000 Frank Phillips Junior College Assistant Coach (One season) 2000-01

### HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

Northside High School W amer-Robins, Ga. Head Coach (One year) 1998-99

<u>EDUCATION</u> University of Ohio BS, 1998

### PERSONAL

-Single and resides in Warner Robins, Ga.

CONFERENCE TITLESA-Sun Regular Season2003Southern South Division2002

winning the Southern Conference South Division.

Prior to joining the staff at Mercer, Henry had a brief stint as an assistant women's basketball coach at East Texas Baptist University in Marshall, Texas.

A native of Warner Robins, Ga., Henry is single.



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### Support Staff



**Rob Murphy** Director of Sports Medicine Sixth season

Rob Murphy is in his sixth season as director of Mercer's Sports Medicine Department overseeing the healthcare related needs of the 14 Division I sports. During his tenure at Mercer, Murphy has overseen the sports medicine needs of the men's and women's basketball teams, men's soccer and baseball.

Murphy has established a professional relationship with Mercer Health Systems, Forsyth Street Orthopaedics and various other medical facilities in the Greater Macon and Atlanta area in an effort to provide Mercer University's student-athletes with the most comprehensive healthcare available.

He is also active on campus promoting health and safety as a representative on the University's Alcohol



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**Melvin Harris** Manager

Awareness Task Force and the Student-Health Advisory Committee.

Prior to coming to Mercer, Murphy attended graduate school at the University of Georgia. While at UGA, he served as the graduate assistant athletic trainer for baseball, research assistant for the NovaCare Athletic Training Lab and web page designer for the Athletic Training/Sports Medicine Department.

In his first year at UGA, Murphy presided over the sports medicine needs of softball as well as women's golf, women's tennis and cheerleading. He also coordinated the athletic training services for summer camps.

Prior to his arrival at Georgia, Murphy acquired clinical experience in Gainesville, Fla., as the Director of Athletic Training Services at the Physical Therapy Center, Inc. In addition, he served as the Head Athletic Trainer at Oak Hall School.

A native of Ocala, Florida, Murphy received his bachelor's degree in Exercise and Sports Sciences with an emphasis in Athletic Training from the University of Florida in 1994. As a student athletic trainer with the Gators, Murphy was named head student athletic trainer from 1993-94. He was also honored with a University Presidential Leadership Award in 1993.



Paul Resseau Official Scorer/Transportation



Alex Cooper Game Management



**Andrew Nitz** Student Assistant Sports Medicine



Brent Matthews Promotions



**Aaron Baker** Videographer

Mercer Fact: The Bears return three starters from last year's team, including the nation's second leading 3-point shooter.

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Tyler cCurry

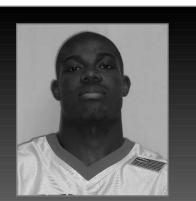
James Odoms

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### Wesley Duke



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# 6'5" - 225 Senior Norcross, Ga. Meadowcreek H.S.

#### **Outlook**

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Had an impressive junior season and has worked hard in the offseason on improving his jump shot...Enters the season as a starter at one of the post positions.

#### 2003-04

Played in and started all 30 games as a junior...Finished the year fourth on the team in scoring (10.5 ppg) and second in rebounding (6.3 rpg)...Led the team with 41 blocks and ranked sixth in the A-Sun...Scored in double figures 18 times, including a career-high 20 at Stetson on Jan. 22, going 5-of-7 from the floor and 10-of-12 from the free throw line, while pulling down six boards, two blocks and three steals...Had three double-doubles during the year, going for 10 points and 10 boards against Illinois-Chicago on Nov. 17...Followed that up with 10 points and 13 rebounds at Georgia Southern

on Dec. 1...Had 11 points and 10 rebounds at Georgia State on Jan. 16...Had a streak of six straight games in which he scored in double figures...Dished out a career-high six assists against Campbell on Jan. 10.

#### 2002-03

Played in all 29 games as a junior, starting 25...Finished second on the team in rebounds with a 6.7 per game average...Scored in double figures in three of Mercer's last four games and 17 times overall...Scored a seasonhigh 19 points against Georgia State on Jan. 8, going 6-of-6 from the floor and 7-of-7 from the free throw line while picking up 10 rebounds...Recorded 10 points and 15 rebounds against NCAA Tournament participant UNC-Asheville on Jan. 20...Had five double-doubles, including a 10-point, 10-rebound performance in the regular season finale against Stetson...Was rock solid at the free throw line, hitting 75 percent of his attempts and was perfect at the charity stripe in 10 games, including 8-for-8 against Gardner-Webb on Feb. 1...Hit 9-of-11 field goals to score 18 points against Florida Atlantic on Jan. 11.

### 2001-02

Missed the entire season after an injury during preseason.

### <u>2000-01</u>

Appeared in all 28 games as a redshirt freshman while starting 19...Finished

third on the team in scoring (8.0) and fourth in rebounding (3.6)...Selected to the conference's all-freshman team...Averaged 8.8 points and 4.0 rebounds in 18 league games...Pumped in a season-high 19 points against Florida Atlantic on Jan. 4. hitting 7-of-8 from the floor and 5-of-6 from the free throw line...Scored in double figures 12 times...Scored in every game during the year except the finale against Stetson when he played 13 minutes with a torn ACL...Pulled down a season-high seven rebounds against Western Carolina on Dec. 12 and Campbell on Jan. 20...Hit 17-of-19 free throws during one five-game stretch...Finished seventh in the conference in blocks per game (0.83).

### <u>1999-2000</u>

Appeared in one game before receiving his first medical redshirt...Played in the season opener against Georgia Tech, finishing with nine points and two rebounds, all coming in the second half.

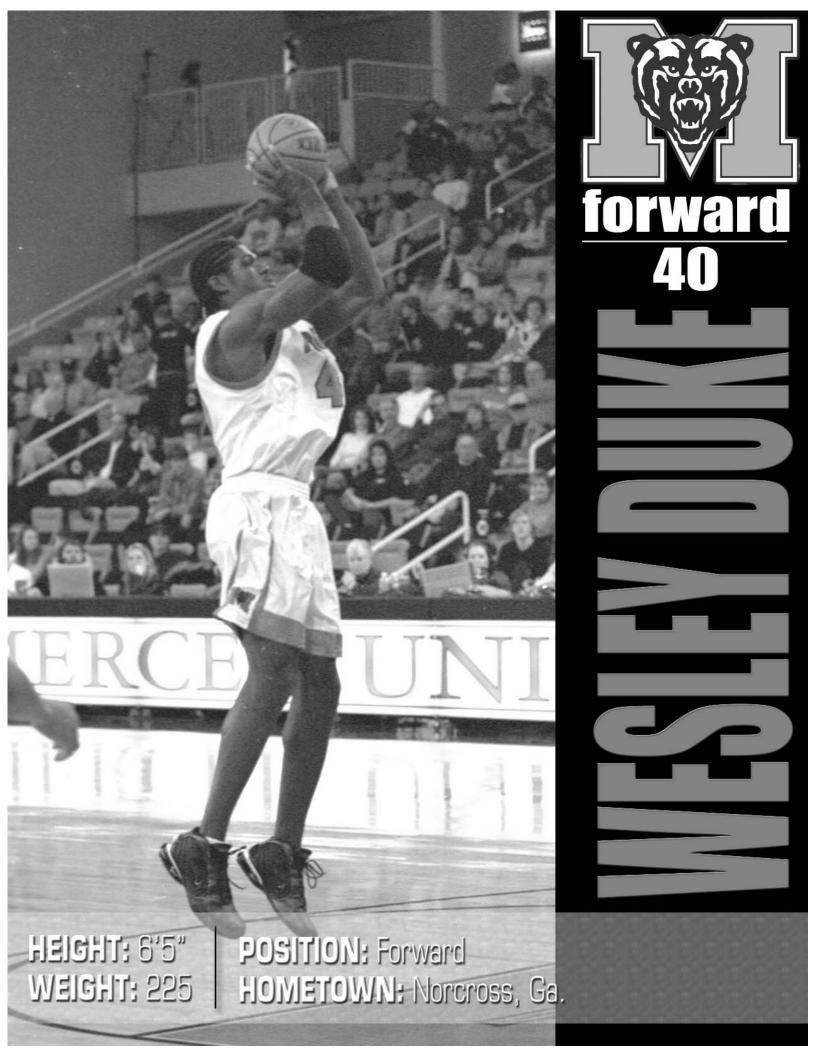
### High School

Played at Meadowcreek High School for head coach Ken Doerhman... Averaged 12 points, seven rebounds and two blocks per game as a junior...Posted career-high of 26 points and 14 rebounds...Also played football and ran track...Was a recipient of the prestigious Atlanta Journal Cup Award.

#### <u>Personal</u>

Born on June 21, 1981...Son of Bill and Venessa Duke...Has a sister, Vertrice (23)...Majoring in computer information systems.





### **Tyler McCurry**



# 10

# 5'10" - 190 Senior Abingdon, III. Abingdon H.S.

### <u>Outlook</u>

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Solid point guard who has a great understanding and knowledge of the game...Will see a lot of playing time in the backcourt this season.

### <u>2003-04</u>

Played in 25 games as a junior, starting 12...Led the team with 55 assists, averaging 2.2 per game...Hit 14-of-34 from 3-point land, including a 4-for-7 performance at Fla. Atlantic on Jan. 3, tying his career high with 12 points while handing out five assists...Followed that up with eight points and three assists at UCF on Jan. 5...Dished out at least four assists in a game five times...Had a 1.4 assist-toturnover ratio.

### 2002-03

Appeared in all 29 games as a sophomore...Scored a season-high nine points against Morris Brown on Feb.



13, led by going 6-for-8 at the free throw line...Dished out four assists twice (Reinhardt - Dec. 2 and Morris Brown - Feb. 13)...Was 5-of-16 from behind the arc on the year, hitting two 3-pointers against Reinhardt on Dec. 2...Scored eight points against Reinhardt, going 2-of-4 from the floor...A member of the A-Sun all-academic team.

### <u>2001-02</u>

Played in all 29 games as a freshman, starting 20...Finished sixth on the team in scoring (4.3), third in assists (60) and second in steals (27)...Averaged 5.1 points in 20 A-Sun games...Held Iowa's Luke Recker to five points...Scored in double figures twice...Established a career-high with 13 points against Florida Atlantic on Jan. 10, going 4-of-6 from the floor and 3-of-4 from 3-point land...Had 12 points and a career-high five assists against Belmont on Feb. 7...Made the first nine free throws of his college career...Had at least one assist in 26 of his 29 games.

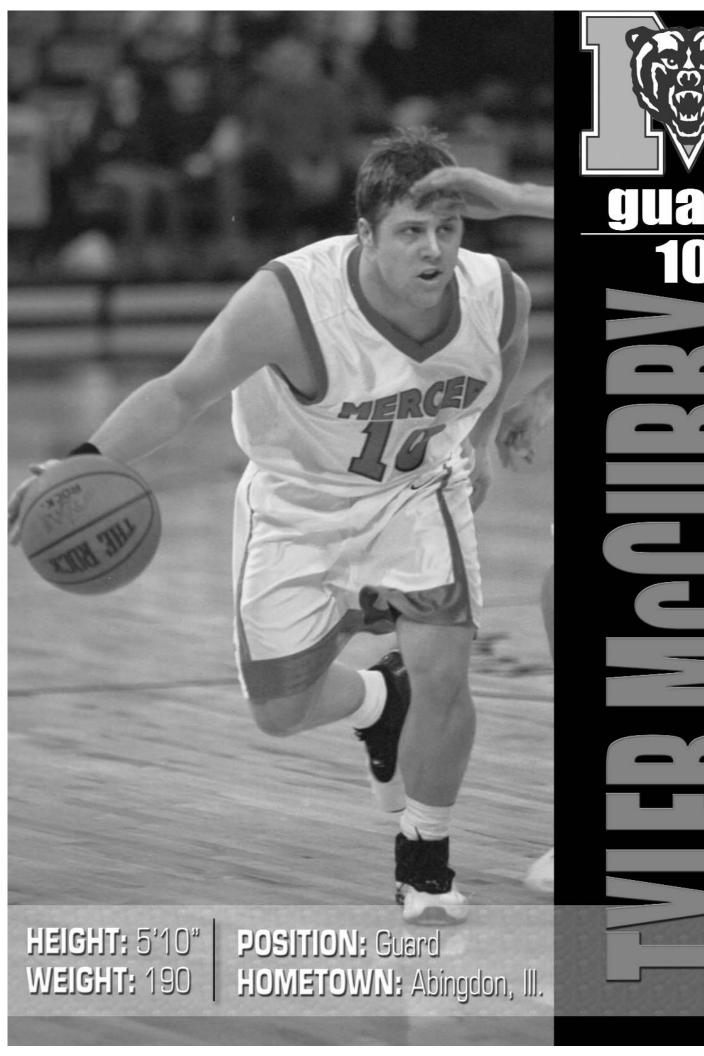
### High School

Formed a dangerous tandem in the backcourt with former Mercer teammate Brad Arthur at Abingdon High School...Averaged 20.4 points and 9.3 assists in leading the Commandos to a 25-3 record...Was a three-time allconference performer and a three-time allarea performer...Was a two-time firstteam all-state selection...Broke the school's game, season and career assist records...Served as team captain for two seasons.

### **Personal**

Born on Sept. 17, 1982...Has two sisters, Megan (23) and Laurel (17)...Son of Mark and Jeannie McCurry...Majoring in business.





### James Odoms



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6'5" - 200 Senior Gray, Ga. Okaloosa-Walton J.C.

### <u>Outlook</u>

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One of the top 3-point shooters in the country, Odoms will be counted upon to carry some of the scoring load this season...Needs 20 3-pointers to crack the school's top 10 and just 99 to break the school record.

### 2003-04

Played in 23 games, starting 21 as a junior, missing several games due to injury...Finished third on the team in scoring, averaging 11.7 points per game...Was second in the country in 3-point field goal percentage (.488)...Hit 59 3-pointers, including a school-record eight against Troy State on Feb. 8...That 59 3-pointers ranks eighth on the school's single-season list...Scored in double figures 12 times and went for 20 or more five times...Set a season high with 24 points at Troy State on Feb. 8...Had two streaks where he scored in double figures in four straight



games...Hit four or more 3-pointers in a game seven times.

### Junior College

Played for Bruce Stewart for two years at Okaloosa-Walton Junior College...Led his team to the national championship game and a 33-4 record his last year...Averaged 10.2 points and hit 42 percent of his 3-pointers his last year.

### High School

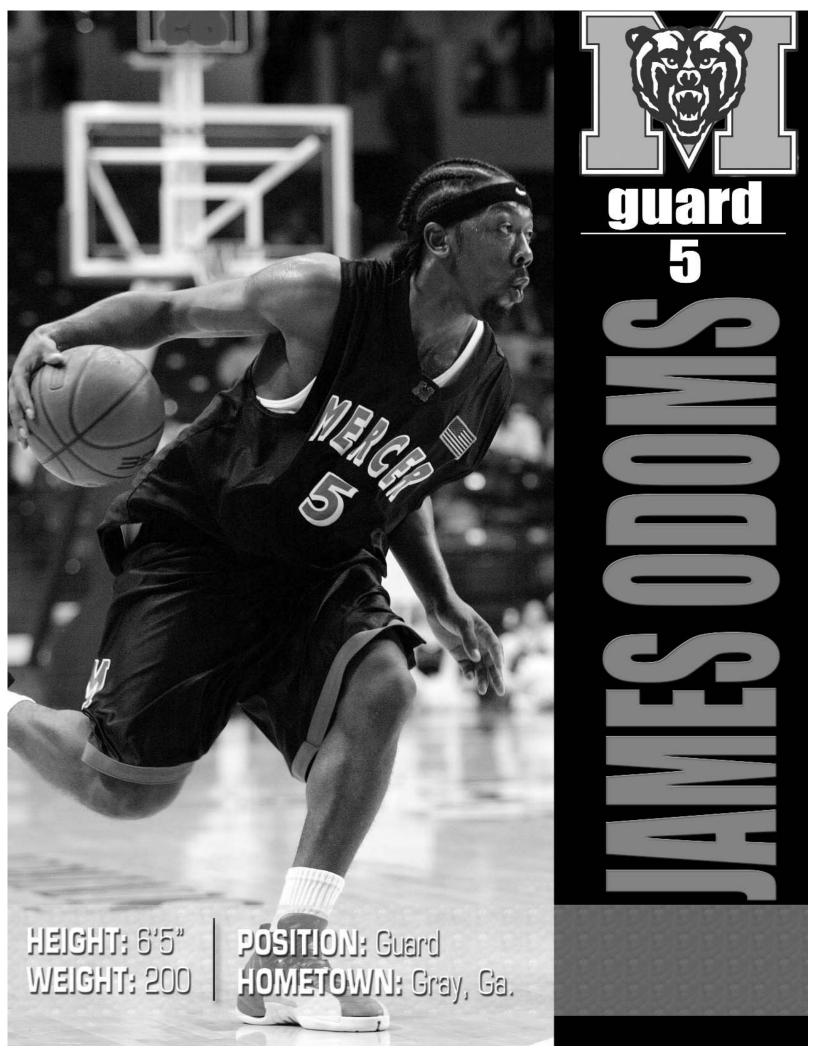
Lettered three seasons at Jones County High School...Led the Greyhounds to an "Elite Eight" finish his senior year...Averaged 23.9 points and eight rebounds his senior year...Named first-team all-state and all-region.

# Long Range Bomber

lames Odoms took Mercer opponents by storm last season, hitting 48.8 percent of his shots from 3-point land. Odoms' percentage was the best in the Atlantic Sun Conference and finished second nationally. For the year, Odoms hit 59-of-121 from behind the arc. Odoms set the school record for 3point field goal percentage as well. His 59 3pointers was the eighth highest total in school history and his eight 3pointers against Troy State is a school record for a single game.

### Personal

Born on August 24, 1983...Son of James and Vickie Odoms...Has one sister, Trinika Pounds (26)...His mother played basketball at Georgia College & State University...Majoring in communication.



### **Andrew Walker**





**6'9'' -** 235 Senior Lawrenceville, Ga. Collins Hill H.S.

#### <u>Outlook</u>

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A strong outside shooter, Walker will see a lot of playing time this year and will be expected to contribute at the post positions.

### <u>2003-04</u>

Played in 22 games as a junior...Struggled from behind the arc, hitting just 4-of-23...Opened the year with five points against Ohio...Scored at least five points in a game five times...Had a season-high six points twice, the first coming against Elon on Dec. 17 and the other against Campbell on Jan. 10...Pulled down a season-high five rebounds against Gardner-Webb on Jan. 8.

### 2002-03

Sat out the season as a redshirt.

### 2001-02

Played in 28 games as a sophomore

while starting nine...Finished fifth on the team in scoring with a 5.0 average...Established a career-high 11 points at South Carolina on Dec. 30, going 4-of-8 from the floor and 3-of-3 from behind the arc...Tied his career high later against Troy State on Feb. 11, going 5-of-10 from the floor...Had 10 points against Fort Valley State on Dec. 20 and UCF on Jan. 12...Averaged 4.9 rebounds over the last eight games.

2000-01

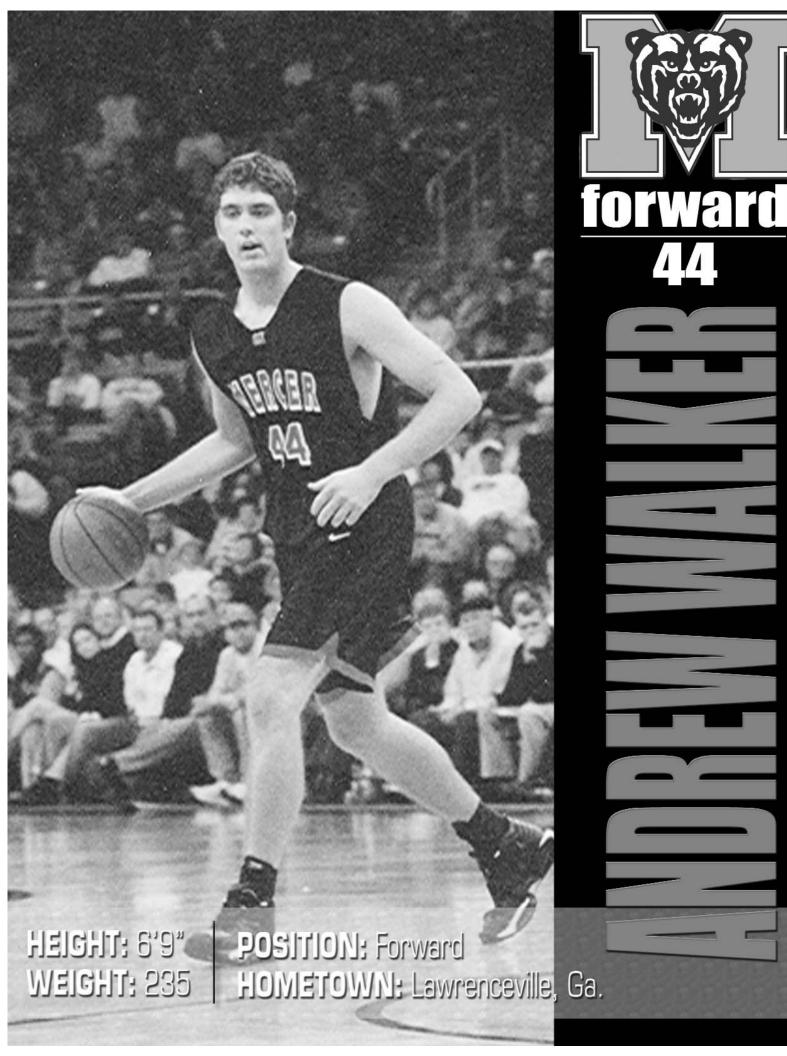
Played in 17 of 28 games as a freshman...Of his 28 field goal attempts, 17 were 3-pointers...Nailed three of his first five 3-point attempts...Recorded a season-high eight points against Savannah State on Dec. 6, going 3-of-4 from the floor and 2-for-2 from the free throw line...Dished out a season-high two assists against Arizona State on Dec. 20.

### High School

Played at Collins Hill High School under head coach Wade Dykes...Averaged 12 points and seven rebounds as a senior member of the Eagles...Helped lead his squad to three consecutive appearances in the state tournament...Shot 58 percent from the floor and 38 percent from behind the arc...Was an all-county selection his final two seasons.

### Personal

Born on April 18, 1982...Son of Thomas and Mary Walker...Has two brothers, Chris (16) and Matthew (11)...Majoring in Christianity.



### **Andrew Brown**





# Junior Pontiac, Mich. Owens C.C.

### <u>Outlook</u>

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Developed as the season went along and took over the starting point guard duties midway through the conference schedule...Should be a major contributor this season.

### 2003-04

Played in 21 games as a sophomore, starting 13...Finished the season with an average of 7.8 points per game and was third on the team in assists with 43...Gained a spot in the starting lineup after scoring 19 points on 8-of-17 shooting against Troy State on Jan. 19...Scored 13 points and dished out four assists against Jacksonville on Jan. 24...Lit up Troy State for 24 points, hitting 8-of-15 from the floor, on the road on Feb. 8...Scored just six points but dished out a season-high seven assists against Belmont on Feb. 26...Ended the season with a 15 points against Belmont in the A-Sun Tourney.

### Junior College

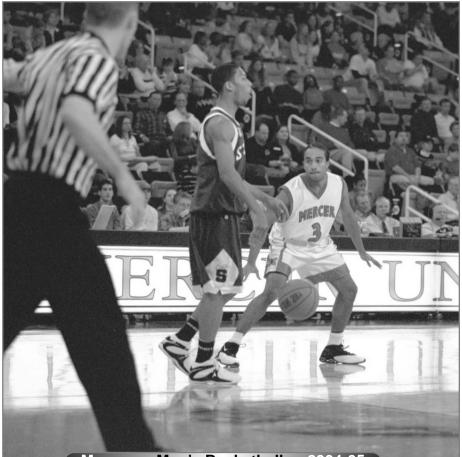
Played one season at Owens College...Led Owens to a 28-6 record and a regional title...Finished the season ranked No. 4 in NJCAA Division II...Averaged 7.4 points and hit 49 percent of his shots from the floor.

### High School

Lettered three years at Pontiac Central High School under head coach Lance Davis...Led team to 17-6 record and a berth in the state playoffs...Named firstteam all-city his senior year...Averaged 24.7 points and four rebounds while hitting 42 percent of his shots from the floor.

### <u>Personal</u>

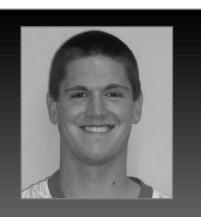
Born on May 6, 1982...Son of Andrew and Ruth Brown...Majoring in communication.







### Will Emerson





6'10" - 220 Junior St. Mary's, Ga. Camden Co. H.S.

### Outlook

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Came on strong in the second half of the season...Has continued to work hard on his game and is expected to start at one of the post positions.

### 2003-04

One of just two Bears to play in all 30 games...Finished second on the team in 3-point field goal percentage, hitting 12-of-28 from behind the arc (.429)...Scored in double figures three times, including a season-high 12 at UCF on Jan. 5, going 5-of-9 from the floor while grabbing five rebounds...Tied his career high with seven rebounds against Georgia State in the U.C. opener on Jan. 27, one of three times he pulled down seven boards in a game (at Campbell - Feb. 12; vs. UCF - Feb. 19)...Had at least four boards in a game 16 times...Blocked 12 shots during the year, including two in a game

twice...Had nine points, seven rebounds, two assists, two blocks and a steal against UCF on Feb. 19.

### <u>2002-03</u>

Sat out as a redshirt.

### 2001-02

Appeared in 28 games with seven starts as a true freshman...Scored nine points in his first collegiate game against Howard on Nov. 16...Scored in double figures three times...Had 10 points at Georgia Southern on Dec. 8...Topped that with 11 points at Minnesota and capped it off with a season-high 12 against LSU on Nov. 25 at the Big Island Invitational in Hawaii...Had at least one rebound in 24 games...Pulled down a season-high seven boards against Minnesota...Began the year 13-of-14 from the free throw line...Shot an impressive 45 percent (9-of-20) from behind the arc.

### High School

Averaged 19 points and nine rebounds at Camden County High School under head coach Cleveland Butler...Had



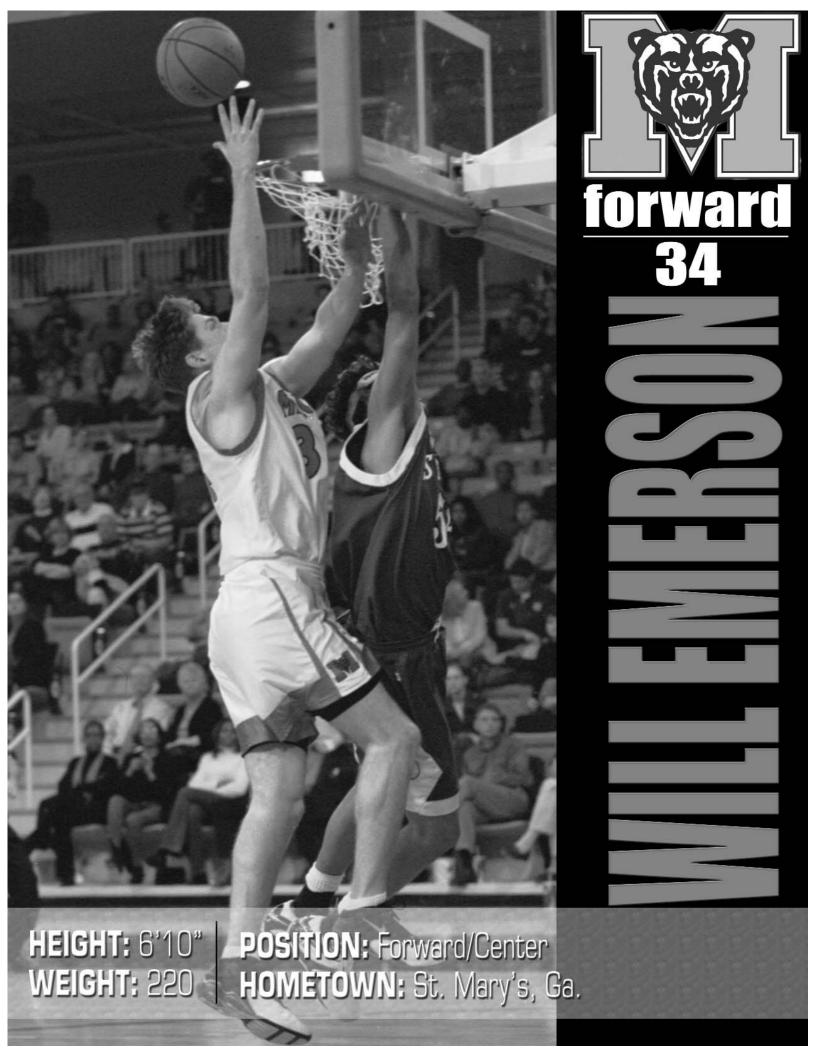
career-highs of 31 points and 16 rebounds.

### Personal

Born on Feb. 20, 1983...Younger brother of former Bear Scott Emerson...Has another brother, Daniel (18) and sister, Nicole (19)...Son of Bob and April Emerson...A member of the A-Sun allacademic team.

# Call Him Doctor

Sporting a perfect 4.0 grade point average and majoring in biology, Will Emerson was named to the CoSIDA Region III Academic All-America team. Emerson has been a member of the A-Sun All-Academic tem all three years that he has been at Mercer.



### Ross Alacqua



seasons...Scored a career-high 29 points against Pope High School.

### Personal

Born on Sept. 26, 1983...Son of Pat Alacqua and Elaine Griffin...Has a sister, Leigh (15)...Majoring in business.

5'8" - 170 Sophomore Alpharetta, Ga. Chattahoochee H.S.

### Outlook

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After sitting out last season as a redshirt, he will compete for playing time at the two wing positions...Strong threepoint shooter with exceptional range.

### <u>2003-04</u>

Sat out as a redshirt.

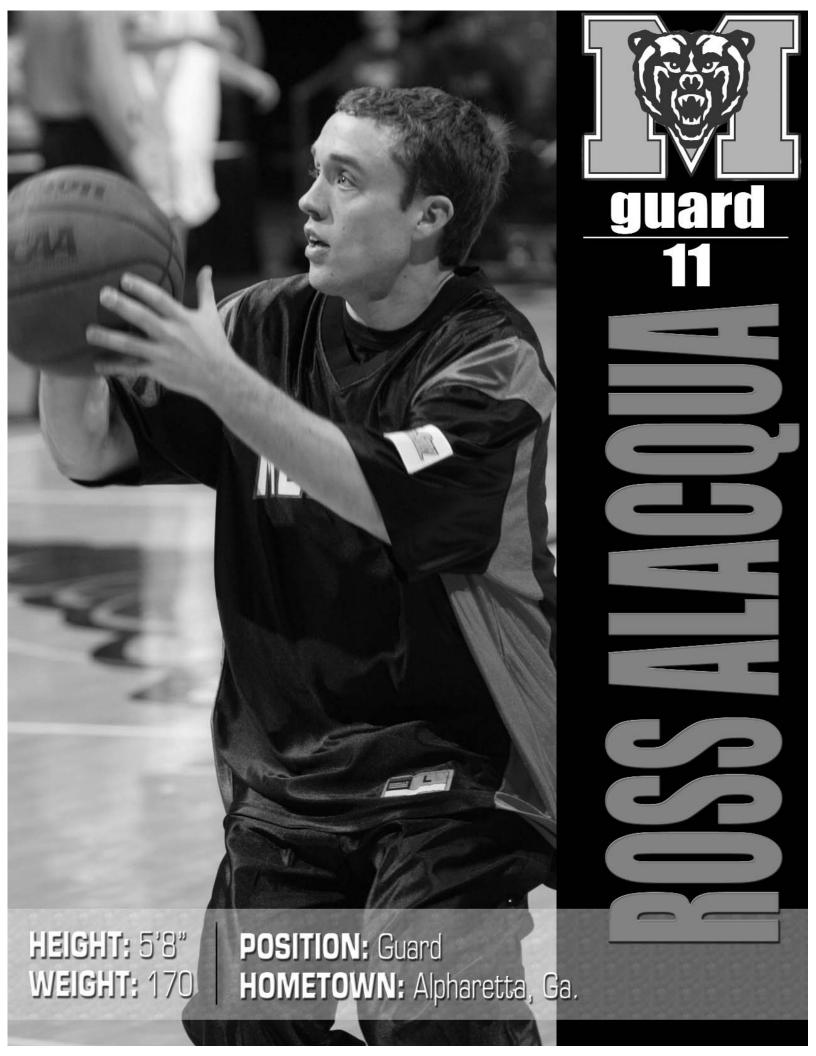
### <u>2002-03</u>

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Played in nine games as a freshman... Scored in three games, including a season-high five against Savannah State on Jan. 2...Scored three points at Troy State on Jan. 17, hitting 1-of-2 from behind the arc...Also scored two points against Savannah State on Feb.

### High School

Averaged 17 points per game at Chattahoochee High School...Helped lead the Cougars to a combined 51-10 record over his final two



### Micalvin Hammonds



6'0" - 175 Sophomore Whigham, Ga. Cairo H.S.

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With a year in the system, Hammonds will push for more playing time off the bench.

### 2003-04

Outlook

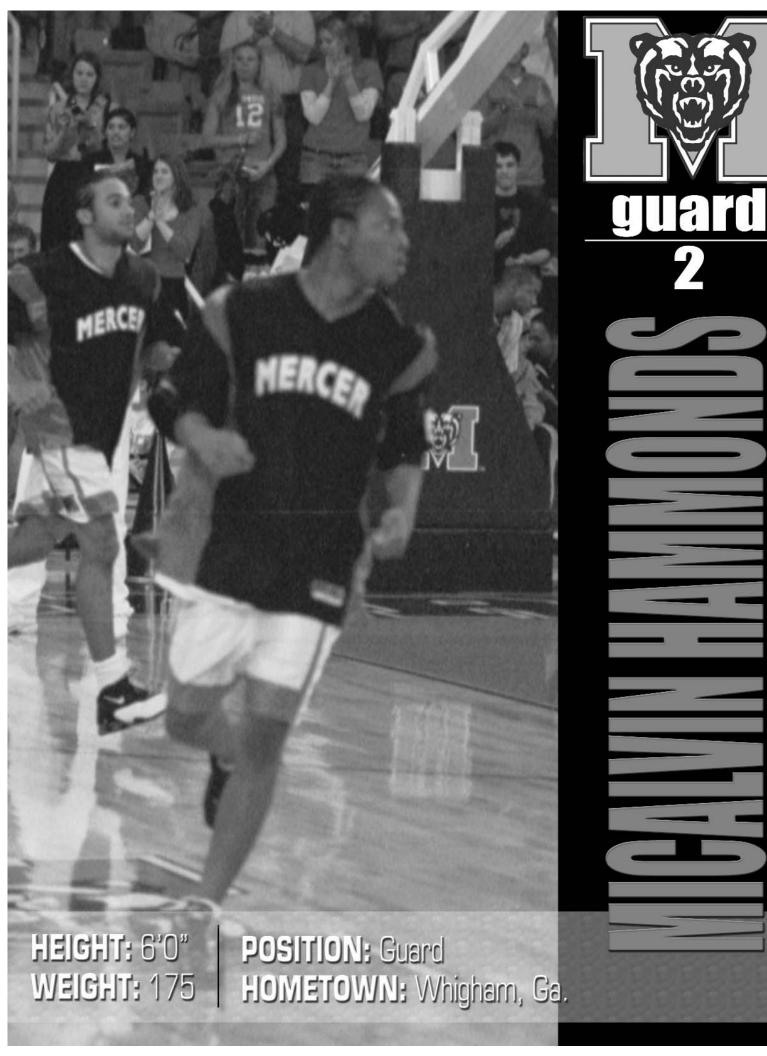
Played in six games as a freshman...Hit 2-of-5 from the floor during the season...Scored two points twice, hitting his only shot against Xavier on Nov. 16 and was 1-for-2 against Gardner-Webb on Jan. 8 at home.

### High School

Lettered four seasons at Cairo High School under coach Isiah Chance...Led his team to the postseason three times, advancing to the third round his senior year...Earned first-team all-area and allregion honors his senior year...Averaged 13.5 points and five rebounds his senior year...Also lettered in cross country and track & field...Ran the mile in 4:34 at the regional in 2003.

### Personal

Born on April 25, 1984...Son of Michael and Langa Hammonds...Has two brothers, Michael (20) and Clifford (17) and two sisters, LaNesha (23) and Cameka (14).



### Jacob Skogen



6'5" - 190 Sophomore Lookout Mtn., Ga. Tenn. Temple H.S.

#### Outlook

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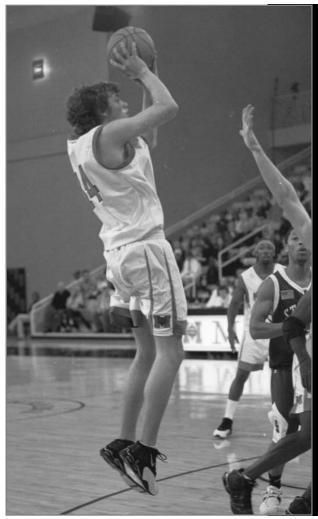
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Had an impressive freshman season and has worked hard in the offseason on improving his jump shot...Enters the season as a starter at one of the wings.

#### <u>2003-04</u>

Played in 27 games as a true freshman, starting one... Finished the season with an average of 7.1 points per game and was second on the team in assists with 51...Had his coming out party at Illinois on Nov. 26, scoring a team-high 15 points, going 4-of-9 from the floor...Scored in double figures six times and went for 20 or more twice...Scored a season-high 22 points against Jacksonville on Jan. 24, going 4-of-11 from the floor, but 13-of-15 from the free throw line...Hit three 3-pointers in a game twice...Scored 21 points at Gardner-Webb on Feb. 14, hitting 8-of-16 from the floor and 3-of-7 from behind the arc while dishing out five



assists...Hit 47-of-64 from the free throw line, including a streak of nine straight at one point...Pulled down five rebounds twice, against Elon on Dec. 17 and against Campbell on Jan. 10.

### High School

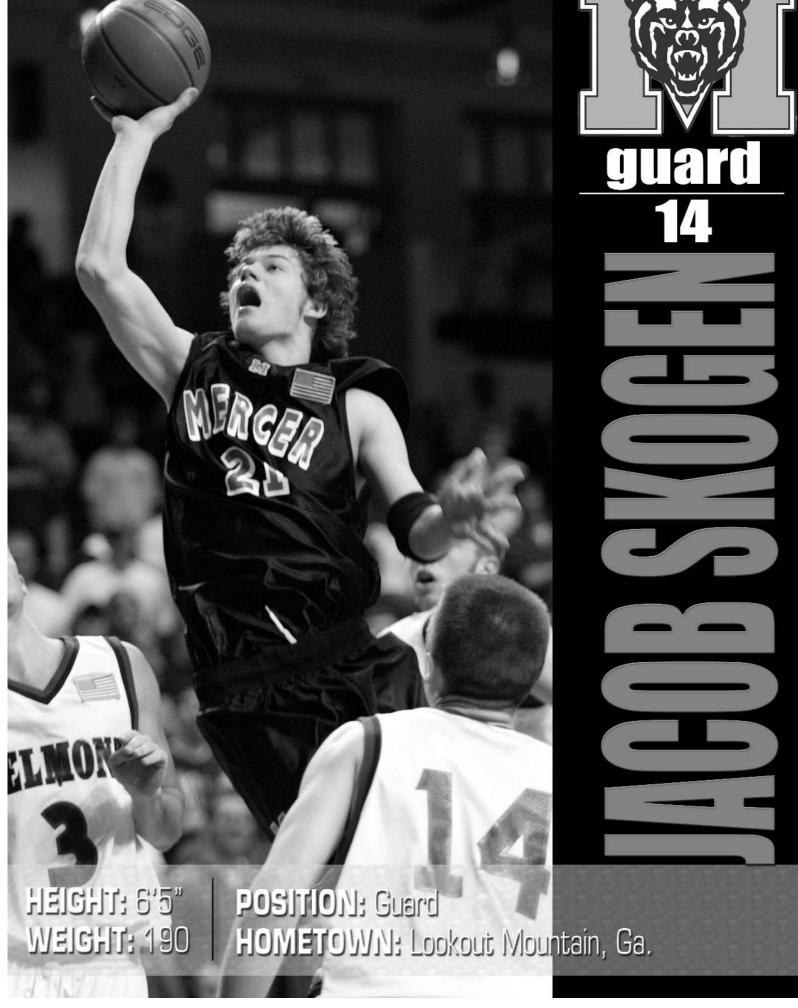
Lettered for three years at Tennessee Temple Academy under his father, Kevin Skogen...Averaged 29.8 points and eight rebounds his senior year...Named first-team all-area, allregion and all-state his senior year, earning Mr. Basketball honors...Named MVP of the state tournament his last two seasons.

### Personal

Born on November 6, 1984...Son of Kevin and Dana Skogen...Has three brothers, Caleb (16), Seth (14) and Joey (12) and two sisters, Annie (10) and Bonnie (8).

## Freshman Sensation

All he did as a true freshman was average 7.1 points and hit 36 percent of his shots from the floor. Jacob Skogen showed all of flash and pizazz during his first campaign at Mercer, scoring in double figures six times, including a careerhigh 22 against Jacksonville on Jan. 24. He also stepped in admirably at point guard, dishing out at least three assists in a game seven times. Not too bad for a freshman.



### Michael Slonaker



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6'1" - 175 Sophomore Macon, Ga. Mt. de Sales Academy

### <u>Outlook</u>

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Worked hard over the past year while being redshirted...Will see time in the backcourt at the point or wing positions.

#### 2003-04

Sat out as a redshirt.

### 2002-03

Played in 10 games as a freshman...Scored in three games, including a season-high five points against Reinhardt on Dec. 2, going 2of-2 from the floor and 1-of-1 from behind the arc...Scored three points in both games against Savannah State, going 3-for-4 from the free throw line in both games...Pulled down two rebounds three times.

### High School

Averaged 15 points, seven rebounds

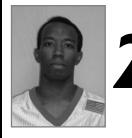
and 4.5 assists under head coach Travis Dotterer at Mt. de Sales...Was an all-region and all-state selection...Helped lead his Cavalier squad to a "Final Four" appearance in the state tournament his senior year...Scored a career-high 29 points against Sherwood Academy...Was an all-region and all-city selection as a wide receiver in football.

### PERSONAL

Born on April 8, 1984...Son of Mercer head coach Mark Slonaker and wife Kathy...Has a sister, Meaghan (17) and a brother, Patrick (15)...Majoring in history.







222 Shaddean Aaron 6'6" - 190 - Freshman Pomona, Calif.

### OUTLOOK

54

A talented player with great shooting range...Will see playing time at both of the wing positions.

### **HIGH SCHOOL**

Lettered three years at Claremont High School for head coach Mike Bateman...Led Claremont to the Baseline League title in 2000 as well as Glendora Holiday Classic title in 2001...Won 72 games in his three seasons, leading Claremont to the semifinals his junior year...Named second team all-state and all-district following his junior year...Earned first team all-state and all-district honors his senior year after averaging 23.5 points and 8.5 rebounds per game...Ranked the #1 played in Inland Valley by the Los Angeles Times...Named to the Los Angeles Times first team his final two seasons...Scored 30 points and pulled down 15 rebounds to go along with 5 assists in a game his senior year.

### PERSONAL

Son of Carl and Madinah Aaaron...Majoring in business management.



20 Allen Bridges 5'10" - 165 - Freshman

Albany, Ga.

### OUTLOOK

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Comes to Mercer as a walk-on...A solid player who will gain valuable experience in practice this season while pushing for playing time in the backcourt.

### **HIGH SCHOOL**

Lettered all four years at Albany High School for head coach Archie Chapman...An honor student, finishing with a 3.8 grade point average...Named honorable mention all-area following his junior year.

### PERSONAL

Son of Flynn and Betty Bridges...Majoring in business.



Damitrius Coleman 6'1" - 170 - Junior Key West, Fla.

### OUTLOOK

An excellent ball-handler with great court vision...Will battle for a spot in the starting lineup at point guard...Knows how to run the game and when to get his teammates involved and when to score.

### JUNIOR COLLEGE

Played two seasons at St. Petersburg College for head coach Earnest Crumbley...Led SPC to consecutive 20-10 records...Named first team all-district and all-region following his sophomore campaign...Averaged 13 points, four rebounds and nine assists his final season at St. Petersburg...Led SPC to the Sun Coast Conference Championship in 2002...Named team MVP following his sophomore season...Played with four players that signed with Division I schools.

### **HIGH SCHOOL**

Lettered four years at Key West High School for coaches Bill Butler and Elliot Valdez-Bacon...Led Key West to a state runner-up finish and a 21-3 record his senior year...Named first team all-state, all-district, all-area and all-region following his senior year...Averaged eight points, five rebounds, eight assists and two steals his final year...Had 24 points, 12 assists and eight rebounds in a game...Set the school record for most assists and steals in a game and career...Named team MVP his senior year.

### PERSONAL

Son of Ulyen Coleman and Nadine Johnson...Majoring in sports management.



Sam Dolan **33** 6'9" - 235 - Freshman St. Johnsville, N.Y.

### OUTLOOK

A strong player who comes into his freshman year ready to compete physically in the post...An intimidating presence in the low block, with good post moves...Will see playing time at both post positions.

### **HIGH SCHOOL**

An honor student at St. Thomas Moore Prep School, Dolan finished his high school career with 1,285 points and 1,012 rebounds...Hit near 80 percent of his field goal attempts in high school...Named to the all-state team his sophomore

and junior year...Owns the school record for rebounds and is second all-time in points...A four-year letterwinner in basketball, Dolan also lettered in soccer and baseball.

### PERSONAL

Son of David and Lesha Dolan...Undecided on major...Nickname is NYD.



### **Emmanuel Holloway** 6'1" - 185 - Freshman

Cartersville, Ga.

### OUTLOOK

Another solid ball-handler with a knowledge of the game...Has a vast shooting range to go along with the ability to take his man off the dribble...Will push for playing time at point guard.

### **HIGH SCHOOL**

A four-year letterwinner at Woodland High School for head coach Mike Tobin...Helped lead Woodland to back-to-back 20-win seasons his final two years...Averaged 18.8 points, six rebounds and eight assists per game his senior year...Finished his career with an average of 15 points and six assists per game...Named Northeast "Player of the Year" his senior year to go along with being named first team all-region for the second straight season...Played in the Greater Atlanta All-Star Game...Also lettered in track his senior year as a member of the 4x400 relay team, earning all-district honors.

### PERSONAL

Son of Charles and Lolita Holloway...Majoring in communications...Nickname is "Hollywood"



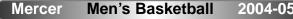
2 Brian Pfhol 6'7" - 230 - Freshman Atlanta, Ga.

### **OUTLOOK**

Battled through an illness in the fall that kept him out of conditioning drills...Is working his way into playing shape and will be called upon to play in the post.

#### **HIGH SCHOOL**

Lettered all four years in basketball, the final three at Pace Academy...Led Pace to the region title his junior year and the "Sweet 16"...named first team all-state his junior year...Earned first team all-region and all-metro honors his final two seasons...Named region "Player of the Year" his senior year...Average 17 points and 10 rebounds his senior



year to go along with three blocks...Had 39 points, 18 rebounds and nine blocks in a game...Helped guide Pace to a school record 27 wins his sophomore year.

### PERSONAL

Nickname is "B-Pfohl"...Majoring in business.



### **OUTLOOK**

An athletic walk-on, Reeves has impressed the coaching staff with his leaping ability...A hard worker, he will gain experience in practice and push for playing time as the season goes along.

### HIGH SCHOOL

A three-time letterwinner at Tattnall Square Academy for head coach Paul Brooks...Led Tattnall to the state "Final Four" his senior year...Averaged 25 points and 14 rebounds as a forward/center his final season...Scored over 1,000 points in his career...Named "Slan Dunk Champion" at the First Presbyterian Day School Summer Camp three times...Named to the Macon Telegraph All Star second team in 2004...Named team MVP his final two seasons...Also an accomplished track star, lettering twice...Earned all-state honors his senior year and was the state champion in the long jump as well as high jump.

### PERSONAL

Son of Tom and Susan Reeves...Majoring in engineering.

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### Career Highs

### #2 Micalvin Hammonds #21 Jacob Skogen

Points	2, Twice
FG Made	1, Twice
FG Attempts	2, vs. Gardner-Webb (1/8/04)
Minutes	

### #3 Andrew Brown

Points	1)
FG Made	е
FG Attempts State (1/19/04	1)
3FG Made State (1/19/04	1)
3FG Attempts 6, Twic	е
FT Made6, at Troy State (2/8/04	1)
FT Attempted	1)
Rebounds	1)
Assists7, at Belmont (2/26/04	1)
Steals	е
Minutes	1)

### #5 James Odoms

Points	at Troy State (2/8/04)
FG Made	s. Lipscomb (12/4/03)
FG Attempts 16, vs	s. Lipscomb (12/4/03)
3FG Made8,	at Troy State (2/8/04)
3FG Attempts	at Troy State (2/8/04)
FT Made	5, Twice
FT Attempts	a. Southern (12/1/03)
Rebounds	8, Twice
Assists	3, Three times
Steals	2, Four times
Blocks	at Troy State (2/8/04)
Minutes	s. Lipscomb (12/4/03)

### #10 Tyler McCurry

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Points	rida Atlantic (1/10/02)
FG Made4, at FI	orida Atlantic (1/3/04)
FG Attempts	orida Atlantic (1/3/04)
3FG Made	orida Atlantic (1/3/04)
3FG Attempts	orida Atlantic (1/3/04)
FT Made 6, vs. M	orris Brown (2/13/02)
FT Attempts	orris Brown (2/13/02)
Rebounds	4, vs Ohio (11/15/03)
Assists	5, Twice
Steals	ardner-Webb (1/8/04)
Blocks	1, vs Ohio (11/15/03)
Minutes	orida Atlantic (1/3/04)

### #11 Ross Alacqua

Points	5, at Savannah State (1/2/03)
FG Made	1, Three times
FG Attempts	3, vs. Savannah State (2/17/03)
3FG Made	1, Twice
3FG Attempts	
FT Made	2, at Savannah State (1/2/03)
FT Attempts	2, at Savannah State (1/2/03)
Rebounds	1, Twice
Assists	1, at UNC-Ashville (1/20/03)
Minutes	4, at Troy (1/17/03)

### #12 Michael Slonaker

Points	5, vs. Reinhardt (12/2/02)
FG Made	
FG Attempts	
3FG Made	1, vs. Reinhardt (12/2/02)
3FG Attempts	1, vs. Reinhardt (12/2/02)
FT Made	
FT Attempts	4, vs. Savannah State (2/17/03)
Rebounds	
Assists	1, vs. Savannah State (2/17/03)
Minutes	5, vs. Savannah State (2/17/03)

Points
FG Made
FG Attempts
3FG Made
3FG Attempts
FT Made
FT Attempts
Rebounds
Assists
Steals
Blocks
Minutes

### #34 Will Emerson

Points
FG Made
FG Attempts
3FG Made1, Nine times
3FG Attempts
FT Made 2, Three times
FT Attempts
Rebounds
Assists
Steals
Blocks
Minutes

### #40 Wesley Duke

Points	20, at Stetson (1/22/04)
FG Made	. 7, at Florida Atlantic (1/3/04)
FG Attempts	. 10, vs. Fort Valley (12/9/03)
3FG Attempts	. 1, at Ga. Southern (12/1/03)
FT Made	10, at Stetson (1/22/04)
FT Attempts	13, Lipscomb (12/4/03)
Rebounds	13, at Ga. Southern (12/1/03)
Assists	6, vs. Campbell (1/10/04)
Steals	4, at Gardner-Webb (2/14/04)
Blocks	4, at Xavier (11/16/03)
Minutes	40, at Georgia State (1/16/04)

### #44 Andrew Walker

Points	11, at South Carolina, (12/30/01)
FG Made	4, at South Carolina, (12/30/01)
FG Attempts	8, at South Carolina, (12/30/01)
3FG Made	3, at South Carolina, (12/30/01)
3FG Attempts	
FT Made	2, Three times
FT Attempts	
Rebounds	5, vs. Gardner-Webb (1/8/04)
Assists	
Blocks	1, Four times
Minutes	

Mercer

Men's Basketball 2004-05