

# **Miami Men's Basketball Clips**

**2017-18**

# Clemson back to winning ways in easing by visiting Hurricanes

**Pete Iacobelli**  
**Associated Press**  
**Jan. 13, 2018**

Clemson coach Brad Brownell had a simple plan at the only practice before facing No. 18 Miami — don't shoot at all.

Turns out, it was just what the 19th-ranked Tigers needed to outlast the Hurricanes 72-63 on Saturday.

Donte Grantham had 18 points, including four 3-pointers, and Mark Donnal had 12 points, including two critical second-half 3s, to help Clemson (15-2, 4-1 Atlantic Coast Conference) continue its best start in nine years.

The Tigers had a season-high 12 3-pointers, four of those coming in the final 10 minutes of a tie game.

Donnal, the Michigan graduate transfer, had two straight, no-doubt-about-it 3s to put Clemson ahead 50-44. With Miami in striking range at 60-57 in the final 2 minutes, Marcquise Reed and Grantham struck with long-range shots to put the game away.

The Tigers needed time off following a drama-filled, 79-78 loss at North Carolina State on Thursday night. Brownell wondered how the quick turnaround would affect his club.

"It was good," Grantham said about the short session. "Coach did a good job of letting us get some rest because we knew we had another big game coming up."

Miami pushed the pace much of the way, grabbing a seven-point lead early and driving the lane whenever the Hurricanes could.

Things turned with Donnal's baskets from behind the arc. He said he makes those regularly in practice and felt good when the ball came his way about the open looks.

"My teammates were able to find me and I knocked them down to put us up," said Donnal, who had made just seven 3-pointers on the season before this.

Miami kept things tight most of the way until the Tigers got hot from the outside once more.

Reed's 3-pointer with 1:41 left put Clemson ahead 63-57 and Grantham clinched things a possession later with the last of his 3s. Clemson opened up a 13-point lead in the final minute.

Anthony Lawrence II and Lonnie Walker IV had 16

points each for Miami (13-3, 2-2).

Miami coach Jim Larranaga said his game plan was to take away Clemson's 3-point shooting. The Tigers, though, ended up 12 of 21 (57.1 percent) from beyond the arc.

"If they shoot like this, it makes them very hard to beat," Larranaga said.

Reed had 16 points for Clemson, nine of those coming in the last 2 minutes.

When the horn sounded, Grantham raised his arms and urged on the cheers from the sort of full house that's normally the case next door at football's Death Valley.

"If we continue to do what we do and continue to play the way we've been playing, we can do anything," Grantham said. "It makes me mad that people are leaving us out, but we're going to prove people wrong."

It was the second straight game in double figures for Donnal, who had 13 in the Wolfpack loss.

# No. 18 Miami Falls 72-63 at No. 19 Clemson

**Inside The U**  
**Christopher Stock**  
**Jan. 13, 2018**

Lonnie Walker and Anthony Lawrence each scored 16 points to lead the No. 18 Miami Hurricanes in a 72-63 loss at No. 19 Clemson on Saturday.

Chris Lykes added 13 while Dewan Huell chipped in 10 for the Hurricanes, who lost for the seventh time in their last eight trips to Littlejohn Coliseum.

Miami (13-2, 2-2 ACC) has a quick turnaround to get ready to host No. 7 Duke (15-2, 3-2) on Monday (7 p.m., ESPN). The Blue Devils are led by freshman forward Marvin Bagley, who is averaging league-highs in both points (22.5) and rebounds (11.7).

It is the fifth consecutive year Miami has started 2-2 or worse in the ACC.

Clemson (15-2, 4-1) was led by Donte Grantham, who scored a game-high 18 points including a pivotal 3-pointer with 1:05 left to extend the Tigers' lead to nine.

Miami trailed 34-30 at halftime, but received a burst in the second half on a steal and dunk by Ja'Quan Newton and then a driving dunk in traffic by Walker, who then found a cutting Lykes for a layup to tie the game at 42 with 13 minutes left.

Clemson's Mark Donnal sparked the Tigers in a sequence with a block and two 3-pointers for a 50-44 lead.

Huell tipped in a dunk on a miss by Walker with 2:44 left to cut the deficit to 58-56.

After Walker split a pair of free throws with two minutes left to pull within 60-57, the Tigers connected on back-to-back 3s to seal the victory as Marcquise Reed hit the first one before Grantham connected for the Tigers' season-high 12th 3-pointer of the game.

Miami shot 38.1 percent (24 of 63) from the floor including 6 for 23 from 3-point range while Clemson shot 44.0 percent (22 of 50) and made 12 of 21 3-pointers. Miami also only made 9 of 18 free throws while Clemson made 16 of 17.

Walker made 6 of 16 shots from the field in his second consecutive start in favor of Dejan Vasiljevic. Walker also grabbed seven rebounds to tie for the team-lead.

Lykes' steal and a layup and then hit a 3 on the follow-

ing possession for a 22-15 lead with 10:33 left. It would be the largest lead of the game for the Hurricanes.

From there, Clemson finished the half on a 19-8 run to take a 34-30 lead into the break.

Miami made 8 of its first 12 shots, but finished the half making just 3 of 13 and made 16 of its final 51 shots (31.3 percent) after the hot start.

# As smallest Hurricane, freshman Lykes is measuring up

**The News Observer**  
**Steven Wine**  
**Jan. 12, 2018**

CORAL GABLES, Fla. - When the stars of the Miami Hurricanes' latest basketball victory sat down at a table for the postgame news conference, guard Bruce Brown expressed doubt about freshman teammate Chris Lykes' ability to reach the microphone.

"You'll have to stand up," Brown said with a grin.

Lykes is accustomed to hearing that sort of thing. He's 5-foot-7.

"I tell him height over heart, because he believes in heart over height," 6-11 center Dewan Huell said. "I do that just to mess with him."

But the rest of the Atlantic Coast Conference is starting to take Lykes seriously. That includes the No. 19 Clemson Tigers (14-2, 3-1 ACC), who play host Saturday to the No. 18 Hurricanes (13-2, 2-1 ACC), and No. 7 Duke, which visits Miami on Monday.

The smallest Hurricane made perhaps the biggest contribution in their win Sunday over No. 23 Florida State by scoring a season-high 18 points. It was the latest example of Lykes providing a spark off the bench.

He's averaging 7.5 points and 17 minutes per game.

"Lykes is extremely talented," Florida State coach Leonard Hamilton said. "When you're small like that, you have to have exceptional skills. He's a flawless dribbler, and fearless taking the ball to the basket. He has such explosive quickness. As he gains a little more experience, he's going to be a handful."

Lykes is part of the most highly regarded recruiting class in coach Jim Larranaga's seven seasons at Miami. Guard Lonnie Walker IV arrived with the most hype, but Lykes was also considered a top-50 prospect after averaging 17.6 points as a senior at Gonzaga College High School in Washington, D.C.

"I watched a lot of his highlights last year, and I was pretty excited he was coming here," Huell said.

But when Lykes arrived at Miami, he was too short for other students to treat him like a Big Man on Campus.

"I always think it's funny when they hear there are two basketball players in the class," Lykes said. "They'll immediately pick out one because he's like 6-5. Then they struggle to find the other one. We always get a good

laugh out of it."

Larranaga has said if Lykes were 6-6, he'd be another Michael Jordan.

"You can immediately see the electricity he brings to the game with his speed, quickness and scoring ability," Larranaga said. "We're very excited about him being here, but like all freshmen, he's learning. There are some things that will make him a much better player as he gets older."

Lykes is shooting only 41 percent from the field and 61 percent from the free throw line, and he has been exposed at times on defense.

But he has made 23 3-pointers, and shows a remarkable knack for penetrating and getting the ball to the rim amid much taller players. A couple of his layups against Florida State were highlight-worthy.

While Lykes' size might make him better suited to other sports, basketball has been his favorite since he started playing on a county team at age 6.

"I wasn't that good, but I really loved the game," he said. "I love video games of basketball, and love watching college and NBA basketball. So I just wasn't going to let my size determine if I should play. I kept pushing myself, and didn't listen to outside comments. I didn't care what my size was."

He's at least a couple of inches shorter than both his father and his younger brother, and even a young man who doesn't play basketball might find that annoying.

But Lykes said he doesn't wish he was taller.

"God has blessed me with what I have, and I'm going to continue to use it," he said. "Being lower to the ground helps me with my speed and ball control. Especially in the ACC, where guys are bigger, I can use my speed to get around them."

In other words, heart over height.

"Dewan likes to say height over heart, which I don't understand," Lykes said with a chuckle. "But I guess that's funny for him."

# He is the only Miami native on the UM basketball team, and living up to the hype

**Miami Herald**  
**Michelle Kaufman**  
**Jan. 12, 2018**

Dewan Huell is the only Miami native on the University of Miami men's basketball team, and he wears that distinction proudly with a giant "3-0-5" tattooed on his right tricep.

The former Miami Norland star, who is having a breakout sophomore season and leads the 18th-ranked Hurricanes in scoring heading into Monday's home game against seventh-ranked Duke, has also become the team's unofficial culinary tour guide.

"The guys were looking for foods you don't really find much in Coral Gables, so I started taking them to my favorite food spots up north — Miami Finga Lickin' on Northwest 125th Street and Seventh Avenue, Jackson Soul Food [in Opa Locka] and Golden Krust Bakery, which has great Jamaican patties," Huell said.

Among the players Huell has introduced to the local soul food and Caribbean food scene: Bruce Brown, Ja'Quan Newton, Anthony Lawrence and freshmen Lonnie Walker and Chris Lykes.

Huell could have gone to the University of Kansas. Or Florida State. Or South Carolina. North Carolina was interested, as were Louisville, Maryland, Florida, and many other top-notch programs. The 6-10 forward was a McDonald's All-American, led Norland to three state titles and was rated the No. 21 recruit in the nation by ESPN.

But when signing day rolled around on Nov. 18, 2015, and it was time to commit to a school, there was no question where he wanted to go: down I-95 to UM.

"I think it's a good story, the hometown kid staying here and trying to build something in the city I love," Huell said. "A lot of local football players come to UM, but not too many basketball players. I hope I can help change that."

Once upon a time, Huell dreamed of being a Hurricanes football player. As a kid, he was a talented receiver for the North Dade Bulldogs. But he broke his collarbone in seventh grade, and his mother, Christina Hernandez, prohibited him from playing football.

"When I saw him laid up in bed crying in pain, I didn't want him to play sports anymore," Hernandez said. "But he got to middle school and started playing basketball, and he loved it. He broke his pinky finger early on, and I got mad, told him we don't have money to go

to hospitals and deal with broken bones. So, we went to Walgreens, bought some tape, he just taped those fingers together, kept going, and here we are today."

Hernandez and many of Huell's friends and relatives show up for every UM home game. She can often be seen wearing a t-shirt that reads: "Some people wait their whole life to meet their favorite athlete. I raised mine."

Huell's maternal grandfather was 6-9, his mother is 5-11, and he reached 6-8 by ninth grade. He honed his skills with the help of youth coaches Perez Alexander and Jean-Camille Dubuisson ("Coach Doobie") and Norland coach Lawton Williams. By his senior year, he was 6-10 and averaging 19.2 points and 9.1 rebounds. He arrived at UM as one of the most highly-touted recruits in program history.

Things got off to a rocky start. A few weeks into his freshman year, on Sept. 14, 2016, Huell was arrested on misdemeanor battery charges on the Florida International University campus after a scuffle in a dorm room with a man who was visiting Huell's ex-girlfriend. Charges were dropped. UM coach Jim Larrañaga said he never questioned Huell's character, and used the experience as a teaching moment.

"I felt like Dewan was a terrific kid, a good person, but when there's a blip on the radar like that, as a coach, you feel responsible for helping the kid learn from it, to make sure it doesn't happen again," Larrañaga said. "He's never had any issues at all since then."

Huell had plenty of learning to do on the court, as well. Like every freshman, he had to adjust to the college game, which features bigger, faster, more experienced players. He averaged 17 minutes, 5.8 points and 3.1 rebounds a game his first season at UM.

Although he didn't make as immediate an impact as he had hoped, he could tell his game was improving, and he knew he would be counted on to play a bigger role this season with the departure of Kamari Murphy.

Huell vowed to put in more hours than ever during the summer. He showed up at the gym at 5:30 a.m. for individual workouts with graduate assistant coach Chaisson Allen, who has since been promoted to player development assistant. He worked on his passing, his jump hook, his free throws, his driving game. He wanted to prove he can do more than dunk.

"There was a lot of hype around me when I got to UM, and when I wasn't living up to it, I used that as fuel," Huell said.

Over the course of the year, he added 20 pounds of muscle to his frame — from 215 pounds to 235 pounds. He improved his bench press from 200 pounds to 300 pounds. He has also bettered his grades in the classroom, which delights his mother, who works in medical billing.

"I got all Bs fall semester, which is my best semester so far," Huell said. "My Mom always told me books come first, and getting good grades frees my mind to play better basketball."

This season, Huell leads the Hurricanes with 13.9 points per game and is averaging 6.5 rebounds and 25.5 minutes. Last season, he had one rebound against FSU. In last week's 80-74 win, he grabbed eight.

FSU coach Leonard Hamilton, who recruited Huell heavily, said: "Dewan is an exceptional athlete. He's not really a center. He's a power forward with small forward quickness and athleticism. He's a tough matchup for most traditional centers because he's long and athletic and quick. He's making tremendous strides. I've watched him for a number of years, and I'm not surprised at all. I think he's only scratched the surface of his potential and as he gets bigger and stronger, I think he could be an All-ACC player."

Larrañaga said Huell's hard work and patience have paid off, and serve as a lesson to other young players.

"College basketball is very, very different from high school," Larrañaga said. "Being 6-10 in high school, you are usually the tallest player on the court every single night. Now, you're just one of many. As a high school senior, you're 18 and the oldest on the team. Now, you're the youngest guy on the court and going against guys with three or four years' experience."

"When you're a McDonald's All-American, and three-time state champion, you get a lot of recognition. What you have to understand is that in order to have the same level of success in college as you had in high school, there's a lot of adjusting to do. Dewan devoted the necessary time to let those seeds blossom into the beautiful success he's having this year. And he's only going to get better."

Larrañaga points out that Huell didn't start playing organized basketball until seventh grade, and that author Malcolm Gladwell wrote in his book, "Outliers," that it takes 10,000 hours of practice to master any skill or field. "Dewan hasn't come close to that. He has a very high ceiling. Very high."

## No. 18 Miami men's basketball team set for key ACC matchups against Clemson, Duke

### The Sun Sentinel

Christy Cabrera Chirinos

Jan. 12, 2018

After a disappointing performance in a loss at Georgia Tech last week, the Hurricanes men's basketball team entered the week knowing up next was a stretch of tough games against three ranked opponents — Florida State, Clemson and Duke.

Against the rival Seminoles on Sunday, No. 18 Miami found itself in a stronger offensive rhythm, freshman Chris Lykes coming off the bench to score a career-high 18 points and spark the Hurricanes while sophomores Dewan Huell and Bruce Brown put together the kind of performances the Hurricanes have needed from both all year.

Now comes the second, more difficult portion of that three-game stretch: a road game Saturday afternoon at No. 19 Clemson, followed a little more than 48 hours later by a nationally televised prime-time home game against No. 7 Duke.

It's the kind of turnaround that defines life in the ultra-competitive Atlantic Coast Conference, and for the Hurricanes, it's a chance to show they can live up to the high expectations that last month gave them their highest-ever December ranking in the AP Top 25, at No. 6.

"We would much prefer to have several days to practice for an opponent rather than just a quick turnaround Saturday to Monday, but everybody in our league has to deal with it," Hurricanes coach Jim Larrañaga said. "It's not like we're at a disadvantage because the other team has a week to prepare and we don't. Our players will likely feel a sense of urgency this week. Clemson is a Top 25 team, on the road, a place that's very, very hard for us to play at and win, and Duke, based on what I saw [Wednesday night], they play like that, I don't know if there's anybody in college basketball that can beat them when they're playing their game like that."

One of the biggest challenges facing the Hurricanes (13-2, 2-1), Larrañaga said, is having to adjust — quickly — to how differently ACC teams play, particularly on defense.

Clemson, which is ranked for the first time in eight years but is coming off a 78-77 loss to North Carolina State on Thursday night, is known for playing a packing defense, particularly in the

paint.

That's a change from what Florida State tried in what was eventually Miami's 80-74 win on Sunday.

"We're going to be talking to our players today about how Florida State pressures and extends their defense. That gave us opportunities to run and attack off the dribble," Larrañaga said. "Against Clemson, a team that plays much more like Virginia, more of a packing defense, the ball needs to move faster and you need to spread that defense out. And the way you do it is with passing and cutting. And that's an adjustment. If you think you're going to score the same way you did against Florida State on Saturday afternoon, well, you're sadly mistaken."

Then after Clemson (14-2, 3-1) comes Duke, which once again features a roster of stellar young players, such as freshman Marvin Bagley, who is averaging a team-high 21.9 points, and Wendell Carter Jr., who averages 13.6 points. Back this season for Duke (14-2, 2-2) is senior Grayson Allen, who gives the young Blue Devils some much-needed experience in the lineup and is Duke's second-leading scorer, averaging 17.2 points.

In that game, though, the Hurricanes are expecting an advantage.

The Hurricanes have traditionally played well against Duke under Larrañaga, winning five of eight matchups since the coach arrived in Coral Gables in 2011. And Miami has played well at the Watsco Center of late, winning 33 of its last 35 games at home.

"[Wednesday] night, I observed ESPN was pumping up Big Monday. Every commercial [break] I'm watching Duke vs. Miami, and you've got Duke players hitting shots and Miami players dunking the ball, and then Kansas-West Virginia. ... This Monday, I think, is a huge night for college basketball," Larrañaga said. "I think our local fans have really gotten into Miami basketball. They follow the Hurricanes very closely. It should be an electric atmosphere."

Added junior Anthony Lawrence: "All the students are going to come back for school, the crowd's going to be crazy. I think that's going to get [Lykes and fellow freshman Lonnie Walker IV] ready."

## No. 18 Miami Looking For Rare Win at No. 19 Clemson

**Inside The U**  
**Christopher Stock**  
**Jan. 12, 2018**

Littlejohn Coliseum has been one of the toughest venues in the ACC for the Miami Hurricanes.

Miami has just one win in its last seven trips to Clemson tying Wake Forest for the Hurricanes' worst current seven-game stretch on the road against a league foe.

"I've always thought Clemson played great at home," head coach Jim Larranaga said. "I don't know what their record is over the years through all the seasons in the ACC, but I know every time I brought my Miami team to Clemson, it's been a war. Games have been very hard-fought that normally come down to the last three or four minutes and someone makes a big shot or a big free throw. These are tough games every time out."

The 18th-ranked Hurricanes (13-2, 2-1) will be looking for a rare win at No. 19 Clemson (14-2, 3-1) on Saturday (3 p.m., ESPNU) and their second straight win over a ranked team after beating then-No. 24 Florida State on Sunday.

"The defense is different," Larranaga said. "Against Florida State there's a lot of pressure, they pick up full-court, they're trapping you at times, they're extending their defense. (Clemson head coach) Brad Brownell have coached against each other so many times that I know he's going to play a packing man-to-man except on a specific man he might deny, but everyone else is going to be in the lane trying to stay between the ball and the basket and that's very challenging for your team."

Larranaga is 11-6 all-time against Brownell in their coaching careers including 5-2 with the coaches at their current schools and 6-4 when Larranaga was at George Mason and Brownell at UNC-Wilmington as CAA opponents from 2002-06.

Only Miami's ACC conference-winning 2013 squad has won at Clemson since 2005.

Surprisingly, Miami has had more success winning at Duke (2-2 in last four), at North Carolina (2-1 in last three), at Syracuse (3-2 in last five), and at Florida State (3-2 in last five).

Only Wake Forest has been a tougher road trip for the Hurricanes, who are 1-8 at Lawrence Joel

Veterans Memorial Coliseum since joining the ACC. Miami does not travel to Wake Forest this season.

"We really expect a great game," junior forward Anthony Lawrence said. "We know they're a top-25 team and they're hard to beat at home so we have to come in there prepared."

Clemson has been one of the surprises in the ACC after the Tigers went 17-16, 6-12 in the ACC, last year and lost their best player from a year ago. However, Clemson has already recorded wins over Ohio State, Florida, South Carolina, N.C. State, and Louisville behind a starting five, all seniors and juniors, with each averaging double figures in scoring led by senior guard Marcquise Reed's 15.9.

"They're just really good," Larranaga said. "Brad Brownell has done a great job. They basically have (two seniors and three juniors) in their starting lineup. They are considerably older than us and more experienced than a lot of teams. They've gotten themselves to not only a great non-conference, but they started out 3-0 in league play so they're on a roll. We're looking forward to the game."

Miami made a change in their starting lineup last game inserting freshman Lonnie Walker in for Dejan Vasiljevic, who out-played Walker. It's uncertain who will start on Saturday with Larranaga mentioning both when discussing his hopes for improved bench production.

"We'd like for our bench to really make some substantial contributions at both ends," Larranaga said. "We'd like for Lonnie Walker to rebound more, we'd like Ebuka Izundu to give us a little more scoring and rebounding, we'd like for Chris Lykes to maybe help other guys to score—like he does, it's not like he's not doing that, it's just you think he can do it at a very high level. The other day he had a sensational pass to Ebuka Izundu for a dunk, at Georgia Tech he had five assists at halftime, but he's also such a capable scorer it's the balance—do I pass or do I shoot."

"We need the bench to play really well. Now we've got DJ Vasiljevic coming in off the bench and even though he did not have a great shooting game (3 for 10 against Florida State), he was a plus-10 in plus-minus in his 27 minutes and we only won by six so he was out there during a critical game."

Miami has a quick turnaround after the game hosting No. 7 Duke on Monday (7 p.m., ESPN).



# Hoops set to face pair of top 20 teams in 48-hour span

**CaneSport.com**  
**Staff**  
**Jan. 11, 2018**

The ACC schedule is never easy.

And UM is in the brunt of it - coming off a win over No. 23 FSU the No. 18-ranked Canes now travel to No. 19 Clemson for a Saturday game and then host No. 7 Duke on Monday.

Yes, the Canes face two top 20 teams in the span of 48 hours.

"We'd much prefer to have several days to prepare for an opponent than a quick turnaround, but everyone in our league has to deal with it," coach Jim Larranaga said. "Our players will likely feel a sense of urgency this week. Clemson is a top 20 teams on the road, a place very hard for us to play at and win. And then Duke - a team that's very focused on the defensive end of the floor. It's much easier to play offense when you turn the opponent over or get an offensive rebound."

Forward Anthony Lawrence added of the upcoming games that "It's a big challenge. We're preparing for our next game, will take it one game at a time. ... It's very tough (having two games so close together). We'll have a day to rest, will come out ready."

Larranaga knows his team has to get contributions from not just starters, but key bench players, to pull out games like these.

"We like for our bench to really make substantial contributions at both ends," Larranaga said. "We'd like Lonnie (Walker) to rebound more, for Ebuka (Izundu) to give us a little more scoring and rebounding, for Chris Lykes to maybe help other guys to score like he does - you think he can do it at a very high level. He's also such a capable scorer, it's the balance of do I pass or do I shoot. We need the bench to play really well."

"Now we have DJ (Vasiljevic) coming in off the bench - even though he did not have a great shooting game (vs. FSU) he was a plus-10 in his 27 minutes and we only won by six. He was out there in critical times."

What's Miami up against in these next two opponents?

Clemson is 14-1 overall (the lone loss was to Tem-

ple Nov. 1) with no home losses. Most recently the team's beaten NC State by 16, BC by four and Louisville by five. The Tigers are led by five players that average in double figures scoring, with four of them playing 32 minutes a game or more.

Marcquise Reed leads the way with 15.9 points (4.6 rebounds, 3.1 assists, converted 29 of 73 three-pointers), and Donte Grantham averages 14.6 points and 7.3 rebounds while Shelton Mitchell averages 12.4 points and Elijah Thomas and Gabe Devoe each average 11.6 points per game.

"Against Clemson which plays like more of a Virginia, a packing defense, the ball needs to move faster and you need to spread that defense out and the way you do it is with passing and cutting. That's an adjustment," Larranaga said.

Duke?

The Blue Devils are 14-2 (losses were at BC, 89-84, and at NC State Jan. 6, 96-85). The team plays at home against Wake Forest Saturday before facing the Canes.

Like Clemson, there are five that average in double figure scoring: Star freshman Marvin Bagley Jr. (22.1 PPG, 11.8 RPG), Grayson Allen (16.4 PPG, 4.3 APG), Wendell Carter Jr. (13.3 PPG, 8.6 RPG, 1.9 blocks), Gary Trent Jr. (13.1 PPG) and Trevon Duval (12.5 PPG, 6.3 APG).

"I watched the Duke-Pittsburgh game (last night), I don't know if there's a team in the country that can beat Duke when they play like that," Larranaga said. "The ACC is the best basketball conference in the country as far as I'm concerned."

\* The next step in Lykes' development?

"Chris is playing well," Larranaga said. "The biggest thing for all freshmen is to learn as much as they can so you understand things. ... You must know yourself, your teammates and your opponent."

\* How is freshman Lonnie Walker practicing?

"Really good, that's why he's in the starting lineup," Larranaga said.

\* How much did this team need a win like it got vs. FSU?

"We definitely needed that," Lawrence said.

"Florida State is a top 25 team, a great win. Hadn't been home in a long time, felt good to get a win at home."

\* To what does Lawrence attribute Dewan Huell's improvement?

"With Dewan it's about confidence," Lawrence said. "He's been working all summer. He's improved a lot, you can see it."

\* Lawrence says he sees his role on the team as "spread the offense out, pick and pop threes, drive to the basket, rebound, I can push on the break."

"I'm a better leader, definitely a better rebounder," he added. "I'm playing more consistent this year, too."



# Freshman PG Lykes Coming Up Big in Big Games

**Inside The U**  
**Christopher Stock**  
**Jan. 8, 2018**

CORAL GABLES, Fla. – Freshman point guard Chris Lykes has arguably had his two best games in Miami's two biggest games of the season.

Lykes turned in a 10-point game with three steals in a win at then-No. 12 Minnesota and then scored a season-high 18 points in an 80-74 win against No. 24 Florida State on Sunday earning ACC Rookie of the Week honors.

"He's extremely talented and confident, and that's the thing that's glaring about him," Florida State head coach Leonard Hamilton said. "When you're small like that, you have to have exceptional skills and talents. He's a flawless dribbler. Sure he make some turnovers every once in a while, that's what most freshmen do. He is fearless in terms of taking the ball to the basket and finishes because he has such explosiveness and speed. As he gains a little more strength and experience, he's going to be player that's going to be a handful to go against in the ACC."

Lykes made 6 of 10 shots from the floor including three dazzling layups, knocked down 2 of 4 from 3-point range, and went 4 or 8 from the free-throw line. He also had two assists, one rebound, and one steal in 25 minutes, also a season-high.

"Outstanding," sophomore guard Bruce Brown said. "I told everybody before the season, 'Don't sleep on him.'"

Sophomore power forward Dewan Huell said, "Amazing performance tonight. He brought the energy off the bench that we needed."

It was an impressive performance for Lykes in a game Miami, ranked 18th with a 13-2 record, 2-1 in the ACC, needed after a disappointing loss last week to Georgia Tech.

"It was a great experience," Lykes said. "I know these guys (Brown and Huell), my teammates, some of the older guys believe in me a lot so I just tried to bring energy off the bench like Dewan said, just tried to make the right plays to help our team win the game. I saw that Florida State really wasn't getting back so in transition

I just tried to get out and make plays because we're a transition team too. I think we did a good job with that and what we did defensively was the way we won the game."

Lykes is averaging 7.5 points (seventh-most on the team) on 41.1-percent shooting from the floor. He is also averaging 1.5 assists and is shooting 39.7 percent (23 of 58) from behind the arc.

Lykes has been picking up his play of late averaging 11.0 points over the last four games hitting two 3-pointers in each game.

"When we recruited Chris and saw him play in high school, you can immediately see the electricity he brings to the game with his speed, quickness, and scoring ability," Miami head coach Jim Larranaga said. "We're very excited about him being here. I thought he played terrific tonight, but like all freshmen I think he's learning. There's some things that will make him a much better player as he gets older. But tonight he was really in charge."

Lykes and Hurricanes resume action at No. 19 Clemson (14-1, 3-0) on Saturday (3 p.m., ESPN2).

# UM's Chris Lykes named ACC Rookie of the Week, Hurricanes fall to No. 18 in AP Top 25

**Christy Cabrera Chirinos**  
**Sun Sentinel**  
**Jan. 8, 2018**

Lykes was a spark for the Hurricanes in their win over the Seminoles, coming off the bench to play a career-high 25 minutes. He was 6-of-8 from the field against the Seminoles and also put together a solid showing in Miami's loss to Georgia Tech last week, notching a career-high five assists and eight points against the Yellow Jackets.

After the Florida State win, Seminoles coach Leonard Hamilton had high praise for Lykes, saying the 5-foot-7 guard was both "fearless" and "explosive."

Added Miami coach Jim Larrañaga: "When we recruited Chris, we saw him play in high school, you could immediately see the electricity he brings to the game with his speed, quickness and scoring ability. We're very excited about him being here. I thought he played terrific tonight. But like all freshmen, I think he's learning. There are some things that will make him a much better player as he gets older. But tonight, he was really in charge."

## **Hurricanes fall in AP Top 25**

After falling to Georgia Tech on Wednesday and rebounding with a win against Florida State on Sunday, the Hurricanes (13-2) fell three spots to No. 18 in the most recent AP Top 25 poll, which was released Monday.

The Hurricanes will have a chance to improve their ranking with a pair of top-25 matches looming on the horizon. Miami travels to face No. 19 Clemson (14-1) on Saturday before returning home to face No. 7 Duke (13-2) on Jan. 15.

# OPINION: Road warrior hoops team finding its groove

**CaneSport.com**

**Jim Martz**

**Jan. 8, 2018**

As taxing as the recent schedule has been for the University of Miami men's basketball team - trips to Washington, D.C, Hawaii, Pittsburgh and Atlanta covering about 16,000 miles since their last home game Dec. 5 - consider what the 1979 Hurricanes' football team had to endure: 28,000 miles on the road as they played only four of 11 games at home.

That was Howard Schnellenberger's first season at UM and his Hurricanes were dubbed the Jet Lag Kids. They played at San Diego State, Buffalo to face Syracuse, Penn State, Alabama, twice at Tallahassee to take on Florida A&M and Florida State, and all the way to Tokyo, Japan, for a "home" game against Notre Dame.

After their 23-hour trek back from Tokyo via Anchorage, Alaska, they had only four days to get ready for the 0-9-1 Florida Gators. The jet lag was evident as they squandered a 27-10 lead and held on to win 30-24 to finish the season with a 5-6 record.

Coach Jim Larranaga's basketball Canes returned from their six-game road excursion having lost two of the last three games heading into Sunday night's clash against 24th-ranked Florida State at the Watsco Center.

They had played only one home game in 42 days, and they had played just five home games this season, fewest in the ACC. The crisscrossing of the nation took its toll and it showed in that ugly 64-54 loss last Wednesday at Georgia Tech, which had a losing (6-7) record.

"Traveling is exhausting," Larranaga said. "We didn't have any energy."

But he saw energy in the pre-game shootaround Sunday night and that effort continued through the game as the Hurricanes defeated No. 24 FSU 80-74.

"We're back now," Larranaga said.

Just in time because this is the midway point of the season and his road warriors go to No. 25 Clemson for a Saturday game at 3, then come home to tangle with No. 2 Duke on Monday at 7. It's their only meeting with the Blue Devils this season.

Larranaga clearly was in a rotten mood over the play of his frequent flyers during and after their Wednesday night loss at Georgia Tech and Friday during his a press conference.

During a halftime interview at Georgia Tech he called their performance "appalling." Then on Friday he said that the Hurricanes have "a lot of growing up to do" and grumbled about making poor decisions, not passing soon enough, and lacking on-court chemistry.

Then came what appeared to be a scathing dig at the high-profile recruits the program has assembled last season and this season when he said, "These guys are coming in here looking at us like we're a prep school for the NBA. They read social media and Twitter and all that junk, and what the media say, and the color commentators ... It's a real problem for our culture. It's a real sad commentary as to what has to happen to college basketball."

Freshman Lonnie Walker IV was projected by some of the national "experts" as be a one-and-done. Based on what we've seen so far, that will not be the case. There's a lot of potential, but he needs a couple of years at UM before he's ready for that leap.

Though he started against FSU, he scored only five points, all in the first half, had zero rebounds and three turnovers in 15 minutes of play.

Does Bruce Brown, a sophomore, look as if he could move to the next level after this season? At times no, at times maybe. Against the Seminoles he was a leader down the stretch.

So was 5-7 freshman dynamo Chris Lykes.

In the second half at Georgia Tech the Hurricanes went scoreless for 6:40 as the Yellow Jackets went on 10-0 run. They looked totally discombobulated, looked as if they needed a "quarterback" to lead the offense. Lykes looked as if he can assume that role based on the FSU game. He came off the bench to score 18 points and played 25 minutes.

Larranaga loves the "electricity he brings to the game." Expect him to see more playing time, especially in the closing minutes when the Hurricanes are trying to close out a game.

At Georgia Tech the Canes committed 18 turnovers and recorded only 12 assists. They improved in both areas against the Seminoles, lowering the turnovers to 15 against an excellent defense and recording 15 assists.

When the Hurricanes defeated Boston University to go 8-0 heading into that road trek, I wrote that I thought they not only looked like a potential Sweet 16 team and could become the first in UM history to reach the Elite Eight.

I still think they can, with the biggest factor being their defense. They rank among the top five in the nation in scoring defense, field goal defense and three point defense.

They held FSU to season lows, just 36.2 percent shooting, including only five of 24 from three-point range.

"We've been shooting well from the perimeter," said FSU coach Leonard Hamilton. "They contained that and our guys got tentative."

Another positive sign. The Hurricanes ranked among the poorest free throw shooting teams in the nation the first few weeks of the season. Larranaga said that would be fixed by February. Against FSU they connected on 23 of 32 attempts.

The Canes not only play Duke just once but also face defending national champion North Carolina only one time, Feb. 27 at Chapel Hill.

Nevertheless the schedule is demanding. This is the ACC, the best conference top to bottom in the nation again.

Of the remaining 16 games, all in the ACC, 11 are against teams in the KenPom top 50 - Virginia, Duke, North Carolina, Clemson, Notre Dame, FSU, Louisville, Syracuse and Virginia Tech.

If the Hurricanes show up for any game as they did at Georgia Tech, they'll lose. If they show up as they did against the Seminoles, they still could become a Sweet 16 team or better.

Hamilton said he told his players before the game that the Miami team that showed up at Georgia Tech would not be the team that came out of the locker room Sunday night. He was correct.

We need to see more of that team than the jet lagged Canes that staggered into and out of Atlanta.

# The Reading Eagle Local Newsmaker of the Year: Lonnie Walker IV

**The Reading Eagle**  
**Jim Lewis**  
**Jan. 7, 2018**

READING, Pa. - When he came home from school, Lonnie Walker IV was required by his father to read or write for an hour before heading outside to play, and his taste in books matured, from Dr. Seuss to Harry Potter to the top shelf of his father's personal library.

He discovered a volume of poems by American author Langston Hughes, poems about being black, about pursuing your dreams, about determination, strength and triumph. He read it, remembers it, and spread a similar message to the youth of Reading while leading Reading High School to its first state basketball championship in 2017.

Walker, the Red Knights' leading scorer, capped a magical season by scoring a game-high 22 points in a 64-60 victory over Pine-Richland in the PIAA Class 6A title game March 25 in Hershey. He used his basketball stardom to show Reading youths that you can achieve great success even if you grow up in one of the nation's poorest cities.

Like them, Walker was a child of Reading, where more than 36 percent of residents live below the federal poverty level, among the highest rates for cities with a population of at least 55,000, according to 2016 U.S. Census Bureau figures. Yet there he was, a gifted athlete so talented that he was sought by major colleges.

Now Walker, 19, is a rising star in college basketball, a freshman for the University of Miami (Fla.), where he enrolled last fall on a basketball scholarship. He's a 6-5 guard so highly regarded that he has his own Wikipedia page and is featured on the mock 2018 draft list of NBA bloggers. Still, he preaches of the power of education, of studying hard and getting good grades, and despite a promising pro basketball future, he hasn't ruled out the possibility that he will one day become a surgeon, a childhood dream.

Young fans lined up to meet him after home games at the Geigle Complex, Reading High's gym, and when Walker and his teammates on the championship team paraded victoriously down North 13th Street in pickup trucks after

winning the state title, a crowd of fans, many of them youngsters, lined the route to get a glimpse.

Walker, the Reading Eagle's 2017 Local Newsmaker of the Year, welcomed the opportunity to show city kids that they can triumph, that poverty did not erase potential. Success, he insists, "starts with being the best person you can be."

"I've seen the fighting and the gangs and the drugs - the list goes on and on," Walker said in a phone interview after a basketball practice at Miami's campus. "I've seen too much negativity, too many people crying, too many people doubting themselves. It means more to me that people are understanding my message rather than my playing basketball. I wanted to spread it, particularly in Reading."

## **'Believe in yourself'**

Those who know Walker describe him as quiet, though not shy, extremely polite, and humble, despite his athletic ability - he played on Reading High's varsity basketball team since his freshman year. His commitment to classroom work was real, and he seemed mature for a teenager, said Dr. Khalid Mumin, Reading School District superintendent.

"He did things we seek to do as adults; his thing is all about leadership, and that's powerful," Mumin said. "He is so in tune with social justice. The success of the team was about the success of the city, and Lonnie Walker was one of the leaders of that movement."

At home, Walker, whose father, Lonnie Walker III was a star basketball player at Alvernia University, was more likely to watch educational programs on TV than basketball games.

"Nine times out of 10, I was watching the Discovery Channel," the younger Walker admitted. "I was always a nerd and a geek."

It's what set Walker apart from many other high school sports stars, Mumin said: "There are good athletes, but here's the difference with a Lonnie Walker: He's not just a good athlete, he's a phenomenal athlete who's striving to be a phenomenal student also."

Walker was an educator's dream, a star athlete who preaches the value of education. Though

he graduated from Reading High in June, his picture hangs in every public school in the city, where his basketball prowess is legendary and his success resonates.

It's a poster of Walker flying toward the basket for a dunk, the basketball firmly in his right hand, and beneath his laserlike stare at the net is a copy of a letter he wrote upon his graduation, printed in the school district's summer newsletter. In it, he extols students to work hard to develop their skills, "whether that is basketball, art or chemistry."

"Be true to yourself because anything is possible," he wrote. "Believe in yourself. Look at me. I'm just a kid from Reading."

When Mumin visits elementary schools in the district, he uses the poster to teach a lesson to youngsters, a kind of game of What Would Lonnie Do?

"Who's that?" he'll ask a child, pointing to Walker's picture.

"That's Lonnie Walker," the child will answer, for everyone knows Lonnie Walker.

"What does Lonnie say?" Mumin will ask.

"Lonnie says you have to stay in school and do well in your classes," the child will answer.

"Lonnie's a trendsetter, and he's not even here," Mumin marveled. "It's something that is simply magical."

It's a magic that can be felt across the city.

## **'Inspired by Lonnie'**

On a frigid winter night at Reading's Third and Spruce Rec Center, a gathering place for city youths, Jaime Gonzalez, 12, plays basketball in the gym after school, and dreams of playing for a college team someday. He's a Lonnie Walker fan, one of the many kids who flocked to the victory parade for a glimpse of the star, and not only does he know what Lonnie says about studying hard, he has embraced the message, too.

"It made me change a lot, my behavior and paying attention in school," Gonzalez said.

# The Reading Eagle Local Newsmaker of the Year: Lonnie Walker IV (Cont.)

Walker's message resonates with adults in Reading, too. When Carissa L. Johnson was sworn in last month as one of Reading's first two black female district justices at a ceremony in the Berks County Courthouse, she wore a black T-shirt under her blazer that proclaimed in white letters, "Just a Kid from Reading," Walker's ending to end his post-graduation letter.

She bought it from a city barber, Eric Rodriguez, who sells them from his shop, Mike and Joe's Salon, tucked inside a row house in Reading. He designed the shirt from a tag line used in a 2015 commercial for Powerade, a sports drink, and sold a few, but when Walker was photographed wearing one after a state play-off victory in 2017, he was besieged with demands for them. He's sold more than 700 since that game.

"When Lonnie wore it, forget about it - it really took off," Rodriguez said.

The shirt signaled Johnson's desire to follow Walker's example. She, too, is a Reading High graduate, a member of the Class of 2002, and she, too wants to show city youths that they can be successful.

"I am truly inspired by Lonnie," Johnson said. "I want to make sure I'm as visible as possible to kids out there. Like Lonnie, I wanted to show kids that anything's possible."

## Defying stereotypes

Walker's appeal reaches beyond the city limits, Mumin asserts. When he saw the kids line up in the gym after Reading High games to meet Walker, he realized that some were not city students, but young fans from the suburbs.

And when Walker and his teammates won the state championship in Hershey, an estimated 9,000 fans cheered them, a crowd so big that it certainly included fans from across Berks County. Walker was proof to the rest of the county that there were great students in the Reading School District, and shattered the stereotype of the troubled urban youth, Mumin said.

"The perceptions are not the reality here," Mumin said. "He's the conduit to being able to

open the door to people looking behind the curtain at the Reading School District."

It is a role that Walker assumed gladly.

"I just wanted to show Berks County, the Reading community and the world that you can do what you want to do," he said. "I'm always going to spread positivity as much as I can because that's what I want in life."

He does so with a quiet determination, a quiet strength that moves a city, even from afar.

"His message resonates - I remember many of his words, and I get choked up about it," Mumin said. "He's not beating his chest over it, he's just doing it. It's like poetry."

# Freshman Chris Lykes shines as 15th-ranked Hurricanes outlast No. 24 Florida State

**Christy Cabrera Chirinos**  
**Sun Sentinel**  
**Jan. 7, 2018**

After a tough six-game, month-long road trip that featured disheartening losses to New Mexico State and Georgia Tech, the Hurricanes returned home Sunday needing a spark.

And against one of their biggest rivals, they ended up getting it from a somewhat unlikely source — dynamic 5-foot-7 freshman Chris Lykes.

The guard, who came off the bench for the Hurricanes, more than held his own against a tall Florida State lineup that features seven players who stand at least 6-foot-8. Lykes scored a career-high 18 points, helping lead No. 15 Miami to a much-needed 80-74 win over the 24th-ranked Seminoles.

The win keeps the Hurricanes (13-2, 2-1 ACC) unbeaten on their home floor at the Watsco Center this season with Miami now winning 33 of its last 34 games at home.

Two of Miami's sophomores — Bruce Brown and Dewan Huell — put together impressive performances too. Brown had a game-high 23 points and Huell added 20 to help the Hurricanes hold off the Seminoles, who put together a late run but ultimately, couldn't overcome what was at one point, a 16-point second-half Miami lead.

And Lykes, who played a season-high 25 minutes, was a big reason why.

"Amazing performance tonight," Huell said of Lykes.

"I told everybody before the season, don't sleep on him," added Brown.

Veteran Florida State coach Leonard Hamilton raved about Lykes as well, calling the freshman "fearless" and "explosive," traits the guard showed after taking a hit to the face while driving to the basket. Lykes left the game briefly, but returned to continue his effort.

"I got hit in the nose and couldn't breathe through my nose for a minute," Lykes said. "Our trainers do a good job and they told me I was good to go, so I went back in the game."

And this game, this performance, was just what the Hurricanes wanted after their brutally long road trip, which ended Wednesday with an ugly 10-point loss to a Georgia Tech team that entered the game with a sub-

.500 record.

Early against the Seminoles, Miami looked more like the team that achieved the program's highest-ever December ranking and less like a group that was struggling on offense and couldn't find any chemistry.

The Hurricanes, who shot just 37.5 percent in their loss to the Yellow Jackets, seemingly couldn't miss early against the Seminoles, hitting on 13 of their first 14 shots to build a 31-22 lead midway through the first half.

"I told our team, the team that was in Atlanta the other night wouldn't show up today. That team wasn't going to come out of the locker room," Hamilton said. "I knew that team was probably still going to be in Atlanta. They were going to come out today and be at their very, very best today and I thought that's what they did."

That lead grew to 55-39 early in the second half, before Florida State eventually began chipping away, with Mfiondu Kabengele hitting a layup with 5:08 left that cut the margin to eight.

Minutes later, Phil Cofer hit on a 3-pointer that cut the Miami lead to 71-66 before the Hurricanes were able to close it out. With Florida State (12-3, 1-2) forced to foul in an effort to stop the clock, Brown connected on 5-of-6 free throws in the final 44 seconds to give Miami breathing room.

Brown, who came into the game shooting just 55 percent from the line, was 12-of-14 there against the Seminoles.

"I feel great. We won and that's the main thing. That's not [about] me playing well, it's me being a leader out there and trying to help my team win," Brown said. "I think I'm a really good free throw shooter. It just didn't show at the beginning of the year. So now, I know I can knock them down. I put in a little more effort, work during practice and after practice."

Braian Angola had a team-high 16 points to lead the Seminoles, who now head into a tough week that includes games against Louisville on Wednesday and Syracuse on Saturday.

Miami, meanwhile, will get some time to rest before a game at No. 25 Clemson on Saturday.



# Height and heart: Canes hold off Noles, win 80-74

**CaneSport.com**

**Staff**

**Jan. 7, 2018**

Big man Dewan Huell's common refrain to diminutive freshman point guard Chris Lykes: "Height over heart."

That's in response to one of Lykes' favorite sayings: "Heart over height."

On Sunday heart and height both won out.

Huell had 20 points, Lykes had 18 and Bruce Brown chipped in a game-high 23 as the Canes beat No. 25 Florida State at the Watsco Center, 80-74.

"I'm just very happy with the win - this is a great rivalry," coach Jim Larranaga said. "(I knew) our guys were going to have to play very, very hard and well. It was two top 25 teams going after each other and we were very fortunate to come out on top."

The Hurricanes played an outstanding first half, building a 13-point lead. But that was whittled to four when FSU made a three-pointer with 24 seconds remaining.

After a steal the Noles had an open three to cut it to a one-point game.

The shot missed, Anthony Lawrence converted a pair of free throws and it was over.

"Today really for the first time since we've gotten back from Hawaii I saw tremendous energy at the shoot-around, and I thought that was a good sign and it turned out to be," Larranaga said. "We played really, really hard."

Brown, Huell and Lykes hit on a combined 11 of 12 shots in the first half and 19 of 30 for the game.

While Brown and Huell are top scorers on a regular basis for UM, the freshman Lykes' showing was a big factor.

"He does it in practice - I knew it was a matter of time before he does it in a game," Brown said.

Lykes got 25 minutes of action and hit off-balance athletic layups, jumpers with the clock winding down and had two assists and a steal with only one turnover.

"It was a great experience - my teammates believe in me a lot," Lykes said. "I just try to bring energy off the bench ... I saw Florida State wasn't really getting back out of transition so I was trying to make plays."

FSU coach Leonard Hamilton said of Lykes that "He's extremely talented and confident ... he's a flawless dribbler. He's fearless in terms of taking the ball to the basket, finishes because he has such explosive quickness and speed. As he gains more experience he'll be a handful to go against in the ACC."

The early going remained close, with both teams trading the advantage. But after the game was tied at 20 the Canes went on a 9-0 run spurred by a coast-to-coast Lykes layup and a feed by Lykes to Huell for a dunk.

The Noles never had the lead again.

FSU cut the deficit to four, 33-29, with four minutes to go in the opening half; after that it was Miami's turn to get some momentum again - a Brown driving layup with under two minutes remaining gave Miami a 40-29 edge. And an acrobatic Lykes off-balance layup brought fans to their feet with under a minute to go and made it 45-32.

That was the halftime score.

"You have to give Miami credit," Hamilton said. "I thought they did a very good job of attacking the basket. At one point they were 14 of 15 with one banked three. I don't think I've been in a game at any point in time against a team that's 14 of 15."

"We had a hard time defending the dribble. They just attacked the basket, did a very good job in the first half. ... Hat's off to Miami for coming out and playing an excellent game."

The second half?

Four minutes in a Huell three-point play put Miami ahead by 16, 55-39.

That would be the Canes' biggest lead.

The domination didn't last. FSU got it within single digits, 63-54, before a Dejan Vasiljevic three-pointer made it 66-54 with 8:30 to play. Miami maintained its double-digit advantage until an offensive rebound/putback with five minutes left made it 67-59. And then it was a six-point game, 69-63, with three minutes on the clock.

A pair of Brown free throws made it 71-63 with 1:47 remaining, and you could sense some relief in the stands. But FSU answered with a Phil Cofer three-pointer, and with a minute left the lead was five, 73-68.

A pair of Lykes free throws made it 76-58, but there was still more drama. With 24 seconds left a three-pointer by Braian Angola made it 78-74, and after a Brown turnover an open FSU three missed the mark. With 16.9 seconds remaining Anthony Lawrence made a pair of free throws to ice the outcome.

"We really focused on the key points coach made in practice, got out in transition a lot - that's when we play our best," Brown said. "We won, and that's the main thing."

UM made 51 percent of its shots (65.4 in the first half) compared to 36.2 percent for FSU, which made only five of 24 threes.

The Seminoles had a big rebounding advantage, 44-32 (Lawrence had 12 rebounds for UM), including 21 offensive rebounds (Miami had just five).

"They had, whew, 21 offensive rebounds - we've known we're not a great rebounding team," Larranaga said.

The Canes overcame that with hot shooting.

"We've very capable of scoring 75, 80 points every night out if the opponent will agree to run," Larranaga said.

\* Up next for UM: A game Jan. 13 at No. 25 Clemson followed two days later by a home game vs. No. 2 Duke.

\* Huell said looking back at last year he didn't work hard enough at his game.

"I just work harder now, more work ethic - that's all it is," Huell said. "I put in work and it's showing."

\* Larranaga said Lykes was "outstanding" and that "like all freshmen he's learning."

\* Larranaga said in the team's most recent practice nobody could hit shots.

He says he told Brown afterward "to go watch highlights of yourself."

After tonight's game?

"He said 'I did,'" Larranaga said to laughs, adding "Guys need to think positively and have confidence."



# Miami Hurricanes Basketball Drops to No. 18 in AP Poll

**Inside The U**  
**Christopher Stock**  
**Jan. 8, 2018**

The Miami Hurricanes dropped three spots to No. 18 in the latest AP Poll after going 1-1 last week.

Miami (13-2, 2-1 ACC) lost at unranked Georgia Tech 64-54 before beating then-No. 24 Florida State 80-74 at home on Sunday.

Miami have one game this week on Saturday (3 p.m., ESPNU) at No. 19 Clemson (14-1, 3-0). Miami has not won at Clemson since Feb. 17, 2013 and is 1-6 in its last seven at Clemson.

Miami is one of six ACC schools in the top 25 along with No. 3 Virginia (14-1, 3-0), No. 7 Duke (13-2, 1-2), No. 20 North Carolina (12-4, 1-2), and No. 23 Florida State (12-3, 1-2).

# With FSU up next, Larranaga says “We have a lot of Growing up to do”

**CaneSport.com**  
**Staff**  
**Jan. 5, 2018**

Coming off an upset loss at Georgia Tech, the road for the No. 15 Canes doesn't get easier in the team's upcoming first home game in a month.

On Sunday UM (12-2) will face a Florida State team that is 12-2 and coming off an 81-80 victory against No. 12 North Carolina.

FSU is ranked No. 24.

Coach Jim Larranaga says a lot has to improve for UM to notch solid victories moving forward.

“I have a very good group of guys, and they're trying very hard especially at the defensive end of the floor, probably on the offensive end (too) but not in the right direction,” Larranaga said. “We shoot when we should pass, our decision-making at the offensive end is not consistently good. ... we're making way too many mistakes - it's caused us some serious problems the last three or four games.”

In the recent loss Larranaga called 10 missed layups and 18 turnovers “a recipe for disaster.”

“I have to constantly remind myself how young we are - we only have one senior,” Larranaga said. “I see a lot of mistakes being from inexperience.”

Larranaga also pointed to some players trying to be too aggressive instead of playing as a team at times.

“There's a domino effect - if someone dribbles too much then the next guy tends to dribble too much,” Larranaga said. “It's a bad message. ... We have a lot of growing up to do.”

He adds “Our players don't know each other's games very well, don't know their own game very well.”

Players' takes?

Bruce Brown said Friday that the team wants him to be aggressive and that “I have to step up.”

“We knew we didn't play great (in the loss),”

Brown said. “(The problem) is just the flow of the offense - we're not sharing the ball, getting easy shots, but we're figuring it out.”

Ja'Quan Newton's perspective: “We have to know people's strengths. Sometimes we need to kick out - it's something we're going to fix by watching film, that's all.

“We have to be a team, play together, play well.”

The team hopes to see some things start to come together beginning Sunday vs. FSU.

The Noles are led by Terance Mann (14.8 PPG, 6.2 RPG, 3.3 APG), Phil Cofer (13.9 PPG, 20 of 42 three-pointers made), Braian Angola (13.1 PPG, 3.2 APG) and CJ Walker (10.1 PPG, 3.1 APG). Overall Florida State is hitting on 49.5 percent of its shots (compared to opponents' 38.1 percent) and outscores opponents 85.4-68.4.

“They're a very good defensive team - we have to play a lot faster,” Brown said. “They shoot threes a lot, we have to defend the three. ... We need to get out in transition, get easy layups and dunks and have fun. It doesn't look like we're having fun out there. Once we do that we'll win a lot of games.”

The Canes don't want to start league play 1-2, especially with the following games at No. 25 Clemson and then home vs. No. 2 Duke.

“I think they've got a great team,” Larranaga said of FSU. “I think they're playing at a very, very high level right now.

“A team like Florida State is so athletic -long, gifted, tall.”

UM has three players averaging scoring in double figures - Dewan Huell (13.4 PPG, 6.4 RPG), Brown (10.9 PPG, 7.3 RPG, 4.2 APG) and DJ Vasiljevic (10.3 PPG, 32 of 80 three-pointers made).

Newton is averaging 9.9 points but has turned the ball over a team high 30 times.

“I have to play better, step it up,” Newton said. “I have to set the tone offensively, defensively.”

Highly touted freshman Lonnie Walker? He is averaging 8.3 points but is making just 42.4

percent of his shots.

“In Lonnie's case he's a very gifted athlete, very gifted shooter/scorer,” Larranaga said. “Under certain circumstances when he's aggressive he's very effective. But like many freshmen he hasn't seen the athletes and the size and strength (in college). So instead of a jumper he'll shoot an off-balance layup. Those are hard shots to make. ... We'll talk to him today about being more aggressive, getting more shot opportunities.

“Skills at this level is so important, and experience becomes a skill. ... Freshmen are learning it for the first time.”

Brown called Walker “a great playmaker,” and says of Walker's transition to college that “He just needs to be poised. ... All he needs to do is really watch film, get with the coaches. We've been getting him more reps on the offensive end in practice.”

\* Larranaga said the New York Knicks were scouting today's Miami practice.

\* Brown says he wants to step up as more of a leader and says he wasn't vocal enough in the recent loss, saying he talked more to the officials than trying to pump up his teammates.

\* With a home game ... finally ... Brown said, “Definitely good to be home. The road is crazy. I didn't know how much it wears on your body being on the road so much. This should be a great game for us to be back home.”

# Not much goes right for Canes in upset loss at Ga. Tech

**CaneSport.com**  
**Staff**  
**Jan. 4, 2018**

Call it road fatigue.

Or just a bad loss.

The No. 15 Canes, playing their sixth straight game away from home, lost to 7-7 Georgia Tech on Wednesday night, 64-54.

UM is now 12-2 on the season.

Miami began strong, taking a 17-9 lead 12 minutes in after the Yellow Jackets missed eight straight shots. But Georgia Tech hit five of its next six to pull within three, and it was 26-26 in the final minutes of the first half. The halftime score: 28-28.

"I'm appalled by the way we're playing," coach Jim Larranaga said at the break. "We have to do everything better - rebound better, defend better, handle the ball in the open court."

It didn't get better.

The Canes fell behind by seven points with 12:30 to go after a technical foul on the bench, and with nine minutes remaining it was 46-34 after a 10-0 Georgia Tech run.

"I have no idea (who the bench technical was on)," Larranaga said. "It wasn't on me. It wasn't my assistants. He was pointing to somebody down at the end of the bench who jumped up. You'll have to ask him. To me, that's ridiculous."

Miami had just eight points in the first 12 minutes of the second half before its best stretch of the game - a 10-0 run pulled UM within 46-44 with 4:36 left (Georgia Tech missed eight straight during the run).

But there wasn't much after that positive for Miami.

Consecutive turnovers by Ja'Quan Newton and Bruce Brown ... and fouls by both players on the ensuing possessions ... put Georgia Tech ahead 53-46 with 2:58 to go. At the two minute mark it was 56-48, and UM didn't get back into it.

[When] the game is on the line, you need to

take care of the ball," Larranaga said. "You can't be turning it over."

Overall Miami hit on 37.5 percent of its shots (four of 19 three-pointers) in this game compared to Georgia Tech's 19 percent (one of 10 threes). And the Canes had the slight rebounding edge, 39-38.

Leading scorers for UM: Dewan Huell (13 points, eight rebounds), Brown (nine points, nine rebounds) and Anthony Lawrence (nine points, 12 rebounds). Brown hit four of 12 shots, and also struggling was Lykes with two of 10 shooting.

"We went cold and stayed cold as far as I was concerned," Larranaga said. "We turned the ball over needlessly. When we cut the lead to four, we had three-straight turnovers. We dribbled into the lane and threw it, they took it right off of our guy and then we had the ball right in the three-second lane and they stripped us. That's not good basketball. We should play a lot better than that."

Up next?

Miami will finally be back home vs. FSU on Sunday, the team's first game at the Watsco Center since Dec. 5.

# No. 15 Miami Dismal in 64-54 Loss at Georgia Tech

**Inside The U**  
**Christopher Stock**  
**Jan. 3, 2018**

The Miami Hurricanes wrapped up their six-game stretch away from home in disappointing fashion.

Dewan Huell scored 13 points to lead the 15th-ranked Miami Hurricanes in a 64-54 loss at Georgia Tech on Wednesday night.

"I didn't think we were very sharp tonight at all," head coach Jim Larranaga said. "You can see by the stat sheet that they only made one 3. They were 1 for 10 for the entire game and yet they scored at the rim which was exactly the defensive strategy to stop--trying to stop them from getting their driving layups, their cutting layups and their post-ups. When you're not able to do that and the other team is able to execute their man offense the way they did that's a great concern. Then offensively we could not find the open man. We just kept turning the ball over. Eighteen turnovers and 12 assists is not what we're looking for."

Ja'Quan Newton added six points to surpass 1,000 career points becoming the 38th player in Miami history to accomplish the feat.

Miami (12-2, 1-1 ACC) concluded a six-game stretch away from home going 4-2 and will host No. 24 Florida State (12-2, 1-1) on Sunday (6 p.m., ESPNU) in their first home game in over a month.

Georgia Tech (7-7, 1-1) shook off losses to Grambling State, Wofford, and Wright State and a 1-6 record against kenpom.com top-200 teams this season to upset Miami.

The Yellow Jackets were led by Josh Okogie's 30 points and nine rebounds as the sophomore swingman severely outplayed Miami's Bruce Brown, who had nine points and nine rebounds while guarding Okogie most of the game.

Georgia Tech went on a 14-2 run over a seven-minute span in the second half to take control of the game with a 46-34 lead.

Miami was 1 for 13 from the floor during the stretch including a wild missed layup by Chris Lykes, who thought he was fouled on the play and the Miami bench was assessed a technical

foul for arguing the call.

The Hurricanes' defense also struggled as Brown let his man easily slip back door causing head coach Jim Larranaga to call timeout after the error.

Miami followed with a 10-0 run as Huell scored six points and Anthony Lawrence had four to cut the deficit to 46-44 with 4:36 left.

But from there it was all Georgia Tech down the stretch as Okogie scored seven in the final minutes while the Hurricanes had five turnovers.

"We should play a lot better than that," Larranaga said. "The game is on the line, you need to take care of the ball. You can't be turning it over."

The Hurricanes shot 37.5 percent (21 of 56) from the floor and made just 4 of 19 from 3-point range. They were also plagued by 18 turnovers as Georgia Tech outscored Miami 21-6 in points off turnovers.

Georgia Tech shot 39.0 percent (23 of 59) from the floor and just 1 of 10 from 3, but sank 17 of 23 from the free-throw line.

Miami led 17-9 after back-to-back baskets by Lonnie Walker capping a 10-0 run.

From there, the Hurricanes were unable to build on the lead as turnovers piled up in the first half, but none worse than a no-look, alley-oop on a two-on-one fastbreak by Walker that clanged off the rim.

"Did you see that last play? What was that? I don't even know," Larranaga said during his television interview at halftime.

The teams went into the break tied at 28 with Miami having 10 turnovers.

"A comedy of errors I would say," Larranaga said. "Neither team handled the ball very well or attacked the other team's defense with any kind of efficiency. I'm appalled by the way we're playing."

# Miami Hurricanes Basketball No. 15 in Latest AP Poll

**Inside The U**  
**Christopher Stock**  
**Jan. 1, 2018**

The Miami Hurricanes remain No. 15 in the latest AP Poll after two wins last week.

Miami (12-1, 1-0 ACC) beat Middle Tennessee 84-81 on Christmas Day in the third place game of the Diamond Head Classic in Honolulu, Hawaii and won at Pittsburgh 67-53 on Saturday to open ACC play.

Miami concludes its six-game trip away from home on Wednesday (9 p.m., RSN) at Georgia Tech (6-7, 0-1). The Hurricanes will host No. 24 Florida State (11-2, 0-1) on Sunday (6 p.m., ESPN) .

Miami is one of six ACC schools in the top 25 along with No. 2 Duke (13-1, 1-1), No. 8 Virginia (12-1, 1-0), No. 12 North Carolina (12-2, 1-0), No. 24 Florida State (11-2, 0-1), and No. 25 Clemson (12-1, 1-0).

# Lawrence Paces No. 15 Miami in 67-53 Win at Pittsburgh

**Inside The U**  
**Christopher Stock**  
**Dec. 30, 2017**

Anthony Lawrence scored 12 points to lead a balanced attack for the No. 15 Miami Hurricanes in 67-53 win at Pittsburgh to open ACC competition on Saturday.

Bruce Brown and Ja'Quan Newton each added 11 points while Chris Lykes chipped in 10 off the bench for the Hurricanes (12-1, 1-0).

Pittsburgh (8-6, 0-1) was led by Shamiel Stevenson's 16 points.

Miami trailed 9-4 in the opening minutes and was down 18-17 before going on a 13-1 run in the final seven minutes of the first half and never looked back. Lawrence had five points, including a 3-pointer, during the pivotal run while Lonnie Walker contributed four free throws.

The Hurricanes led by double digits the entire second half as their lead grew to as many as 21.

Miami shot 49.1 percent (27 of 55) from the floor, 5 of 14 from 3, and made 8 of 9 free throws while Pittsburgh shot 40.4 percent (19 of 47) from the field, 4 of 16 from 3, and 11 of 13 from the free-throw line.

The Hurricanes had 15 turnovers, but the Panthers had 19 and Miami outscored the Panthers 16-5 on points off turnovers.

# Defense, rebounding help UM to ACC-opening win at Pitt

**CaneSport.com**

**AP**

**Dec. 30, 2017**

Anthony Lawrence II scored 12 points, Ja'Quan Newton and Bruce Brown Jr. chipped in 11 points each and 15th-ranked Miami had little trouble with Pittsburgh in a 67-53 victory on Saturday.

Chris Lykes added 10 points for the balanced Hurricanes (12-1, 1-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) who overwhelmed the undersized and undermanned Panthers over the final 30 minutes to win their conference opener with ease.

The Hurricanes held Pitt (8-6, 0-1) to 40 percent shooting, outrebounded the Panthers 31-23 and forced 19 turnovers. Miami, playing its fifth straight road game over the last three weeks, hardly looked tired five days removed from a third-place finish in the Diamond Head Classic in Hawaii.

Shamuel Stevenson led the Panthers with 16 points and Jared-Wilson Frame had 13 points but Pitt had no answer for the bigger, more athletic and more experienced Hurricanes. Miami outscored the Panthers 40-28 in the paint and got to the rim regularly during a 13-1 run at the end of the first half that broke it open.

The Panthers came in having won seven of eight to give their massively overhauled roster a needed confidence boost. Yet all seven wins came against teams from one-bid conferences. The Hurricanes presented a significant step up in class, one Pitt was forced to take without senior forward Ryan Luther, who missed his fourth straight game with a foot injury.

Luther is Pitt's lone experienced post player. Still, the Panthers actually hung around for the first 13 minutes or so until the offensive issues that have dogged them at times against quality opponents resurfaced. Once the Hurricanes figured out they could get into the lane whenever they wanted, the Panthers offered little resistance.

Miami used a late surge to go up 30-19 at the half. Newton opened the second half with a runner, Brown hit consecutive layups and Ebu-ka Izundu followed with a dunk during a quick burst to start the second half that put the Hurricanes up 16 and Miami was never in trouble

again.

## BIG PICTURE

**Miami:** The Hurricanes look plenty comfortable on the road, a formula that should keep them in the ACC race well into March. Nearing the end of a stretch in which they play at home just once in six weeks, Miami's ability to play anywhere should bode well in arguably the nation's toughest conference.

**Pitt:** The Panthers are still searching for an offensive identity. Freshman point guard Marcus Carr has shown he can run the offense at times but Pitt is still prone to lengthy droughts that will make it difficult for them to be remotely competitive in the ACC if they can't get sorted out.

## UP NEXT

**Miami:** Visits Georgia Tech on Wednesday. The Hurricanes are 6-2 against the Yellow Jackets under coach Jim Larranaga.

**Pitt:** Travels to Louisville on Tuesday. The Panthers are 0-6 to the Cardinals since Louisville joined the ACC in 2014.

## GAME NOTES

### Team

- Miami leads the series with Pitt, 20-18, including 4-1 in ACC play. UM has won four straight against Pitt.

- Miami is 6-8 in ACC openers, including 4-3 under Jim Larrañaga.

- Miami ended the first half on a 13-1 run over the final 6:21 of the first half and did not allow a field goal over the final 7:34 of the opening stanza (8:31 spanning both halves). Pitt missed its final nine field-goal attempts of the half.

- Miami held Pitt scoreless for a span of 5:12 in the first half, the sixth time UM's has recorded a scoreless stretch of five-plus minutes.

- UM has limited nine of its 13 opponents to fewer than 60 points.

- Miami was 8-for-9 (.889) at the free-throw line, its best performance of the year.

- Pitt committed 19 turnovers, one shy of a season high for a Miami foe.

- Pitt's 19 first-half points are tied for the second-fewest allowed in the first by Miami this season.

- Miami blocked a season-high eight shots.

## Individual

- Anthony Lawrence II matched a career high with three blocks. He scored in double figures for the fifth time this season

- Freshman Chris Lykes scored 10 points, his third career game in double figures.

- Ja'Quan Newton scored 11 points and now has 995 career points.

- DJ Vasiljevic tied his previous best of two steals.



# Hurricanes freshman guard Lonnie Walker '100 percent' after injury scare

**Sun Sentinel**  
**David Furones**  
**Dec. 28, 2017**

University of Miami freshman guard Lonnie Walker told everyone he was all right in a tweet that followed an early exit against Middle Tennessee State on Monday night after an injury to his left knee.

Now we've heard it from his coach, too.

Jim Larranaga assured reporters Thursday that "he'll be 100 percent this weekend" as the 15th-ranked UM men's basketball team (12-1) kicks off its ACC schedule at Pittsburgh on Saturday.

"Lonnie is fine. I was just extra cautious the other night," Larranaga said after his McDonald's All-American sixth man played just five minutes and didn't return. "He could've played in the second half, but I wanted our doctors to look at him to be sure there wasn't going to be any issue. He was examined [Wednesday], and he's been given a clean bill of health."

Walker, the Hurricanes' fifth-leading scorer at 8.5 points per game and a potential lottery pick, was able to limp off the court on Monday night after apparently hurting his left knee, not the right one he had surgery on in July, as he landed awkwardly after leaping for a pass. UM ended up winning the third-place game of the Diamond Head Classic in Honolulu.

"I'm all good everyone," he tweeted later Monday night. "Now it's time for ACC."

Walker participated in a Thursday's practice, and Larranaga said he will play on Saturday. It's the third injury scare the prized freshman has had with UM.

Walker twisted his left ankle last month in a win against Florida A&M on Nov. 16, but didn't miss any time as he was on the floor for the Hurricanes' next game against La Salle in his hometown of Reading,

Penn. He also tore the meniscus in his right knee during his fourth summer workout with the Hurricanes in July, but had surgery and was available for UM's opener.

Earlier this month, Walker earned ACC Rookie of the Week honors after a 26-point, seven-

rebound (both career highs) performance against Boston University in his lone collegiate start.

Senior point guard Ja'Quan Newton believes Sunday's loss to New Mexico State and the ensuing double-digit deficit the team had to erase to beat MTSU will ultimately work as a positive as the Hurricanes get going in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

"Every team can't go undefeated. When we lost, we took it as a learning experience, and just wanted to bounce back from it," said Newton, who enters Sunday 16 points shy of 1,000 for his career. "For us to battle back like that and stay poised, I think it'll really get us ready for conference play."

Larranaga said Thursday that he wants to see sophomore guard Bruce Brown, who is averaging 11.1 points on 43 percent shooting, play more aggressively on offense.

"We thought Bruce was playing way too conservatively, and we let him know that at half-time of the New Mexico State game. He came out, was on the attack, made some buckets, got himself going," Larranaga said. "I think he's in a good position now mentally."

The other prized sophomore Larranaga coaches, forward Dewan Huell, has seen a major uptick in scoring this season, from 5.8 points per game as a freshman to now leading the team at 13.9.

"I think he is much more confident in his scoring ability," Larranaga said. "I'd like to see him rebound more because I know he's very capable of that."

Larranaga added that keeping opponents off the offensive glass will be a focus moving forward, after surrendering 14 offensive rebounds against New Mexico State and 15 second-chance points against Middle Tennessee State.

UM has three of its first four ACC games on the road, going to Georgia Tech on Wednesday, returning home Jan. 7 for Florida State and then playing at Clemson on Jan. 13.

# Walker good to go for Pitt; hoops looks to begin ACC play with win

**CaneSport.com**  
**Staff**  
**Dec. 28, 2017**

Coming off its first loss of the season Dec. 23 to New Mexico State in a Hawaii tournament, 63-54 - and following with a close victory against overmatched Middle Tennessee, 84-81, coach Jim Larranaga and the basketball team know there has to be a quick turnaround in level of play with ACC play beginning Dec. 30 at Pittsburgh.

"We had a chance to test ourselves and figure some things out," Larranaga said Thursday. "Hopefully it'll prepare us for our opening game against Pittsburgh."

"Pitt is young and talented and playing very well right now. They've won seven of their last eight games, are sharing the ball very well, are a well-balanced team."

So far the 11-1 Canes are outscoring opponents 75.5-59.0, with four players averaging scoring in double figures - Dewan Huell (13.9 PPG, 6.3 RPG), DJ Vasiljevic (11.5 PPG, 30 of 71 three-pointers made), Bruce Brown (11.1 PPG, 7.4 RPG, 4.5 APG) and Ja'Quan Newton (10.1 PPG, 2.9 APG).

Newton says coming off the team's first loss that "We're going to take it as a learning experience - every team can't go undefeated. ... We feel we got tested against New Mexico State and then against Middle Tennessee."

Lonnie Walker (8.5 PPG) was banged up last game but is good to go for the upcoming ACC run.

"Thank goodness it's right now kind of a non factor," Larranaga said. "He'll be 100 percent this weekend. ... He'll practice and play."

With conference play on tap now, Newton said "Conference play is a whole different ballgame. The competition is better, the way you prepare for teams is different. It's a big deal. And that's where all the fun begins."

Larranaga's take?

"Hopefully we're ready for the ACC race," he said. "We're going to find out quickly."

\* Looking at the New Mexico State loss, which came after a quick turnaround following the opening game to start the tournament in Hawaii, Newton said, "Playing that late at night the first game and trying to bounce back the next day was the most difficult for us. I felt we were exhausted from the game (the night before) and we couldn't sleep. We were waking up on East Coast time ... that was kind of difficult."

He added, "We don't make excuses, but we didn't play with any energy and that was a big factor - the time adjustment and things like that. ... We lost, take that one on the chin. They played the day before too, so it's not an excuse. But we definitely didn't play with energy and we have to come with more of an energy level than that."

\* Larranaga said he wants Brown to be more consistently aggressive in games.

"I think he's now in a good position mentally," Larranaga said. "He needs to be an all-conference player, what he was last year for many games - leading scorer, leading rebounder, leader in assists."

\* Larranaga says Huell "is now much more confident in his scoring ability" but that "I'd like to see him rebound more because I know he's capable of that."

Larranaga also said overall the team needs to rebound better.

"We're going to devote a lot of time in these next weeks to keeping people off the offensive boards because I thought that was our Achilles' heel this weekend," Larranaga said.

\* Asked to assess his own play this season, Newton said, "I love my play - I'm getting guys involved more, less turnovers. ... I love how I'm playing this year but it always can go to the next step, take it to the next level when conference play starts."

# SG Walker is Cleared, Will Play at Pittsburgh

**Inside The U**  
**Christopher Stock**  
**Dec. 28, 2017**

CORAL GABLES, Fla. -- Freshman shooting guard Lonnie Walker has been cleared by the training staff after suffering a knee injury in Monday's game against Middle Tennessee.

"Lonnie is fine," head coach Jim Larranaga said. "I was just extra cautious the other night. He could have played in the second half, but I wanted our doctors to look at him to be sure it wasn't going to be any issue and he was examined yesterday and has been given a clean bill of health."

Walker missed the second half of the game after injuring his left knee when he slipped upon receiving a pass, which initially concerned Larranaga.

"Lonnie Walker had (right) knee surgery and during the game when I saw him slip and his shoe came off his foot, what you don't want to do is if there is a very minor sprain or twist or what have you, to exasperate that by playing him a lot in the second half and then have it become, rather than a very minor issue, become a major issue. And thank goodness it's right now kind of a non-factor. I'm glad we were able to win the game and I'm glad I was able to rest him and give him a chance to recover so he'll be 100 percent this weekend."

He is expected to practice on Thursday morning and play Saturday (4 p.m., ACC Network) at Pittsburgh in the Hurricanes' ACC opener.

"Yes he'll practice and play," Larranaga said.

# Brown Leads No. 15 Miami to an 84-81 Win Over Middle Tennessee

**Inside The U**  
**Christopher Stock**  
**Dec. 25, 2017**

Bruce Brown scored 14 of his season-high 20 points in the second half and grabbed a team-high six rebounds to help the 15th-ranked Miami Hurricanes bounce back from their first loss of the season with an 84-81 win over Middle Tennessee in the third place game of the Diamond Head Classic in Honolulu, Hawaii on Monday night.

Dewan Huell led Miami in scoring with 21 points and Dejan Vasiljevic added 13 for the Hurricanes who were without reserve guard Lonnie Walker for the second half after sustaining a knee injury.

Miami (11-1) won two of three in Honolulu beating tournament host Hawaii 75-57 in the first game before falling 63-54 to New Mexico State in the semifinals dropping the Hurricanes from No. 6 to 15 in the AP Poll.

The Hurricanes have concluded their non-conference schedule and will begin ACC competition on Saturday (4 p.m., ACCN) at Pittsburgh.

Ebuka Izundu's dunk gave Miami a 50-45 lead with 12:17 left in the game, but Middle Tennessee responded with a 9-0 run and from there the teams remained close on the scoreboard.

Ja'Quan Newton and Brown made key plays down the stretch starting with Brown hitting a jumper with 2:42 left for a 72-69 lead.

After Middle Tennessee countered with a bucket, Newton drove the lane for a layup, drew a charge, and then found Dejan Vasiljevic in the corner for a 3-pointer for a 77-71 lead with 1:20 left giving the Hurricanes the cushion they needed for the win.

In addition to Brown's season-high 20 points and leading the team in rebounds, he also had three assists, two steals, and one block in 39 minutes.

Huell scored 21 points on 7-of-8 shooting from the floor and 7-of-8 shooting from the free-throw line. Newton added nine points and six assists, and Anthony Lawrence had nine points and five rebounds.

Middle Tennessee (8-4) was led by Nick King's game-high 28 points.

Middle Tennessee jumped out to a 19-6 lead to start the game with Miami making 2 of its first 8 shots with three turnovers.

Brown helped ignite the slow-starting Hurricanes with a pair of assists on drives to the basket. First, Brown found Rodney Miller underneath the basket for a dunk and then kicked out a pass to Chris Lykes for a 3 to cut the deficit to 20-17.

Vasiljevic sank a 3 from the left wing to give Miami its first lead of the game at 25-24.

Vasiljevic connected again from 3, this one from the top of the key, and Miami's lead had grown to 32-25 to cap a 12-1 run.

Moments later, Walker injured his left knee and did not return. Walker was injured on an awkward fall at the top of the key after receiving a pass in mid-air. He landed and then tried to make a move to his right, but lost his footing, and his shoe in the process resulting in a travel. He stayed on the ground and immediately motioned to the bench to have a trainer tend to him. He eventually limped off the court by a pair of teammates and went straight to the locker room.

Miami took a 34-29 lead into the break.

# New Mexico State Knocks Off No. 6 Miami in Hawaii

**Associated Press**

**Kalani Takase**

**Dec. 24, 2017**

HONOLULU

Buoyed by a staunch defensive effort and gritty play down the stretch, New Mexico State got a defining win for the program.

Zach Lofton scored 15 points and the Aggies knocked off No. 6 Miami 63-54 in the Diamond Head Classic semifinals Saturday night.

New Mexico State (11-2) beat a ranked team for the first time in 10 seasons and handed the Hurricanes (10-1) their first loss, leaving Villanova, Arizona State and TCU the lone undefeated Division I teams in the country.

Lofton had nine rebounds and three assists, and AJ Harris and Sidy N'Dir had 10 points apiece for New Mexico State.

"We don't get many opportunities like this to play highly-ranked teams on a neutral court," coach Chris Jans said. "And when you have those opportunities you've got to take full advantage of it and I couldn't be more proud of the group of guys than I am right now."

New Mexico State took the lead for good with 3:43 left in the first half on a baseline drive by Johnathon Wilkins to make it 23-21.

"We talked, in our timeouts, about having that same mindset," Jans said. "Even though we were leading, to continue to defend and rebound like we were behind and to play with a sense of urgency and to not relax and I think the fellas kind of rallied around that."

Miami cut it to 54-53 on Bruce Brown Jr.'s two free throws with 1:25 remaining, but Lofton made a deep 3-pointer from the right wing to make it a two-possession game.

"It just came down to toughness," Lofton said. "Our team showed toughness."

DJ Vasiljevic led Miami with 15 points, Brown had 13 and Dewan Huell 10.

"What we told the team before the game was (the Aggies) sometimes make difficult shots and don't be surprised if they do it," Miami coach Jim Larranaga said. "It's not an accident

if they do it, (because) they do that from time to time. Unfortunately, it was at critical times, when we were starting to make a run and there's nothing you can do about that."

The Hurricanes led by seven during the first half.

New Mexico State led at halftime 29-25 in the first meeting between the schools.

**BIG PICTURE**

New Mexico State: It was the Aggies' first win over a ranked opponent since March 3, 2007, when they beat then-No. 13 Nevada 80-73. They had lost their last 18 games against ranked opponents until Saturday.

Miami: The Hurricanes were held to one of their poorest shooting performances this season. They shot just 34 percent from the field (18 of 53), well below their season average of 49.6 percent. They entered averaging 76.8 points per game.

**STAT OF THE NIGHT**

Miami was a dismal 2-of-18 shooting (11.1 percent) from 3-point range, with the lone makes coming from Vasiljevic. The Hurricanes entered the game shooting at a 38.6-percent clip from beyond the arc.

**AN UNHAPPY MEMORY**

Saturday marked the 35th anniversary of Division-II Chaminade's upset of then-No. 1 Virginia, which took place in Honolulu. Larranaga, an assistant on the Cavaliers staff at the time, was asked what he remembers from the game.

"What I remember is we were the No. 1 team in the country and we had Ralph Sampson," Larranaga said. "We had just beaten Georgetown with Patrick Ewing and Houston with Hakeem Olajuwon and we came here and the game was called the greatest upset in college basketball history and still thirty-five years later people are bringing it up to me, so it's not a great memory for me, but I'm sure it is to Chaminade and the people on the island."

**UP NEXT**

New Mexico State will try to make it five straight wins when it faces Southern California

for the tournament title Monday.

Miami looks to get back into the win column against Middle Tennessee in the third-place game Monday.

## No. 6 Miami Suffers First Loss, Upset By New Mexico State 63-54

**Inside The U**  
**Christopher Stock**  
**Dec. 24, 2017**

Dejan Vasiljevic scored 15 points to lead the No. 6 Miami Hurricanes, who suffered their first loss of the season falling 63-54 to unranked New Mexico State in the semifinals of the Diamond Head Classic in Honolulu, Hawaii on Saturday night.

Bruce Brown added 13 points, all in the second half, and Dewan Huell had 10 points and nine rebounds for the Hurricanes, who shot a season-low 34.0 percent (18 of 53) from the floor.

Miami (10-1) will face Middle Tennessee (8-3) in the third place game on Monday (8:30 p.m., ESPN).

New Mexico State (11-2) beat a top 10 team for the first time since Jan. 8, 1990 when they beat No. 7 UNLV 83-82. The Aggies were led by Zach Lofton's 15 points.

Miami jumped out to an 13-6 lead to start the game, but New Mexico State battled back to tie the game at 15 behind eight consecutive missed shots by Miami. New Mexico State continued to keep Miami from getting into a rhythm throughout the half taking a 29-25 lead into halftime behind forcing the Hurricanes into committing 11 turnovers by eight different players.

Brown, who had scored just seven points in his last two games, looked to put his offensive woes behind him and came out of the locker room with a sense of urgency scoring eight points in the first 3 minutes, 28 seconds for a 38-36 lead.

Less than two minutes later Brown struck again with a layup at the 15:00 mark, but then missed four shots from the floor the rest of the game scoring just three free throws.

New Mexico State's Shunn Buchanan hit his only shot of the game, a 3-pointer, to give the Aggies a 47-40 lead with 9:48 left. It was the Aggies' largest lead of the game at the time.

Miami went on an 8-0 burst behind two free throws by Anthony Lawrence, a dunk by Huell, a layup by Ja'Quan Newton, and a jumper by Huell to cut the deficit to 52-51 with 2:08 left,

but were not able to take the lead.

Keyon Jones grabbed an offensive board after a block by Lawrence and followed with a layup for a 54-51 lead. Brown responded on the ensuing possession by drawing a foul and hitting a pair of free throws to pull Miami back within a point at 54-53 with 1:25 left.

Lofton, who came into the game averaging 19.5 points a game, had been struggling with his shot, but connected from long range when it mattered most. His 3 extended the lead to 57-53 and then Miami's Chris Lykes fumbled the ball out of bounds for a costly turnover resulting in a layup by AJ Harris essentially sealing the win for New Mexico State.

Miami struggled on offense, especially the guards outside of Vasiljevic. Miami's other four guards of Brown, Newton, Lykes, and Lonnie Walker combined to make 5 of 28 shots with six turnovers and one assist.

The Hurricanes will look to bounce back against Middle Tennessee, which is 3-2 against top 100 teams this season while Miami is 1-1. Middle Tennessee is coming off an 89-84 loss to USC.

# Newton Helps No. 6 Miami Pull Away From Hawaii in Second Half

**Inside The U**  
**Christopher Stock**  
**Dec. 23, 2017**

Ja'Quan Newton scored a season-high 16 points to help the No. 6 Miami Hurricanes pull away in the second half for a 75-57 win at Hawaii in the first round of the Diamond Head Classic early Saturday morning.

Dewan Huell also scored 16 points and Anthony Lawrence chipped in 11 as all eight players scored for the Hurricanes.

Miami (10-0) advances to the semifinals to face New Mexico State (10-2) in a quick turnaround later on Saturday (10 p.m., ESPN2).

The game began at 1:21 a.m. Eastern time, 8:21 in Honolulu, with a crowd of 7,669 on hand to see the tournament hosts face the only ranked team in the field.

Hawaii (7-3) battled through the first half leading by as many as four points and went into halftime tied at 33. The Rainbow Warriors had a slight edge in the second half with Miami trailing for the first time this season after the break.

But then the Hurricanes put together large runs to propel them to the win.

Dejan Vasiljevic hit a 3, Huell had a dunk, and Bruce Brown drilled a 3 as part of an 11-1 run to build a 48-38 lead.

The lead was cut to 48-44 after a 3 by Leland Green, but the Hurricanes responded once again with a 9-0 burst for a 57-44 lead with 10:50 left.

Miami's lead grew to as many as 20 as Hawaii was unable to get within single digits the rest of the way.

Newton and Huell both scored 10 of their 16 points in the second half as the team combined for 8-for-10 shooting.

Miami shot a blistering 69.6 percent (16 of 23) in the second half including making 4 of 6 from behind the arc and finished the game shooting 52.6 percent (30 of 57) from the field.

The Hurricanes also shot well from the free-

throw line making 10 of 13 (76.9 percent) after entering the game as the second-worst in the country at a 57.9 clip.

Brown was held to just four points on 1-of-4 shooting and has scored just seven points (2 for 10) in two games since returning from a finger injury on his non-shooting hand. Brown did have a team-high eight assists and grabbed five rebounds in 32 minutes.

Miami led 10-2 lead to begin the game, but Hawaii responded to take an 18-14 lead with the crowd on its side.

Lonnie Walker hit Miami's first 3 of the game and the only one of the first half for a 26-22 lead, but was hit with a technical foul for taunting the Hawaii bench.

The Rainbow Warriors took full advantage of the technical hitting both free throws and converting a three-point play for a 27-26 lead.

Walker immediately atoned for his mistake responding with a three-point play of his own on a driving layup and then moments later delivered a one-handed, no-look pass to Ebuka Izundu, who slammed home a forceful one-handed dunk over a defender for a highlight-reel play and a 31-29 lead.

The teams went into the break tied at 33.



# How good is the sixth-ranked UM basketball team? We're about to find out

**Miami Herald**  
**Michelle Kaufman**  
**Dec. 22, 2017**

They're ranked No. 6 in the nation, the highest December ranking in school history. They're undefeated at 9-0, one of just four unbeaten teams left, and spending the next few days in Hawaii. So far, it's been a great season for the University of Miami men's basketball team.

But Coach Jim Larrañaga says it is far too early to know how good the Hurricanes really are. He will have a much better idea in a few weeks, after the new year, depending on how the Canes get through a six-game consecutive road swing that began last week at George Washington and continues with this weekend's Diamondhead Classic in Honolulu.

After the tournament opener against host University of Hawaii (1 a.m. Saturday), the Canes play Davidson or New Mexico State on Saturday, and another game Sunday, potentially against USC. Then, it's off to Pittsburgh to open the Atlantic Coast Conference schedule on Dec. 30, followed by a Jan. 3 game at Georgia Tech.

Miami's next home game is Jan. 7 against Florida State.

"We don't come back to the Watsco Center until like January 7, that's a month away from home," Larrañaga said, asked if this is the most talented team he's had at Miami. "You find out a lot more about yourself on the road, not just for one game like we played in Minnesota, but we've got ... Hawaii on their home court, then two neutral-site games. Then [we are] at Pittsburgh, at Georgia Tech. That's a lot of games in a short period of time all away from home.

"We're going to know a lot more about ourselves around the middle of January. ... I think we play Clemson on [Jan.] 13 and Duke on the 15. If that's the case, ask me this question on January 16."

One thing that is certain is the Hurricanes have balanced scoring — five players in double figures — and are playing tenacious defense. They rank No. 2 in the nation in scoring defense (56.3 points allowed per game) and field goal percentage defense (34.7 percent). Going into the Hawaii game, their average margin of victory was 20.7 points this season.

"I love the numbers, but I always study video. And if you do something correctly seven times and you do it poorly three times, you're not so much focused on the seven times you did it correctly, you're focused on the three things and asking yourself why didn't we do it correctly every time," Larrañaga said.

Sophomore Dewan Huell, having a breakout season, leads UM with 13.3 points per game and is averaging 6.3 rebounds. DJ Vasiljevic, the Australian sophomore sharpshooter, averages 11.8 points, and sophomore Bruce Brown is adding 10.6 points and a team-high 7.9 rebounds per game. Freshmen Lonnie Walker IV and Chris Lykes have made a big impact already, and will be counted on big-time once the ACC season gets started.

# No. 6 Miami Heavy Favorites to Win Tournament in Hawaii

**Inside The U**  
**Christopher Stock**  
**Dec. 22, 2017**

**CORAL GABLES, Fla.** – The sixth-ranked Miami Hurricanes are the only ranked team in the Diamond Head Classic in Honolulu, Hawaii, which begins play on Friday.

Miami (9-0) opens against tournament host Hawaii (7-2) on Saturday (1 a.m. ET, ESPNU) and will play three games in the eight-team tournament concluding on Dec. 25.

It will be just the second game for Miami since Dec. 5 as they won at George Washington 59-50 on Dec. 16. Dewan Huell led the Hurricanes with 15 points and 12 rebounds for his second double-double of the season.

Bruce Brown returned from a one-game absence due to a finger injury on his left hand, but was ineffective scoring three points in 38 minutes.

Freshman Lonnie Walker posted his second consecutive double-digit scoring effort with 13 points after scoring a season-high 26 against Boston University.

Senior forward Mike Thomas leads Hawaii averaging 12.6 points and 6.8 rebounds a game. Hawaii has won three straight after losing at Utah 80-60.

The Miami-Hawaii winner will play the winner of Davidson (4-4) and New Mexico State (9-2) on Saturday (10 p.m., ESPN2). The losers will play on Sunday (12:30 a.m., ESPNU).

USC (6-4), Akron (6-2), Middle Tennessee (7-2), and Princeton (5-6) round out the tournament field, which has a combined record of 37-20 outside of the Hurricanes and no other team was one of the 42 which received a vote in the latest AP Poll.

Some of the teams in the field have already played each other this season including Miami over Princeton 80-52 on Dec. 2 and Princeton beating USC 103-93 on Dec. 19.

# No. 6 Miami stays undefeated, downs GW 59-50

**Associated Press**  
**Benjamin Standig**  
**Dec. 16, 2017**

WASHINGTON – Miami coach Jim Larranaga is staying on the Hurricanes while they keep piling up wins.

Dewan Huell had 15 points and 12 rebounds, and No. 6 Miami used a fast start to beat George Washington 59-50 on Saturday.

One of six remaining unbeaten teams in Division 1 entering the weekend, the Hurricanes (9-0) ripped off 13 of the game's first 15 points on their way to a 21-point lead. The scrappy Colonials pulled within seven with 13:53 remaining, but the rally fizzled down the stretch.

George Washington (5-6) outrebounded the bigger Hurricanes 44-39, but shot 18.5 percent (5 for 27) from the field in the first half and 30.2 percent overall. Miami ranks second nationally in scoring defense and field goal defense.

"I thought our defense in the first half was really outstanding," Larranaga said. "I thought in the second half our defense on the first shot was pretty good, but they offensive rebound like crazy."

Jair Bolden had 13 points and Terry Nolan Jr. scored 10 for the Colonials, who used a 17-3 run overlapping halftime to cut Miami's lead to 35-28.

Asked about the key to preventing George Washington from getting closer, Huell said: "Not let them get multiple opportunities at the rim or off the offensive glass."

Seated next to his leading scorer, Larranaga chimed in. "Yeah, they only got 17 (offensive rebounds)," he said.

Arnaldo Toro had 13 rebounds — four offensive — for the Colonials.

"We started the first half a little bit slow," Toro said. "We were able to pick that up."

Playing its first game since Dec. 5, Miami shot 41 percent from the field, including a 5-for-21 day from beyond the arc. The Hurricanes made at least half of their field-goal attempts in seven of their first eight games.

Lonnie Walker IV had 13 points for Miami, which is 9-0 for the first time since the 2007-08 team opened the season with 12 consecutive wins.

The matchup wrapped up a home-and-home series. Miami won 72-64 last season.

"I felt great coming into the game, confident — and then you go 5 for 27 in the first half and miss a bunch of open shots," Colonials coach Maurice Joseph said. "That's how it's going to be sometimes, but our guys are starting to realize their potential if we start games the way we talk about starting games."

## INJURIES

Bruce Brown Jr. started for Miami after missing the previous game with a left-hand injury.

"I was surprised he played today," Larranaga said. "We were told it would be three weeks. Bruce came after a week and said I don't want to sit out."

Permission from the team doctors soon followed. The Hurricanes' third-leading scorer and assist leader had three points on 1-of-6 shooting with three assists.

## ROAD WARRIORS

With a neutral site tournament in Hawaii during Christmas Week and two ACC road games also coming up, Miami will not play at home again until Jan. 7 against Florida State.

## HAPPY HOMECOMING

Larranaga spent 14 years in the D.C. area as head coach at George Mason and famously led the Patriots to the 2006 Final Four.

## BIG PICTURE

The Hurricanes have yet to trail in the second half this season.

The Colonials fell to 0-2 against ranked teams this season.

## UP NEXT

The Hurricanes venture outside the U.S. mainland for the Diamond Head Classic in Hawaii. They open the tournament on Friday against Hawaii, followed by a matchup Saturday against either Davidson or New Mexico State. George Washington hosts New Hampshire on Friday.

# Freshman Chris Lykes turning heads, looking forward to DC homecoming

## Sun Sentinel

Christy Cabrera Chirinos

Dec. 15, 2017

At 6-foot-11 and 220 pounds, Hurricanes forward Dewan Huell — a former McDonald's All-American — looks every bit the typical college basketball player.

The freshman teammate he's been guarding this week in practice, however, still seems to turn heads every time he takes the floor, the 5-foot-7, 160-pound Chris Lykes often standing inches shorter than most opponents he faces.

What Huell and those opponents have learned quickly is that the dynamic Lykes has speed, athleticism and a skill set that made him a coveted prospect at Gonzaga College High School in Washington, D.C.

Eventually, it was No. 6 Miami that beat out the likes of top-ranked Villanova and hometown Georgetown to secure Lykes' commitment. And this weekend, it's likely few in the gym will be surprised when they see him play as the Hurricanes travel to face George Washington on Saturday at noon in the nation's capital.

"He's a pretty hard guy to guard," Huell said with a laugh this week. "Chris is quick, so you fall back a second and he can just launch his shot and it's going in. He creates separation a lot of the time and gets his shots off a lot."

Like Huell, Miami coach Jim Larrañaga can't stop raving about what Lykes — who is averaging 7.1 points and 16.6 minutes per game — has done in his short time on campus.

With sophomore Bruce Brown sidelined because of a hand injury, Lykes and fellow freshman Lonnie Walker IV have seen both of their minutes increase. The pair has delivered.

Against then 12th-ranked Minnesota on the road, Lykes came off the bench to spark the Hurricanes with 10 points and a season-best three steals. He started the second half and helped Miami go on a 9-2 run en route to the eventual 86-81 win.

Lykes had a career-high 13 points in the Hurricanes' 90-59 win over Florida A&M, has connected on at least one 3-pointer in seven of Miami's eight games and is shooting 43 percent

from beyond the arc.

Early on, he's been everything Larrañaga has hoped.

"Chris Lykes has a dynamic game, meaning his speed, quickness, jumping ability. If he were 6-5 or 6-6, he'd be Michael Jordan," Larrañaga said. "That's how dynamic he is. But he can impact the game. And it doesn't really matter the size of your height. It's the size of your heart in terms of what you're capable of doing with your talent.

"With his talent, he needs to be a nuisance on defense and he needs to push the tempo on offense. He needs to look for his 3-point shots, but he also needs to look to penetrate and pitch. He's capable of doing those things."

Lykes wouldn't mind doing all of that Saturday, when he expects friends, family members and former high school teammates will be present to watch him and the Hurricanes (8-0) take on the Colonials (5-5).

While Larrañaga has often tried to make sure the Hurricanes visit the hometowns of most of their out-of-state players — Miami, for example played a game in Walker's hometown of Reading, Pa., earlier this year — Lykes had no idea he'd have the chance to play at home when he signed with the Hurricanes.

The game against George Washington proved a pleasant surprise when he saw Miami's schedule earlier this year. And he's expecting it to be a meaningful experience, especially after seeing what it meant to fellow freshman Walker when the Hurricanes played La Salle in Reading.

"It just shows that I really have coaches that do care about me," Lykes said. "They want to see me go home and play in front of a lot of the people I've played in front of for a while. It's going to be a great atmosphere. GW has a really good fan base and it's going to be a good game. They're going to play hard. We just have to come out prepared and ready to play."

# With hard work, Huell's offensive game big boost for undefeated UM

**CaneSport.com**  
**Staff**  
**Dec. 15, 2017**

Dewan Huell estimates he spent six hours a day this off-season working on his offensive game.

Think it's paid off?

Huell went from averaging 5.8 points per game a year ago (with 15 starts) to 13.1 for this 8-0 Cane team ranked No. 6 in the nation.

And his field goals made percentage is now 65.2 compared to 53.1 his freshman year.

The former five-star McDonald's All-American is really starting to round out his game, helping Miami achieve its best ranking since No. 5 in 2013.

But Huell says players aren't satisfied.

"Being ranked No. 6 is a lot of pressure - we have to go out and show them we (deserve it)," Huell said. "So it's a lot of pressure on us now."

The scariest part about it, at least for opponents? Huell says the Canes have a much higher ceiling than what they've showed.

"We're not even close yet, to be honest," Huell said. "The things we're capable of doing haven't been shown yet."

Huell says he ... and the team ... is working hard to continue improving.

"Our goal is every practice to go over mistakes from previous games and not repeat the same mistakes," he said. "We're watching the ball too much, are ball watching, giving up too many offensive rebound and we know that can kill us."

"Ball watching," as he calls it, caused him to start the second half on the bench last game.

"I knew from the time I missed that rebound that I wasn't going to start - I know the type of coach that coach L (Jim Larranaga) is, and I deserved that, I never should have been ball watching," Huell said. "I'm one of the leaders on the team, and I can't let that happen."

\* Huell says a personal focus moving forward is to rebound better - he currently averages 5.6 rebounds per game.

\* The team is on the road until Jan. 7, when FSU comes to town.

"We kind of owe them from last year," Huell said. "Hopefully we bring out a good crowd when we come back here and play." He adds that "I like how coach L has set up for us to go on the road a whole month to test our team, see how we respond to it."

\* Huell is wearing a custom-made facemask in practices after he was elbowed in the nose last game.

He says it's "pretty uncomfortable" and he believes he will not need to wear it in games.

Why wear it only in practice?

Because he says UM practices are "pretty aggressive."

# This freshman is so good, Canes coach say if he were '6-6, he'd be Michael Jordan'

**Miami Herald**  
**Michelle Kaufman**  
**Dec. 14, 2017**

Shakey Rodriguez, the Miami high school basketball coaching legend, vividly remembers the first time Chris Lykes caught his attention.

It was late December 2015, and Rodriguez was in the Ronald Reagan High gym watching the Jr. Orange Bowl Classic, a holiday tournament that draws teams from out of state. Also in the bleachers that day was University of Miami coach Jim Larrañaga.

"Coach L walks up to me during layup lines in pregame and says, 'Guess who I'm here recruiting?'" Rodriguez recalled. "So, I point to a 6-8 kid, and he says, 'Nope.' I point to another tall kid. He says, 'Nope.' I point to six or seven guys. He keeps shaking his head. Then I say, 'Don't tell me it's the little fella.' Coach L smiled, and said, 'Yup.'

"One quarter into the game, I turned to Coach L and said, 'The little fella is pretty darned good.' He couldn't have been taller than 5-6, but he was the most dominant and impactful kid out there."

That little fella from Washington, D.C., is now a freshman point guard for the undefeated sixth-ranked Hurricanes (8-0) heading into Saturday's road game at George Washington University, in Lykes' hometown.

And, he's still little — generously listed at 5-7 and 160 pounds.

But what Lykes lacks in size he makes up for in skill, speed, and heart, which is why his suitors included Villanova, Georgetown, Notre Dame, and Stanford. It is why during that high school holiday tournament, Lykes' Gonzaga Prep team beat Coral Gables High 81-47, beat Gulliver 91-65 and knocked off Miami High 82-49 in the final.

"Chris Lykes has a dynamic game, meaning his speed, quickness, and jumping ability," Larrañaga said. "If he were 6-5 or 6-6, he'd be Michael Jordan. That's how dynamic he is."

Before the season began, Larrañaga told Miami reporters that they were "in for a treat" with Lykes. The freshman quickly proved his coach

right with his breakneck speed, shooting ability and energy. When he comes off the bench, it's impossible not to notice him, not only because he's the smallest man on the court, but because he makes such an impact on the pace of the game. He is averaging 7 points and 1.6 assists per game.

"It doesn't matter your height, what matters is the size of your heart in terms of what you're capable of doing with your talent," Larrañaga said. "With his talent, he needs to be a nuisance on defense, and he needs to push the tempo on offense. He needs to look for his three-point shots, but also look to penetrate and pitch. He's very capable of doing that."

Larrañaga said he had "no reservations whatsoever" about taking a player Lykes' size. He has always had a place in his heart for players others consider undersized, which is why he was so high on Shane Larkin and Angel Rodriguez, both of whom led the Canes to the Sweet 16.

"When you've played and coached college basketball as long as I have, you have a lot of experience of comparing players to other players; and the comparisons are never exact, but there was a guard, Calvin Murphy, who was 5-9, that's eight inches shorter than me, and there's no way I could guard the guy," Larrañaga said. "I had to coach against Earl Boykins and Muggsy Bogues, and there was nothing we could do to stop those guys. And in Muggsy Bogues' case, he's 5-foot-3. Chris towers over him."

Ever since he was 8, Lykes has been hearing he's too short for basketball.

"Nobody's told me directly to my face, but I've heard people say, especially when I walk on the court, I can hear it, guys joking, 'What is he, one of the trainers? Team manager?'" Lykes said. "But I just try to show my game. I knew I was going to be small my whole life. No reason to complain about it, just make the best you can of it. I wasn't going to let anyone tell me no. It just built a fire inside me, motivation. I want to show you I can be on the court."

Lykes set the Gonzaga Prep career scoring record with 2,266 points. As a senior, he averaged 17.6 points and 4.2 assists. He was named All-Met Player of the Year, and ESPN rated him the 12th-best point guard prospect in the na-

tion. He fell in love with the Hurricanes during their 2012-13 Sweet 16 run, and paid special note to how often they ran the pick and roll for undersized guard Larkin.

"When Coach L was recruiting me, he told me height really doesn't matter. He doesn't see it as a disadvantage," Lykes said. "He has proof to back that up, with guards like Angel and Shane Larkin. Those were really good guards here, and the impact they made in his offense, I saw that and thought I can do the same thing."



# Larranaga, Hurricanes taking highest-ever December ranking in stride

**Sun Sentinel**  
**Christy Cabrera Chirinos**  
**Dec. 13, 2017**

The Hurricanes have opened the season with eight consecutive wins — including an 86-81 victory over previously unbeaten Minnesota on the road — and have jumped to their highest-ever December ranking in the Associated Press Top 25 at No 6.

But with conference play still looming and a six-game road trip coming, Miami men's basketball coach Jim Larranaga and his players acknowledge it's too early in the season to determine the validity of that ranking. They all see the Hurricanes' potential but know the biggest tests will come over the course of the next few weeks.

"We don't come back to the Watsco Center until like January 7. That's a month away from home. You find out a lot more about yourself on the road, not just for one game like we played in Minnesota, but [now] we've got George Washington, then Hawaii on their home court, then two neutral-site games. Then [we're] at Pittsburgh, at Georgia Tech. That's a lot of games in a short period of time all away from home," Larranaga responded Tuesday when asked if he felt this was his most talented team at Miami, where he's coached since the 2011-12 season. "We're going to know a lot more about ourselves around the middle of January. ... I think we play Clemson on [January] 13 and Duke on the 15. If that's the case, ask me this question on January 16."

Added freshman Chris Lykes: "It's going to be intense. Every play matters and we have to make sure we're giving 100 percent. After that, whatever happens, we'll be OK with the results as long as we're giving 100 percent. ... We're going to have to stay focused, [play with] poise down the stretch."

Although the Hurricanes have posted some impressive numbers in those eight wins — Miami is ranked second in the nation in both scoring defense (57.1) and field-goal percentage defense (35.3) — Larranaga says he wants to continue seeing improvement on the defensive end, particularly because some of the Hurricanes' lapses through their first eight games have come in situations he believes he and his staff have prepared Miami to handle.

"I love the numbers, but I always study video. And if you do something correctly seven times and you do it poorly three times, you're not so much focused on the seven times you did it correctly, you're focused on the three things and asking yourself why didn't we do it correctly every time," he said. "We showed the players video [Monday] of defensive breakdowns when we did not do what we planned on doing, things that if they weren't capable of doing it every time you'd say, 'That's just a tough play,' but these are things we could do every single time down the floor if the guys are focused and playing correctly."

Here, a few more updates from Larranaga as the Hurricanes prepare to take on George Washington on Saturday...

**On the status of Bruce Brown, who has been sidelined with a hand injury and is expected back in the lineup by month's end:**

"Bruce wants to practice and play. He doesn't want to be injured. He doesn't want to be sitting out. He asked if he could play [Monday] in practice. We've told him it's up to our trainers and doctors to make that decision and he'll get the green light when they say so."

**On whether Brown's absence has helped some of the younger players, including freshman Lonnie Walker IV, who had 26 points against Boston University after starting in place of Brown:**

"I think any time someone's role changes, in Lonnie's case, he moved from coming in off the bench to being the starter and he played really well, that helps his confidence. And also, it earns him a lot of respect from his teammates and coaches. You score 26 points in a college basketball game, that's saying a lot. There are a lot of guys that go through their entire career and will never score 26 points in a game."

**On the progress of freshman Chris Lykes:**

"Is he everything I told you? ... Chris Lykes has a dynamic game, meaning his speed, quickness, jumping ability, if he were 6-5 or 6-6, he'd be Michael Jordan. That's how dynamic he is. But he can impact the game. And it doesn't really matter the size of your height. It's the size of your heart in terms of what you're capable of doing with your talent. With his talent, he needs to be a nuisance on defense and he

needs to push the tempo on offense. He needs to look for his 3-point shots, but he also needs to look to penetrate and pitch. And he's capable of doing all those things."

**On scheduling games in Reading, Pennsylvania and Washington, DC, the hometowns of Walker and Lykes:**

"In the recruiting process, you're trying to connect with a young man and his family in some way. Normally, the connections are very, very simple stuff — like us bringing the team to Reading, Pennsylvania. To others, that might be a big deal, but to us, it's just kind of business as normal. And we did that for Rion Brown, we took our team to Savannah, to play in front of his hometown, friends and family. We played in New York. Kamari Murphy and Rodney Miller are from New York. We're going to be playing in Boston against Boston College, so Bruce [Brown] will get a chance to play back home. So for Chris and Lonnie, it's just a statement to them and to their families that coming to the University of Miami, we're going to do everything possible to make you enjoy your career and keep your family very seriously involved."

**On LiAngelo and LaMelo Ball bypassing college basketball to start professional careers in Lithuania:**

"I think they'll be back before the end of the year. I've had players who have played in Lithuania. It's a phenomenal league, not the league they're playing in, [but] the highest level is incredible basketball and some of the best players in the world. The league they're playing in is several steps below and yet still, knowing what coaching is like in those countries, it'll be a dramatic difference from what those young men are used to. The lifestyle will be so different from what they're used to. My only hopes and thoughts would be, their dad needs to go with them. I don't know if he will, but you can't send them over and have them live by themselves. It just would not be healthy for them." The Hurricanes have opened the season with eight consecutive wins — including an 86-81 victory over previously unbeaten Minnesota on the road — and have jumped to their highest-ever December ranking in the Associated Press Top 25 at No 6.

But with conference play still looming and a six-game road trip coming, Miami men's basketball coach Jim Larranaga and his players acknowledge it's too early in the season to



# PF Huell Embracing Coaching, Aiming for Improvements

**Inside The U**  
**Christopher Stock**  
**Dec. 13, 2017**

CORAL GABLES, Fla. – Miami's leading scorer Dewan Huell was not rebounding at a high level in Miami's last game against Boston University and was benched to start the second half.

"I didn't think Dewan was rebounding like he's capable of rebounding," head coach Jim Larranaga said. "He didn't finish a couple of plays that I think he should have finished. You're kind of always as a coach trying to reinforce messages. You tell a kid something, he doesn't do it, eventually you've got to wake him up a little bit and say, 'Hey we've got other guys if you're not going to rebound. We'll put someone else in who hopefully will.'"

Huell took the decision in stride.

"I knew from the time that when I missed that rebound and I wasn't going to start (the second half)," Huell said. "I know the type of coach, Coach L is and I deserved that. I never shouldn't have been ball-watching. I'm one of the leaders on the team and I can't let that happen."

Huell had one point and three rebounds at the break as Miami was out-rebounded 19-15 with the score tied at 30.

Ebuka Izundu took his place to start the second half before Huell finished the game with a season-low six points and six rebounds in 20 minutes with Miami pulling away for a 69-54 win improving the 6th-ranked Hurricanes' record to 8-0.

Despite his performance against Boston U, Larranaga said, "Dewan's still playing really well."

It was not the first time a starter has been benched to start the second half this season by Larranaga. It was actually the third time as Bruce Brown and Dejan Vasiljevic have also begun the second half on the bench.

Huell began the season averaging 7.2 rebounds in the first five games, but has averaged just 3.0 over the last three dropping his season average down to 5.6, which is third on the team.

"Slowly I'm falling off right now, but I'm watch-

ing a lot of film and working on positioning to get my rebounds back up," Huell said.

Huell leads the team in scoring at 13.1 points per game and is shooting 65.2 percent from the field, which is tied for 18th nationally among qualifiers, and second in the ACC only behind Clemson's Donte Grantham at 66.7.

Huell and the Hurricanes have not played since the Dec. 5 game against Boston U and have been utilizing a 10-day break in between games to work on improving in various areas.

"Our goal every practice is to go over our mistakes from previous games and not repeat the same mistakes when the games come," Huell said. "We're watching the ball too much. We're ball-watching and giving up too many offensive rebounds and we know that can kill us giving a team so many possessions in a game."

The Hurricanes are 8-0 and are ranked sixth, but still have improvements to make.

"We're not even close yet (to our ceiling), to be honest," Huell said. "The things I think we're capable of doing, we haven't been showing yet."

Miami returns to action Saturday (12 p.m., CBS Sports Network) at George Washington to begin a stretch of six games away from home.

"I like the idea that Coach L set-up to go on the road for a whole month just to test our team, to see how we respond to it," Huell said. "(I want to see) us getting better as a team because being ranked sixth is a lot of pressure. We've got to go out there and show them we should be ranked No. 6."

Miami's next home game is Jan. 7 against No. 19 Florida State, which knocked off Miami in both meetings last season.

"When we come back here we've got our rivalry game against Florida State and we kind of owe them from last year," Huell said. "Hopefully we bring out a good crowd when we come back in here and play."

# With hard work, Huell's offensive game big boost for undefeated UM

**CaneSport.com**  
**Staff**  
**Dec. 13, 2017**

Dewan Huell estimates he spent six hours a day this off-season working on his offensive game.

Think it's paid off?

Huell went from averaging 5.8 points per game a year ago (with 15 starts) to 13.1 for this 8-0 Cane team ranked No. 6 in the nation.

And his field goals made percentage is now 65.2 compared to 53.1 his freshman year.

The former five-star McDonald's All-American is really starting to round out his game, helping Miami achieve its best ranking since No. 5 in 2013.

But Huell says players aren't satisfied.

"Being ranked No. 6 is a lot of pressure - we have to go out and show them we (deserve it)," Huell said. "So it's a lot of pressure on us now."

The scariest part about it, at least for opponents? Huell says the Canes have a much higher ceiling than what they've showed.

"We're not even close yet, to be honest," Huell said. "The things we're capable of doing haven't been shown yet."

Huell says he ... and the team ... is working hard to continue improving.

"Our goal is every practice to go over mistakes from previous games and not repeat the same mistakes," he said. "We're watching the ball too much, are ball watching, giving up too many offensive rebound and we know that can kill us."

"Ball watching," as he calls it, caused him to start the second half on the bench last game.

"I knew from the time I missed that rebound that I wasn't going to start - I know the type of coach that coach L (Jim Larranaga) is, and I deserved that, I never should have been ball watching," Huell said. "I'm one of the leaders on the team, and I can't let that happen."

\* Huell says a personal focus moving forward is to rebound better - he currently averages 5.6 rebounds per game.

\* The team is on the road until Jan. 7, when FSU comes to town.

"We kind of owe them from last year," Huell said. "Hopefully we bring out a good crowd when we come back here and play." He adds that "I like how coach L has set up for us to go on the road a whole month to test our team, see how we respond to it."

\* Huell is wearing a custom-made facemask in practices after he was elbowed in the nose last game.

He says it's "pretty uncomfortable" and he believes he will not need to wear it in games.

Why wear it only in practice?

Because he says UM practices are "pretty aggressive."

# No dunks needed: Diminutive Lykes helping hoops fly high

**CaneSport.com**  
**Staff**  
**Dec. 12, 2017**

Pretty much every practice diminutive freshman point guard Chris Lykes throws down a dunk.

In a game?

Not so much.

He just takes the easy two-point layup.

"A dunk gets the same number of points - I don't care if he ever dunks," coach Jim Larranaga says.

But it goes to the point that Lykes can do pretty much anything on the basketball court regardless of his listed 5-foot-7 height.

"Chris has a dynamic game, meaning his speed, quickness, jumping ability," Larranaga said. "If he were 6-5 or 6-6 he'd be Michael Jordan, that's how dynamic he is.

"He can impact the game, and it doesn't really matter the size of your height. It's really the size of your heart in terms of what you're capable of doing with your talent. With his talent he needs to be a nuisance on defense and push the tempo on offense."

Lykes, a freshman, has been a sparkplug off the bench for undefeated and sixth-ranked UM. He's averaging 7.1 points (13 of 30 three-pointers) and 1.6 assists in 16.6 minutes per game.

"I think we're a very good team," Lykes said. "We're a really good defensive team and when we push the tempo we're hard to stop because we have a lot of guys that can score, a lot of guys that can make plays. Once we gel together we'll be a really good team."

For his part, Lykes has displayed a knack for getting off shots against bigger opponents, and he's shown that to teammates on a regular basis.

"The other day he hit a deep trey in my face (in practice)," big man Dewan Huell said. "Then he talked smack, then smacked me on the back."

Lykes' next chance to make smack a team?

Back home against George Washington University on Saturday. Lykes said he's secured 10 tickets for family members for the game.

"It'll be a good time," he said. "I'll get out there with my guys in front of a lot of people I played in high school (with), a lot of people who will come support me. Basically trying to get the win. It's another game, but it's always good to play in front of your hometown fans, in front of your family.

"It'll be a whiteout for them. They're going to be amped up to play because we're a ranked team."

On Saturday Lykes will again go up against taller opponents.

Lykes is used to opponents looking down on him, literally and sometimes figuratively.

But size has never slowed him down, and he's proving that he's going to be tough to stop on this Hurricanes' team.

"I had a guard, Calvin Murphy, who was 5-9 - that's eight inches shorter than me, and there's no way I can guard the guy," Larranaga said. "I had to coach against Earl Boykins and Muggsy Bogues. There was nothing we could do to stop those guys from doing what they do. And in Bogues' case he's 5-3, Chris towers over him.

"Height is really not that big a factor."

Teammates agree.

Huell remembers the first time he saw Lykes play - it was in a high school game, and Huell didn't realize at first that it was Lykes playing point guard.

"When they said 'That's Chris Lykes,' I said 'Oh my God, that's a nice little guy right there,'" Huell said. "He's a pretty hard guy to guard. Chris is quick, and if you fall back he can just launch a shot and it's going in. He creates separation a lot of the time and gets his shots off."

So does Huell think fans will get to see Lykes dunk in a game?

"He does it all the time (in practice)," Huell said. "But I think he's mostly worried about getting two points instead of missing the dunk."

\* On defense Lykes prides himself on taking charges.

"I've been doing that since high school - I feel the refs might give me the call just because of my size," Lykes said. "But it's all about getting in front, jumping the move they're going to make and just sacrificing your body on the court. I've been doing that since middle school."

\* Lykes said a factor in his recruitment last year was that Larranaga coached a couple of other smaller point guards at UM in Angel Rodriguez and Shane Larkin.

"When he recruited me he was telling me that height really doesn't matter, he doesn't see it as a disadvantage," Lykes said. "Just the fact that he has proof to back that up, guys like Angel and Shane - those were really good guards here. And the impact they made in his offense, I really saw that I can do the same thing."

# Brown Eager to Return to the Court for No. 6 Miami

**Inside The U**  
**Christopher Stock**  
**Dec. 12, 2017**

CORAL GABLES, Fla. -- Sophomore guard Bruce Brown is hoping to return to the court in the near future.

Brown has been out since the Dec. 2 game with a finger injury on his left hand with a timetable of being out two to four weeks. However, he is hoping to return sooner with Miami's next game at George Washington on Saturday (12 p.m., CBS Sports Network).

"Bruce wants to practice and play," head coach Jim Larranaga said before Tuesday's practice. "He doesn't want to be injured. He doesn't want to be sitting out. He asked if he could play yesterday in practice. We've told him it's up to our trainers and our doctors to make that decision and he'll get the green light when they say so."

Brown, who is averaging 11.7 points, 8.6 rebounds, and 5.0 assists, has missed one game, a 69-54 win over Boston University on Dec. 5, and freshman Lonnie Walker filled in admirably in the starting lineup with a season-high 26 points on his way to earning ACC Rookie of the Week honors.

"I think any time someone's role changes so in Lonnie's case he moved from coming in off the bench to being a starter and played really, really well, that helps his confidence and also it earns a lot of respect from his teammates and coaches. You score 26 points in college basketball game, that's saying a lot. There's a lot of guys who go through their entire career who will never score 26 points in a game."

With Brown's initial timetable, he was slated to miss the game against George Washington with hopes of being ready for Miami's next game on Dec. 23 at Hawaii to begin the Diamond Head Classic in Honolulu.

# Miami Hurricanes guard Lonnie Walker IV earns ACC Rookie of the Week honor

**Sun Sentinel**

**Christy Cabrera Chirinos**

**Dec. 11, 2017**

Lonnie Walker IV had a career night in the Hurricanes' lone game last week and on Monday, the freshman earned recognition for his performance against Boston University.

Walker, who had a career-high 26 points and a career-high seven rebounds in his first start — a 69-54 win over the Terriers on Dec. 5 — was voted the ACC Rookie of the Week. It's the first time in his young Hurricanes career he has earned one of the conference honors.

The freshman, who started in place of injured sophomore Bruce Brown Jr., played a season-best 28 minutes and was 9-of-15 from the field, including 5-of-7 from 3-point range, in the win.

He scored 18 of 26 points in the second half and connected on four 3-pointers in the span of four minutes to help give Miami some breathing room in what had been a close game most of the night.

"He was certainly in the attack mode from the very beginning," Hurricanes coach Jim Larrañaga said of Walker after the win. "Honestly, he just looked like Lonnie Walker to me. I mean, he scored 26 points and played great, but I've seen him play great a lot. This is just the beginning."

Walker and the rest of the Hurricanes are off until Saturday when they travel to take on George Washington at noon. They'll then travel to Honolulu where they will open play in the Diamond Head Classic against Hawaii on Dec. 22.

# Larranaga talks team's early success, updates Brown's status

**CaneSport.com**  
**Staff**  
**Dec. 11, 2017**

The Hurricane basketball team's No. 6 A.P. ranking is its highest since the team was No. 5 in 2013. The team's also ranked No. 8 in the Coaches Poll.

Coach Jim Larranaga isn't too wrapped up in the rankings, as you might expect.

His focus? Making this a more cohesive team.

He says a sign of just where this team's play stands won't really come until big tests in January along with the upcoming road games.

"Ask me Jan. 16 (after games against Clemson and Duke)," Larranaga said. "We haven't faced the level of competition we're going to face."

Of the team's current status, Larranaga said, "We need to improve dramatically at the defensive end of the floor and we need to develop a far greater appreciation for each other's talents at the offensive end of the floor, meaning guys need to really play good together. They have to find the right guy at the right time within our offensive schemes. And we're working on it but we certainly have a lot of work to do."

Still it's so far, so good for a team that's steamrolled its way to an 8-0 start that has UM one of seven undefeated teams in the nation.

Miami's enjoyed a balanced attack with four players averaging in double figures - Dewan Huell (13.1 PPG, 5.6 RPG), DJ Vasiljevic (11.8 PPG, 21 of 50 three-pointers made), Bruce Brown (11.7 PPG, 8.6 RPG, 5.0 APG) and Ja'Quan Newton (10.4 PPG, 3.0 APG).

Lonnie Walker starred in the last win vs. Boston University, earning ACC Rookie of the Week honors with 26 points (five of seven threes). Overall he averages 9.9 points.

Walker came through with Bruce Brown out injured.

"Anytime someone's role changes - in Lonnie's case he moved from coming in off the bench to being a starter (with Brown out) - and played really well," Larranaga said. "That helps his confidence. And also it earns him a lot of re-

spect from his teammates and coaches."

"Bruce wants to practice and play," Larranaga said. "He doesn't want to be injured, doesn't want to be sitting out, asked if he could play yesterday in practice. We told him it's up to our trainers and doctors to make that decision. He'll get that green light when they say so."

The Canes are winning behind a defense that's limiting opponents to 35.3 percent shooting and 57.1 points per game - each statistical area ranks second in the nation.

Larranaga says while he likes the statistics, that the team still has plenty of room to improve on that side of the ball.

"We showed the players video yesterday of defensive breakdowns when we did not do what we planned on doing," Larranaga said. "These are things we could do every single time down the floor if the guys are focused and playing correctly."

The team's next challenge: Saturday at noon at 5-5 George Washington University.

"They're very, very good at home," Larranaga said. "And there should be a great crowd cheering them on. Second they're older guys. They have Yuta Watanabe (15.1 PPG, 6.9 rebounds, 2.3 Bruce Brown added 17 points, including four 3-pointers, eight rebounds, and three assists, and Lonnie Walker chipped in 12 points for Miami (7-0).

Miami shot 50.0 percent (30 of 60) from the floor while Princeton shot 31.1 percent (19 of 61).

Princeton (2-5) led 16-14 midway through the first half before Miami turned up the pressure to close out the half on a 24-4 run to take a 38-20 lead into the break.

Brown helped ignite the run with 11 points, three 3s, during a 13-2 spurt before halftime.

The second half was all Miami, which built a 31-point lead at one point.

Vasiljevic scored 14 in the second half making all five of his shots including four from behind the arc.

Dewan Huell, coming off a career-high 23

points in a win at Minnesota, was held scoreless in the first half battling foul trouble, but finished with nine points.

Princeton was led by Amir Bell's 13 points.

Miami returns to the court Tuesday (7 p.m., RSN) against Boston University for their only home game of the month. blocks) who is a 6-9 player but last year he guarded Ja'Quan Newton because he's such a versatile defender. People have said he's one of the top 10 defenders in the country. They have a 4-5 man combination that are capable of scoring inside and outside, especially Arnaldo Toro (9.8 PPG, 6.4 RPG) who is 6-8, 240, can shoot threes, post up, handles the ball very well for them. And (Patrick) Steeves is like a strict four man who can pass and handle, has a lot of skill. So they're somewhat similar to some of the teams we've seen, just better."

\* UM's next six games are away from home, including a trip to the Hawaiian Airlines Diamond Head Classic in Honolulu from Dec. 22-25. The Canes' next home contest is Jan. 7 against No. 19 Florida State.



# Freshman SG Walker Looking to Build on Breakout Game

**Inside The U**  
**Christopher Stock**  
**Dec. 11, 2017**

CORAL GABLES, Fla. – Lonnie Walker broke out with a 26-point performance against Boston University in his first start after coming off the bench the first seven games for the 6th-ranked Miami Hurricanes.

“This is just the beginning,” head coach Jim Larranaga said.

Walker made 9 of 15 shots from the floor including 5 of 7 from 3 on his way to earning ACC Rookie of the Week honors.

“It was a bit of a groove, confidence exploded up to 100 percent,” Walker said. “Any kind of shot I took I felt it was going to go in. The rim got huge, the ball got smaller so everything was kind of going my way.”

Walker’s 3-point shooting helped lift Miami to a 69-54 win hitting four 3-pointers in a 3-minute, 43-second span in the second half to build a 17-point lead after the game was tied at the break.

“He’s going into the game shooting under 30 from 3 and I’m watching him warm-up before the game and he’s banging shots, and I’m going, ‘Oh my God. If he starts making some of these shots it’s going to be tough,’” Boston U head coach Joe Jones said. “And then you get up on him and he can just go right by you. He made three or four shots that we can’t defend that. Hand up in his face, deep shots, if he’s making those types of shots, it’s going to be tough. We were trying to pack it in a little bit and keep him out of the lane, try to make them shoot over us, but his ability to make 3s made us extend more and then they started getting other things because we had to extend. He’s just a tough guy to match up against because he’s a big, strong kid and (in the game) he made 3s from deep. He’s 5 for 7 from 3. If we went into the game and you told me he was 5 for 7 from 3, we’re not winning the game—I’ll tell you that right now.

“I thought he was the difference. Other guys could have done other things, but he was the difference.”

Walker earned the start with Bruce Brown out

with a finger injury and Walker took advantage of the opportunity.

“It was definitely one of the main reasons that Bruce was out, but day in and day out the coaches always tell me to be aggressive, stay aggressive,” Walker said. “As the season starts to unravel, I’m starting to get more comfortable in my own skin with the team. Against Princeton I was a little bit more aggressive and I wanted to stay consistent on my game and focus on myself.”

Brown is also expected to miss Miami’s next game at George Washington on Saturday (12 p.m., CBS Sports Network) giving Walker another start to build on his performance while Larranaga looks to make adjustments to the offense to benefit Walker, who is fifth on the team in scoring averaging 9.9 points on 47.5-percent shooting on the season.

“We’ve got to do some tweaking to our offense, he’s a little bit different than Bruce,” Larranaga said. “We ran a couple of plays for him and I was very pleased with how he made decisions. The first one was an assist to Anthony Lawrence for a 3 and it was the only basket Amp scored all night so that was good someone else found him. Amp has been getting a lot of assists—he had six assists, but we need some guys to throw the ball back to him when he’s open.”

Walker, who entered the game against Boston U averaging 7.6 points a game, but showed signs of a potential breakout game with a 12-point performance against Princeton in the previous game, which had been his season-high.

“What I took from the Princeton game was to be decisive on what I do,” Walker said. “If I want to shoot it, shoot the ball. If I want to pass it, pass the ball. Don’t second guess and shoot it or pass the ball—that’s how you get turnovers or miss your shot. Sometimes Quan (Ja’Quan Newton) when he passes me the ball and I don’t shoot, he reminds you to shoot the ball or DJ (Dejan Vasiljevic) if I pass the ball and I don’t shoot it, he reminds me that I’ve got to shoot the ball. It’s all about being an offensive threat and being decisive, and be the best player that I can be.”

Larranaga also saw a positive sign from Walker against Princeton.

“In the Princeton game I saw his aggressiveness,” Larranaga said. “He really was on the attack so given the opportunity to play in a starting role and play 28 minutes—that’s only seven or eight minutes more than he normally plays, but he certainly was in the attack mode right from the very beginning.”

Although Walker has played well the last two games, his freshman season got off to a slow start, including a five-point game against La Salle in his hometown game in Reading, Pa.

“It’s been an interesting few games,” Walker said. “Some games I didn’t expect me to play a certain way, but it’s all about my confidence and how I approach the game. I stayed competitive, stayed focus, and also having a teammate like DJ, who consistently tells me to stay aggressive and to stay focused. I’m just getting more comfortable as the season unravels.”

Miami has started the season 8-0 and is looking to continue to build on its success.

“It’s all about just staying humble,” Walker said. “It’s a nice record, but you don’t want to lose that record against a certain team so as the season keeps on stepping forward we’ve got to treat every team like they’re No. 1 in the country. We can’t overlook them. We can’t underlook them. We just have to play our game and stay humble.”



# Miami Hurricanes Basketball Move Up to No. 6 in AP Poll

**Inside The U**  
**Christopher Stock**  
**Dec. 11, 2017**

The Miami Hurricanes moved up four spots to No. 6 in the latest AP Poll.

Miami (8-0) won its only game last week beating Boston U 69-54 to move up to four spots in polls despite playing the softest schedule among all of the top 25 teams and one of the weakest in the country at 323rd out of 351 teams.

It is the highest Miami has been ranked since being No. 5 in the going into the 2013 NCAA Tournament.

Miami only plays one game this week at George Washington on Saturday (12 p.m., CBS Sports Network).

Miami is one of six ACC schools in the top 25 along with No. 4 Duke (11-1), No. 7 North Carolina (9-1), No. 16 Virginia (8-1), No. 18 Notre Dame (8-2), and No. 19 Florida State (9-0).

# No. 10 Miami to Take Advantage of Time Off in Between Games

**Inside The U**  
**Christopher Stock**  
**Dec. 7, 2017**

CORAL GABLES, Fla. – The 10th-ranked Miami Hurricanes have started the season with an 8-0 record and will have 10 days in between games, the longest break of the season.

The team was given the day off on Wednesday following a 69-54 win over Boston University the previous night and are focusing on individual work during practices on Thursday and Friday.

On Monday, the team will begin preparations to play at George Washington on Dec. 16.

“The road is very, very different,” head coach Jim Larranaga said. “You have to have a mature team to handle all of the responsibilities of being on the road. GW is a very fine team. They beat Temple last week on a neutral court. This time they’re at home and it should be a great crowd on hand.”

Larranaga listed two specific areas of improvement the team will look to get better at before the next game.

“We gave up 14 offensive rebounds so that’s going to get my attention and we only had 10 assists so that’s something we’ve got to look at,” Larranaga said. “Part of it though was BU really ran us off the 3-point line.”

Larranaga will also consult with his coaching staff about possible changes moving forward.

“The plan is always for me to meet with my staff--I have terrific coaches,” Larranaga said. “Chris Caputo is the defensive coordinator, coach (Jamal) Brunt is the offensive coordinator, and I’ll meet with those guys. And coach (Adam) Fisher does the scout team so he’s had a chance to study our opponents and he can give us his opinion on the best way to attack people, coach Caputo the best way to defend it, and coach Brunt the best way to attack it. And then of course I’m studying the opponent as well and studying our tapes. I’ll go home and watch our game and see if there are things we can seriously improve.”

Free-throw shooting continues to be a major issue for Miami, which ranks 349th nationally

out of 351 teams making 57.3 percent as five of Miami’s nine-man regular rotation is shooting 60 percent or less (not including Sam Waardenburg who has not shot one yet).

“Our goal is to be the most improved free-throw shooting team in the country by February because we have guys who can make free throws,” Larranaga said.

## SG Vasiljevic in a Groove the Last Three Games For No. 10 Miami

**Inside The U**  
**Christopher Stock**  
**Dec. 7, 2017**

CORAL GABLES, Fla. – Dejan Vasiljevic struggled in the win against North Florida hitting 1 of 6 shots for two points.

However, Vasiljevic has bounced back and turned in three solid performances since averaging 15.3 points (the most during a three-game stretch in his two seasons at Miami) including pouring in a career-high 20 in the win against Princeton last week.

“I’m just doing my role—playing defense and scoring on offense when I have to,” Vasiljevic said, “but I’m just here for these guys like Ja’Quan (Newton), Lonnie (Walker), and Bruce (Brown) playing my role. We’re playing great basketball right now.”

Vasiljevic scored 15 points, second-highest on the team, on 6-of-10 shooting in Miami’s 69-54 win over Boston University on Tuesday.

“DJ Vasiljevic shot the ball well again,” head coach Jim Larranaga said.

Vasiljevic has shot 68.0 percent (17 of 25) from the floor over the last three games and 61.1 percent (11 of 18) from 3.

His surge has increased his scoring average to 11.8 points a game on the season, second on the team only to Dewan Huell’s 13.1, and is shooting 47.2 percent from the floor, 42.0 percent from 3.

Miami was tied at halftime against Boston U before pulling away in the second half.

“It wasn’t negative, but it wasn’t positive,” Vasiljevic said of the message at halftime. “Coach L emphasized that we have to play defense the next 20 minutes and we came out and did that. We had to stay aggressive offensively and dictate on defense--don’t let them hurry us up and score baskets and we stopped them.”

Miami improved its record to 8-0 on the season with the win and has a 10-day break in between games before resuming at George Washington on Dec. 16.

“We want to win it all, but we’re taking it a game at a time,” Vasiljevic said. “We’ve got things we need to work on and get better at, but as the season goes along we learn different things and anything can happen.”

The Hurricanes return to practice on Friday.

# UM basketball's Lonnie Walker has best performance in win over Boston University

**Miami Herald**  
**Michelle Kaufman**  
**Dec. 5, 2017**

Freshman Lonnie Walker IV had the best game of his debut season Tuesday night, leading the undefeated and 10th-ranked University of Miami to a 69-54 home win over Boston University.

Starting his first game in place of injured Bruce Brown, Walker exploded with a game-high 26 points on 9-of-15 shooting, and was 5-of-7 from three-point range. He scored 16 of UM's 20 points during a second-half stretch and made back-to-back three-pointers to give the Canes their largest lead of the night — 55-38 with 12 minutes to go in the game.

Sophomore guard DJ Vasiljevic added 15 for Miami, and freshman Chris Lykes had eight.

"With Bruce out, I had to up my game," Walker said. "I got in a bit of a groove, confidence exploded to 100 percent. The rim got huge, and the ball got smaller, everything was going my way."

Walker, the highly touted recruit out of Reading, Pennsylvania, had shown glimpses of his athleticism, but it wasn't until Tuesday that he demonstrated why UM coaches were so excited to sign him. Walker scored eight consecutive points to give UM a 14-10 lead, and by the end of the night it was clear that this kid likes to have the ball in his hands and isn't afraid to launch threes.

Miami took an early lead, but the Terriers (3-4) got back in striking distance with consecutive threes from Tyler Scanlon followed by a pair of baskets in the paint by freshman center Sukhmail Mathon.

The Hurricanes, missing Brown's presence around the rim, were out-rebounded 19-15 by the Terriers in the first half. BU had nine offensive rebounds to just three for UM, and took advantage of second-chance points. Never was that more evident than in the closing minute of the half. Terriers forward Max Mahoney grabbed a rebound with 34 seconds on the clock and scored at the buzzer to tie the score 30-30.

Walker took over the second half, dishing a

perfect pass to Vasiljevic for a three from the corner, and then scoring 16 of UM's next 20 points, including four three-pointers.

Miami native Cedric Hankerson, a Coral Reef High graduate, had 10 points for the Terriers. The Canes hit the road and don't return home until a Jan. 7 game against Florida State.

# Freshman Lonnie Walker proves to be the real deal for UM with win over BU

**Miami Herald**  
**Michelle Kaufman**  
**Dec. 5, 2017**

The 10th-ranked University of Miami men's basketball team remained undefeated with a 69-54 victory over Boston University on Tuesday night.

Here are Five Takeaways from the game as the Canes (8-0) hit the road until after the New Year:

**Freshman Lonnie Walker IV arrived at the University of Miami with a lot of fanfare.** On Tuesday night, in a breakout game against BU, he showed what all the fuss was about. Walker, who had struggled in earlier games this season, exploded for a game-high 26 points in 28 minutes. He was 9-of-15 from the field and 5-of-7 from beyond the arc. He also grabbed a team-best seven rebounds and had two assists.

During one sequence in the second half, Walker scored 16 of UM's 20 points, including four three-pointers.

"He's a freshman?" BU coach Joe Jones said, smiling, after the game. "Doesn't look like a freshman. He's an NBA prospect. ... If he's making those kind of shots, it's going to be tough to beat them. He's a big, strong kid and made threes from deep. He was the difference."

Walker, starting his first game in place of injured Bruce Brown, said he felt added responsibility.

"My confidence exploded to 100 percent," he said. "The rim got huge, and the ball got smaller. Everything was going my way."

UM coach Jim Larrañaga was not as surprised as others to see Walker take over the game.

"He just looked like Lonnie Walker to me," he said. "I've seen him play great a lot. He was in attack mode from the start."

**Australian sharpshooter DJ Vasiljevic continues to play a big role in the Hurricanes' success.** Against BU, he was 6 for 10 and made 3-of-6 three-pointers. He seems to score from the corners at the most critical moments of the game.

**Brown's rebounding was missed as much — if not more — than his scoring.** The Terriers had a 14-7 edge over the Canes on the offensive glass. Brown has been playing with an injured hand for several weeks, and doctors told him to give it a rest to give it a chance to heal properly. He will miss the George Washington game Dec. 16 and is expected to be back in time for the Diamond Head Classic in Hawaii on Dec. 23-25.

**Free-throw shooting is still a problem for the Hurricanes.** Miami and BU rank among the worst free-throw shooting teams in the nation. On Tuesday, the Canes made 8 of 15 (53.3 percent) and the Terriers made 5 of 8 (62.5 percent).

**Jones, the BU coach, expects UM to be in the conversation in March.** "They have a tremendous coach. I'd want my son to play for Coach L. They're committed to playing defense. Offensively, they're still growing. They're just going to get better and better. Beating Minnesota at Minnesota, it was entertaining to watch, and scared the crap out of me. Yes, they can be a factor in March."

# Walker Explodes for 26 in First Start as No. 10 Miami Rolls

**Inside The U**  
**Christopher Stock**  
**Dec. 5, 2017**

CORAL GABLES, Fla. -- Bruce Brown was on the bench giving words of encouragement to his replacement.

And freshman Lonnie Walker took his words to heart and responded with a breakout game earning a forceful chest bump from Brown in the second half after Walker caught fire.

"It was definitely an ecstatic feeling," Walker said. "I was really waiting for him. I seen him coming. I seen him excited because he's telling me to stay aggressive and shoot the ball, attack the rim, and I had to listen to my older brother. Once I listened, things started turning my way."

Walker scored a season-high 26 points in his first start filling in for the injured Brown and the 10th-ranked Miami Hurricanes won 69-54 over Boston University on Tuesday night.

"It was definitely a lot different (starting) compared to my high school season," said Walker, whose previous high was 12. "I'm so used to starting, but it's a bit of a humbling moment and since Bruce was down I had to understand to up my game personally and also as a team. Everyone on the team had to step it up individually also."

Walker scored eight points in the first half, but was limited to nine minutes of action due to picking up two fouls.

"It was definitely a positive mindset," Walker said while waiting to return for the second half. "Once I got that second foul I was a little upset, but I have to understand my teammates have my back. As long as I know my teammates have my back there's nothing to be upset about and just transitioned that positivity into the second half."

Walker erupted out of the gate to begin the second half scoring 16 points in a 25-8 run to build a 55-38 lead after the game was tied at 30 at halftime. Moments after hitting back-to-back 3s, there was a timeout on the floor at the 11:41 mark when Brown celebrated with Walker.

He finished the game making 9 of 15 shots

from the floor including 5 of 7 from behind the arc. He also grabbed seven rebounds and had two assists in 27 minutes.

"Obviously Lonnie Walker had a terrific breakout game--26 points, seven rebounds, a couple of assists," Miami head coach Jim Larranaga said.

Dejan Vasiljevic added 15 points for Miami (8-0), which played its only home game of the month.

Brown was held out with a left finger injury and was wearing a brace. It was Brown's first game he has missed in his two seasons at UM. He is also expected to miss Miami's next game at George Washington on Dec. 16, but there is hope he will be ready for the Diamond Head Classic beginning on Dec. 23--three weeks after his last appearance against Princeton.

"That's what the doctors have told me--that it's something that needs about two or three weeks to heal or three or four weeks to heal," Larranaga said. "He played against Princeton on Dec. 2. We play Dec. 22 and he'll probably have to tape those two fingers together--I had to do that when I was in college my entire career so I don't think it will hurt him at all. It certainly didn't hurt him against Princeton."

The teams played to a 30-30 deadlock in the first half with Miami leading by as many as eight, but Boston U continued to battle back from deficits taking advantage of nine offensive rebounds leading to nine second-chance points. Boston U out-rebounded Miami 19-15 in the first half.

"I was a little concerned at halftime that Boston University seemed to be quicker to the ball, quicker to the rebounds, just played with a little bit energy and execution than we did," Larranaga said. "We didn't make really any adjustments at halftime. We just told them we needed to play harder and better, and execute better, and I thought we did."

Miami continued to lead by double digits the rest of the way after the 25-8 run to open the half with only six players scoring for the Hurricanes with Walker leading the way.

"You know going into this game that their so talented that you just know that someone has the ability to have a great game on their

team and tonight Walker was terrific," Boston University head coach Joe Jones said. "He's a terrific player. He's an NBA prospect. He made some terrific plays. That kid's a freshman? He does not look like a freshman. He is built. He is terrific. They grinded out a win like they could."

Boston U (3-4) was led by Max Mahoney's 12 points.

# Miami Hurricanes Basketball Remains No. 10 in AP Poll

**Inside The U**  
**Christopher Stock**  
**Dec. 4, 2017**

Miami (7-0) won both games last week including an 86-81 win at then-No. 12 Minnesota, which dropped to 14th. Miami also beat Princeton 80-52.

Although Miami did not move up a spot, they did pick up 121 points in the polls following their 2-0 week.

Miami only plays one game this week, a home contest against Boston U on Tuesday (7 p.m., RSN), which is the only home game for the Hurricanes in December.

Miami is one of five ACC schools in the top 25 along with No. 1 Duke (10-0), No. 9 Notre Dame (7-1), No. 11 North Carolina (8-1), and No. 15 Virginia (8-0).



# Vasiljevic's Career-High 20 Leads No. 10 Miami Past Princeton

**Inside The U**  
**Christopher Stock**  
**Dec. 2, 2017**

Dejan Vasiljevic scored a career-high 20 points to help lead No. 10 Miami to an 80-52 win over Princeton in the HoopHall Miami Invitational at American Airlines Arena on Saturday night.

Bruce Brown added 17 points, including four 3-pointers, eight rebounds, and three assists, and Lonnie Walker chipped in 12 points for Miami (7-0).

Miami shot 50.0 percent (30 of 60) from the floor while Princeton shot 31.1 percent (19 of 61).

Princeton (2-5) led 16-14 midway through the first half before Miami turned up the pressure to close out the half on a 24-4 run to take a 38-20 lead into the break.

Brown helped ignite the run with 11 points, three 3s, during a 13-2 spurt before halftime.

The second half was all Miami, which built a 31-point lead at one point.

Vasiljevic scored 14 in the second half making all five of his shots including four from behind the arc.

Dewan Huell, coming off a career-high 23 points in a win at Minnesota, was held scoreless in the first half battling foul trouble, but finished with nine points.

Princeton was led by Amir Bell's 13 points.

Miami returns to the court Tuesday (7 p.m., RSN) against Boston University for their only home game of the month.

# OPINION: Hoops the real deal

**CaneSport.com**

**Jim Martz**

**Dec. 2, 2017**

While watching the telecast of Miami's victory at 12th-ranked Minnesota last week, I got the impression that this can be a very special basketball season for the Hurricanes.

Playing in their first big road test of the season in front of a hostile crowd of more than 14,000, coach Jim Larranaga's team played with poise. Ball movement and defense were superb, they shot well at crucial times and they closed out the game with a four-guard lineup that ate up the clock.

Overall the Hurricanes looked like they deserved their current No. 10 A.P. and No 11 USA Coaches ranking and that this will be a fun season for Canes fans to watch, especially with the infusion of high-profile freshmen Lonnie Walker IV and Chris Lykes.

Then on Monday night I watched Leonard Hamilton's unranked Florida State Seminoles go to Gainesville and pummel the fifth-ranked Florida Gators 83-66. And that tells us once again the ACC is the strongest and deepest conference in the nation, all the better to prepare for the NCAA's Big Dance.

The Hurricanes, 8-0 following Tuesday night's 69-54 victory over Boston University at the Watsco Center, are two of the 13 unbeaten teams in the nation. Two other ACC teams are ranked ahead of Miami, No. 1 Duke and No. 9 Notre Dame, then North Carolina is No. 11. Clemson and FSU are among teams also receiving votes.

Three Miami teams, one under Leonard Hamilton and two under Larranaga, have reached the Sweet 16. Not only is this season's team capable of doing that, I believe it can be the first to reach the Elite Eight.

Here are several reasons why:

\* Balance on offense: At least five players scored in double figures in five of the first seven games. The Canes did that only three times in 33 games last season.

\* Solid defense: They were holding opponents to just 57.6 points per game, second in the ACC

and fourth in the nation. They've been limiting opponents to just 25.4 percent shooting from three-point range, which is first in the ACC and 13th nationally. LaSalle went 0-for-15 from outside the three-point arc.

\* Sophomore Dewan Huell, a 6-11 center, and senior guard Ja'Quan Newton have improved considerably. Going into the Boston University game Huell was the leading scorer, averaging 14.1 points per game. He averaged 5.8 last season. At Minnesota he had a career high of 23 points, hitting 10 of 16 field goal attempts. Newton has improved his ball handling skills, with 14 assists and one turnover in the Minnesota and Princeton games.

\* Sophomore 6-5 guard Bruce Brown, who missed Tuesday night's game and will miss the next game Dec. 16 at George Washington because of a left hand injury, has continued to be an all-around player in scoring (averaging 16.5), rebounds (8.5) and assists (4.0). And he ranks second in the ACC in assist-to-turnover ratio (2.92). He has 35 assists and just 12 turnovers.

\* Walker, a 6-5 guard who received his first start Tuesday night, and Lykes, a 5-7 sparkplug, are seeing more playing time and contributing with their outside shooting and driving to the basket. Walker was a McDonald's All-American last year and consensus top 20 recruit. Walker and Lykes were both ESPN Top 100 recruits, as was 6-10 Deng Gak of Australia, who is being redshirted. ESPN.com's Myron Metcalf labeled Walker "the most exciting freshman in America."

Brown and Newton also were ESPN Top 100 recruits, giving the Canes the most they've had at one time in program history. Lykes contributed 10 points and three steals in the Minnesota game.

The Hurricanes clearly have the attention of the national pollsters. They had their highest A.P. pre-season ranking in history, No. 13. They were 12th in the USA Today Coaches poll.

ACC coaches ranked them fourth in their pre-season poll, the highest in the seven seasons Larranaga has been Miami's coach and their highest in 14 years in the ACC.

Tuesday night was the last chance for fans to see the Canes play at home until Jan.7 when

they take on FSU. The George Washington game will give Lykes a chance to play in front of hometown fans as Walker got to in Reading, Pa., against LaSalle on Nov. 22. In each case Coach L told them if they signed with Miami he would schedule a game in their home town.

After Tuesday night's game Boston University coach Joe Jones, who has more than 20 years of coaching experience, said he was duly impressed with the Hurricanes against his team and against Minnesota.

"First thing, tremendous coach," he said of Larranaga. "He's got a great relationship with his players. I would want my son to play for coach Larranaga. "They are a terrific team. Defensively they don't make mistakes. Offensively they're still growing. Bruce is still a sophomore, Lykes is a freshman, Walker is a freshman. They're just going to get better and better as the season goes along.

"If you watched the Minnesota game - Minnesota is a tremendous team - beating Minnesota there is a tremendous win and it was a very entertaining game to watch. It scared the crap out of me coming into this game. That was a high-level basketball game.

"They can be a factor in March. They have the pieces. Bruce Brown can do everything. To me he's the heart of this team."

With Walker having a greater presence in the lineup, Larranaga will be making a few adjustments before ACC play.

"We've got to do some tweaking to our offense," Larranaga said. "He's a little different than Bruce. We ran a couple of plays for him and I'm very pleased with the way he made decisions."

After the GW game, the Hurricanes head to Hawaii for a Dec. 23 game that will challenge their body clocks. Tipoff is scheduled for 1 a.m. Miami time. They will also play on Christmas Day in Hawaii against an opponent to be determined.

Then ACC games begin with the first two on the road, Dec. 30 at Pittsburgh and Jan. 3 at Georgia Tech. The Pitt game will begin at 4 p.m., thus it won't conflict with the Canes' appearance in the Orange Bowl game at 8 against Wisconsin.

# Freshman PG Chris Lykes Sparks No. 10 in Win at No. 12 Minnesota

**Inside The U**  
**Christopher Stock**  
**Dec. 2, 2017**

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. – Head coach Jim Larranaga turned to freshman Chris Lykes outside the Miami locker room and asked him if he had fun following No. 10 Miami's 86-81 win over No. 12 Minnesota.

Lykes responded that he had a lot of fun.

Lykes scored 10 points and had three steals providing steady play in 19 minutes for the Hurricanes with a sold out crowd of 14,625 on hand.

"I think that's one of the biggest crowds I've seen and they were hyped the whole game," Lykes said. "The one thing with crowds is you have to quiet them down. We did a really good at that. And they had really good players. We just did a good job defensively playing team defense."

Lykes earned the nod to start the second half over Dejan Vasiljevic and helped Miami break a tie with a 9-2 run out of the break with a steal and knocking down a 3.

"I started him in the second half because I loved his speed and quickness because when we get up and down the floor we're a much better basketball team," head coach Jim Larranaga said. "When we play a little too conservatively, then we're easier to guard."

Lykes made 4 of 8 shots from the floor including 2 of 6 from 3 on his way to being one of five Hurricanes in double figures.

"I think we've got a really deep team," Lykes said. "We have a lot of guys who can play on this team and coach gave me the nod to start the second half just because he wanted us to be in attack mode with four guys and a big. I went in, was in attack mode, and just played my game."

Lykes enjoyed a head-to-head battle with fellow freshman Isaiah Washington, who was ranked one spot ahead of Lykes at No. 13 in the 247Composite point guard recruiting rankings. Washington finished with 14 points on 6-of-17 shooting, five rebounds, and three assists.

"That's my guy," Lykes said. "I've known him for a while. We both were ranked guards, but we were behind the other guards so we both had that type of mentality like, 'Yo we're really good too.' I think we didn't get the same spotlight as some of those other guards ahead of us did. I'm glad to see he's doing really well with his Minnesota team. We're kind of in the same position coming off the bench, being that spark making plays. He did a really good job tonight and Minnesota is a really good team."

Washington hails from Harlem, Lykes from Washington, D.C., and has brought his Jelly move to the Twin Cities.

"He's got the Jelly thing going on, he let me in that, but right now it's for me it's, 'Heart over Height,'" Lykes said. "But he's doing his thing and the JellyFam stuff is blowing up and I'm proud of him for that."

At times the Golden Gophers got the crowd into the game with quick scoring bursts, but Miami seemingly responded every time near trailing by more than six.

"I think that's just the leadership on our team with Ja'Quan Newton and Bruce Brown as the point guards," Lykes said. "I try to just watch what they're doing. I'm learning. This is a learning year for me. Just to be able to come down after they would score six in a row, we've got to come back and score right here to quiet the crowd down, and run good offense, and we did that, and that's why we were able to win the game."

It was a big win for Miami (6-0) handing a very good Minnesota (7-1) team its first defeat.

"I think we were just really poised as a team," Lykes said. "We had a really good defensive effort the whole game, even when our offense wasn't going as planned and we took a few bad shots, but we still hustled back on defense. They're an offensive-heavy team so I'm proud of these guys. This was the first real competition that we've had and I think we handled it pretty well."

Lykes, who is averaging 7.3 points and 1.8 assists in 16.7 minutes, has put together back-to-back solid games with 10 points and four assists against North Florida, and will look to continue his solid play on Saturday (8 p.m., ESPN) against Princeton at American Airlines

Arena.

"(I want to) just keep being a pest on defense," Lykes said. "Coach is really wanting me to do that all of the time. Just learning, just being a point guard, knowing what reads to look at, and then just pushing the tempo, that's what Coach L wants me to do. He wants me to push and I feel I am capable of doing that."

# Brown Shines on the Big Stage in Win at No. 12 Minnesota

**Inside The U**  
**By Christopher Stock**  
**Dec. 1, 2017**

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. – Head coach Jim Larranaga had a talk with Bruce Brown the night before No. 10 Miami's big game at No. 12 Minnesota.

Larranaga, along with the other coaches and players, notably Chris Lykes, wanted to give Brown words of encouragement after a slow offensive start to start the season averaging 9.8 points a game on 40.4-percent shooting, which was getting to him.

"Honestly it was bothering me before," Brown said. "I had a talk with the coaches and the players and they were like, 'Stop thinking.' They told me I was thinking too much out there and I looked like I wanted to do different things out there so they were like, 'Play your game. Stop thinking. Clear your mind and you'll be the player you are.'"

Brown responded from the positive advice and posted an impressive game in Miami's 86-81 win with a season-high 16 points on 6-of-11 shooting, nine rebounds, five assists, and one steal in 37 minutes in front of a sold out crowd of 14,625.

"I felt good out there," said Brown, who improved his scoring average to . "I was calm. I didn't think about anything, just played my game, and shots fell—they're starting to fall now."

Brown attributed his successful performance due to the extra time he put in the gym following the game against North Florida.

"Probably confidence (was affected) with me missing shots," Brown said. "I just got in the gym. Took extra shots, more than usual and they were falling today. My shot felt really good out there. It was a really good jump for me so I'm feeling good."

Miami withstood a late charge from Minnesota, which cut the deficit to 73-71 with 3:46 left.

"We knew basketball is a game of runs, we stayed calm," Brown said. "The returners have been in that situation before as a young team last year so we kind of let the freshmen know

we're good, go down and take the shot you want to take and we'll be good."

Miami shot 50.7 percent (35 of 69) from the floor including 10 of 25 from 3 and had just eight turnovers while holding Minnesota to 44.4 percent (28 of 63) shooting.

"I just think we played hard," Brown said. "The best offense we had today was getting out in transition and score easy layups."

The win improved Miami to 6-0 on the season and its first over a top-100 opponent.

"It was really big for us right now," Brown said. "It was our first test on the road as a young team so I think that's a really good one for us and our confidence."

Brown and the Hurricanes return to action Saturday (8 p.m., ESPNU) against Princeton (2-4) at the American Airlines Arena.

# Huell's 23 Points Leads No. 10 Miami Past No. 12 Minnesota 86-81

**Inside The U**  
**By Christopher Stock**  
**Nov. 30, 2017**

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. – Dewan Huell faced a tough task going against one of the best front-courts in the country and he delivered.

Huell scored a career-high 23 points including two pivotal dunks down the stretch to help lead No. 10 Miami to an 86-81 win at No. 12 Minnesota on Wednesday night as part of the ACC-Big Ten Challenge.

“How good did he play?” Miami head coach Jim Larranaga said. “Twenty-three points, defended pretty good. I’m going to be on him--he should have blocked a couple of shots.

Huell, made 10 of 16 shots from the field going against Minnesota’s strong inside presence of Reggie Lynch and Jordan Murphy, who combined for 29 points, 24 rebounds, and 10 blocks, excelling in pick-and-roll situations with teammates feeding him the ball down low on the move.

“What he should do is take those guards out to dinner tonight because I told him, ‘If you get them open with good ball screens, then they can get the ball back to you,’” Larranaga said. “‘If you don’t set them good screens, they’re never going to be open to pass you the ball and you’re never going to be open.’ So by him setting some good ball screens, especially after we’ve attacked the defense a little bit and spread them out towards the end of the shot clock, then getting inside. We scored 86 points tonight--I like that.”

Miami’s pick-and-roll offense gave Minnesota troubles.

“Miami played really well,” Minnesota point guard Nate Mason said. “They really ran the pick-and-roll really good. We didn’t defend it well at all so I think that was the main key in the game--just the pick-and-roll action and they executed very well down the stretch”

Bruce Brown added 16 points, nine rebounds, and five assists, and Ja’Quan Newton had 12 points and nine assists for Miami (6-0), which handed Minnesota (7-1) its first loss of the season.

“It was really big for us right now,” Brown said. “It was our first test on the road as a young team so I think that’s a really good one for us and our confidence.”

Miami shot 50.7 percent (35 of 69) from the field while holding Minnesota to 44.4 percent (28 of 63).

“I thought our defense was consistently good, I thought we shared the ball really well--we had 20 assists and only eight turnovers--that’s a very good job of handling it,” Larranaga said.

Miami outscored Minnesota 17-2 in points off turnovers as the Golden Gophers had 12.

“Turnovers are a disaster and we’re not a pressure team, we don’t force a lot of turnovers--we didn’t force a ton of turnovers tonight, but what we were good at is when we did turn them over, we converted those into points and there’s some night that really makes a difference in the game, which I think it did today,” Larranaga said.

Minnesota was led by Amir Coffey’s 23 points as the starters accounted for all of the Golden Gophers’ points.

Larranaga elected to go with freshman Chris Lykes to start the second half in favor of Dejan Vasiljevic. Lykes responded with a steal, which led to a dunk by Brown, and drilled a 3 in transition for a 45-38 lead forcing Minnesota to call timeout with Miami on a 9-2 run to begin the half.

“I think we were just really poised as a team,” said Lykes, who had 10 points and three steals. “We had a really good defensive effort the whole game, even when our offense wasn’t going as planned and we took a few bad shots, but we still hustled back on defense. They’re an offensive-heavy team so I’m proud of these guys. This was the first real competition that we’ve had and I think we handled it pretty well.”

Lonnie Walker made a driving layup, withstood a foul, and knocked down the free throw to give Miami its biggest lead of the game at 62-51 with 11:30 left.

Moments later, Vasiljevic banked in a 3 to put Miami ahead 68-56 with nine minutes left.

Minnesota’s Isaiah Washington overcame a tough shooting tonight to make two huge layups to pull the Gophers within 73-71 with 3:46 left bringing the sold out crowd to its feet.

Huell followed with a two-handed dunk to briefly silence the crowd for a 75-71 advantage.

Newton hit a 12-footer, Walker recorded a steal, and Huell came up with a three-point play on another powerful dunk for an 80-71 lead with 2:06 left.

“I think it would have been really difficult for us had they taken the lead in the last five minutes,” Larranaga said. “As long as we could stay ahead and the pressure was on them to come back. They pressed us and fouled us and made a couple of free throws, all of those things--a turnover leads to a basket or we foul them. I thought our guys were good.”

Minnesota cut the deficit to five points, but Huell calmly sank two free throws to extend the lead and Miami held on for the win.

Miami jumped out to a 10-5 lead to start the game behind a hot start from Anthony Lawrence, who scored eight points including two 3-pointers, but would not score the rest of the game.

Miami led 17-10 on a layup by Brown, but Mason responded with back-to-back 3s to bring the home crowd to its feet.

Coffey’s six-point burst gave Minnesota its first lead of the game at 34-28.

However, Miami responded with a run of its own as Lykes knocked down a long jumper, Brown found Huell underneath the rim for a basket, Brown converted a steal into a layup, and Huell had an impressive dunk to regain the lead at 36-34.

“We knew basketball is a game of runs, we stayed calm,” Brown said. “The returners have been in that situation before as a young team last year so we kind of let the freshmen know we’re good, go down and take the shot you want to take and we’ll be good.”

Coffey added another layup and the teams went into the break tied at 36.



# Miami showcases its promise in road win over Minnesota

**ESPN.com**  
**By Myron Metcalf**  
**Nov. 30, 2017**

MINNEAPOLIS -- In the first three weeks of the season, the ACC has established its dominance.

Marvin Bagley III, currently college basketball's most imposing and dominant player, and Duke outplayed Texas and Florida in the PK80 tournament in Portland, Oregon. The Blue Devils secured every first-place vote (65) in this week's Associated Press top 25 poll.

Undefeated Virginia held Wisconsin to 37 points in Monday's win over the Badgers in the ACC/Big Ten Challenge. Notre Dame beat Wichita State in the Maui Invitational title game last week, and the No. 5 Fighting Irish could climb higher if they can capture a road victory over third-ranked Michigan State on Thursday (7 p.m. ET, ESPN/Watch ESPN) in the ACC/Big Ten Challenge.

North Carolina and Louisville clearly need time to grow, but they're both teams with legit NCAA tournament aspirations, which recent losses to Michigan State and Purdue, respectively, proved.

Even middle-of-the-pack ACC squads like Syracuse and Florida State are undefeated thus far.

But No. 10 Miami faced its first real test of the season against No. 12 Minnesota on Wednesday, a game the Hurricanes won 86-81.

It was Miami's first true road environment of the season, part of the ACC/Big Ten Challenge.

Its first meaningful game against an elite opponent this season.

Its first opportunity to announce its place in the ACC.

Yes, the Hurricanes won.

But football coach Mark Richt can keep the turnover chain.

These inconsistent Hurricanes haven't earned any jewelry yet.

OK, maybe a bracelet. But not a chain.

They are, however, the ACC's and maybe America's most intriguing crew. They're ranked among the top 10 in defensive efficiency on KenPom.com. Bruce Brown Jr. (16 points, 9 rebounds, 5 assists) is a pro. Dewan Huell scored 23 points against Reggie Lynch, one of America's top shot-blockers.

Ja'Quan Newton (12 points, 9 assists) is the perfect veteran for this group.

Overall, the Hurricanes made 40 percent of their 3-point attempts (10-for-25) on Wednesday.

They also forced 12 turnovers after entering the game doing so on nearly one-fourth of their opponents' possessions.

Proof of their potential? They lost a double-digit lead late but held on to win in front of a sold-out crowd at Williams Arena.

The Hurricanes (6-0) are rough but compelling.

They'd entered Wednesday's game as one of the worst free throw shooting teams in the country. They couldn't buy a 3-pointer, either.

Lonnie Walker IV, a projected first-round pick in next summer's NBA draft entering the season, hadn't found a rhythm yet. They had no chemistry.

On Wednesday, however, they clicked and brought their best in their toughest moment of the season.

And they left Minneapolis with a win that will help them in March.

This season, the NCAA tournament selection committee will increase its emphasis on the value of true road wins. Few teams in America, at this juncture, boast a true road victory as valuable as the win Miami acquired Wednesday.

With Dupree McBrayer sidelined by a leg injury, Minnesota coach Richard Pitino turned to YouTube star Isaiah "Jelly Fam" Washington, who started at point guard. He also started 1-for-10 from the field and had three turnovers with 10 minutes to play in the game.

But he collected a couple of late baskets that cut Miami's double-digit edge -- the Hurricanes led by 12 midway through the half -- to just four with 3:09 to play.

Miami played a scattered game until a burst in the second half. Brown and Anthony Lawrence II both began the game with a 3-for-4 start from the field. But their teammates missed 10 of their first 11 shots in a grimy first half.

Miami entered the final eight minutes having hit 10 of 21 from the 3-point line. And then, the Hurricanes' first true road environment began to swallow them. Lawrence fouled out during a Gophers comeback that cut Miami's lead to single digits.

But the Hurricanes never surrendered.

They're not polished yet. They finished just 6-for-11 from the free throw line, extending their ongoing struggles there.

Yet, they're stacked with elite talent in their backcourt and enough poise to beat a potential Big Ten champ on the road.

Let's see how Miami evolves as ACC play approaches.

You never know.

In the end, the basketball team might deserve a chain, too.

## Huell has 23 points, 5 in double figures as UM wins at Minnesota

**CaneSport.com**  
**Staff**  
**Nov. 29, 2017**

While the No. 7 Hurricane football team continues preparations for its ACC title game matchup with Clemson on Saturday, the No. 10 basketball team faced its first real test of the season at No. 12 Minnesota Wednesday night.

Yes, UM is the only program in the nation with top 10 teams in both sports.

And the basketball team will continue to be ranked highly after emerging with an 86-81 victory.

UM controlled most of the game, never trailing in the second half and opening a 12-point advantage with nine minutes to go.

With 3:45 left it was a two-point game, but from that point the Canes took control with a 7-0 run for an 80-71 lead approaching two minutes left.

Minnesota never got closer than a five-point deficit the rest of the way.

The young Canes team maintained its poise in a sold-out, rowdy environment.

"I let them know 'calm down, we're good,' every time they scored," guard Bruce Brown said.

It was a team effort for Miami, as the Canes had five players in double figures - Dewan Huell (23 points), Brown (16 points, nine rebounds, five assists), Ja'Quan Newton (12 points, nine assists), DJ Vasiljevic (11 points) and Chris Lykes (10 points).

Huell's big day was spurred by guards penetrating the lane time after time and then dishing to him for shots in the paint.

"What he should do is take those guards out to dinner tonight," Larranaga joked after the game.

Miami hit on 50.7 percent of its shots (10 of 25 threes) while Minnesota made 43.5 percent (five of 16 from long range).

Minnesota held the rebounding advantage, 41-34, and UM's free throw woes continued - the

team made six of 11 attempts.

But all's well that ends well.

With the win the Canes are 6-0; Minnesota suffered its first loss and is 7-1.

"They're a talented team, a well-coached team, and we certainly squandered some opportunities," Minnesota coach Richard Pitino said.



## Freshman PF Waardenburg Solid in Home Debut, Will Have Key Role

**Inside The U**  
**Christopher Stock**  
**Nov. 26, 2017**

CORAL GABLES, Fla. – Sam Waardenburg's debut with the Miami Hurricanes was delayed due to back and leg injuries.

Waardenburg, a 6-foot-9 power forward from New Zealand, missed the first three games of the season before making his debut against La Salle in Reading, Pa. last week.

Waardenburg scored nine points and grabbed six rebounds off the bench in 16 minutes in his home debut on Saturday in an 86-65 win over North Florida.

"It's good to be back off of the injury," Waardenburg said. "It was awesome to have the home crowd here and playing out there. Just coming off the bench, I just wanted to put effort out there and take the shots I knew I could take."

Waardenburg made 4 of 9 shots from the field including 1 of 2 from 3. He also had one assist, one block, and one steal.

"He gives us another dimension in the frontcourt along with Dewan Huell, Ebu-ka Izundu, and Anthony Lawrence," head coach Jim Larranaga said. "We're very, very happy to have him and we're happy with the way he has come in and scored and rebounded. He can handle the ball pretty well so he's going to have a good role and be a consistent contributor at both ends of the court I believe."

Waardenburg is a versatile forward who can help the Hurricanes in a variety of different areas.

"He stretches the floor for us and in practice he was our best rebounder, but you know I had to take that over in the game," guard Bruce Brown said. "He can

rebound the ball and do a lot of different things for us. As you can see he can pass, he can score, he can rebound. He can really do anything on the floor we ask him to do. It's just what Coach L (Jim Larranaga) wants him to do."

Waardenburg scored seven points in 13 minutes against La Salle. His 8.0 points per game leads Miami reserves.

"On offense I can stretch the floor out, get lanes for these guys (Brown and the guards) to get to the rim, mostly setting screens," Waardenburg said. "I can do a lot."

Waardenburg has been productive without being at full strength.

"It used to be pretty bad with the leg injury and back," Waardenburg said. "I couldn't really extend it at all, but now it's really just a tightness. There's no more pain or anything like that. I'm slowly getting back. I'd say I'm around 80 percent right now."

Waardenburg played in the exhibition game on Nov. 1 before being out with the injury. His teammates were helpful while he waited for his first action as a Hurricane after redshirting last season.

"These guys have been great, getting my confidence back up with the back injury—still not 100 percent," Waardenburg said, "but they bring me up and are finding me in the corners, just getting good shots especially from Bruce—he's a great team leader out there."

Waardenburg and the 11th-ranked Miami Hurricanes (5-0) return to action on Wednesday (9 p.m., ESPN2) at No. 14 Minnesota (7-0).

"I'm excited about it," Waardenburg said. "It's our first real road game. I got to kind

of experience it last year traveling with the team for ACC games, but this will be something new to experience being out there on the floor with a big crowd. I'm looking forward to it."

# Miami Hurricanes basketball remains undefeated after win over North Florida

**Miami Herald**  
**Michelle Kaufman**  
**Nov. 25, 2017**

Miami Hurricanes fans still bummed out over the football team's loss at Pitt found some consolation at the WATSCO Center Saturday afternoon as the 11th-ranked University of Miami men's basketball team beat the University of North Florida 86-65.

The Canes were coming off an underwhelming performance in a 57-46 win over LaSalle and were eager to get into better form before Wednesday's road game at No. 14 Minnesota, their first game against a ranked opponent. With Saturday's victory, Miami remained undefeated at 5-0.

Five UM players finished in double figures, led by Bruce Brown and Anthony Lawrence with 14 apiece, Dewan Huell (13), Ja'Quan Newton (12), and Chris Lykes (10). The Hurricanes outscored the Ospreys 54-22 in the paint, got 21 points off UNF turnovers and shot 91.7 percent from the free-throw line in the second half (11 of 12).

UNF opened the season at then-No. 2 Michigan State and Michigan, and also played at No. 8 Florida (all three losses), so coach Matthew Driscoll was in position to compare Miami to those teams.

"The thing I'd say about Miami is they really, really, really understand who they are, and they find each other," Driscoll said. "They don't have guys that are pigs. They share the sugar."

"This group is very, very deep, and have a lot of options. People may say, 'Well, they haven't played anyone yet. How good are they really?' They're really, really good, deserve to be in the Top 20 and have a chance to have a special year."

- 1. Lost in all the buzz about incoming freshmen Lonnie Walker IV and Lykes was Sam Waardenburg, a 6-11 redshirt freshman from New Zealand who promises to be a key player this season based on his performances the past two games. In 16 minutes off the bench Saturday, he scored nine points, had six rebounds, an assist a block and a steal. Against LaSalle three nights earlier, he had seven points and two rebounds in 13 minutes.

"He brings a whole new dimension to our front court, and he's going to play a good role for us," said UM coach Jim Larrañaga.

- 2. Walker has been held to single digits in four consecutive games, including a 5-point performance on 2-of-8 shooting in his homecoming against LaSalle in Reading, Pa., on Wednesday night. Against UNF, he finished with seven points in 22 minutes but showed flashes of the athleticism that made him one of the nation's most coveted recruits. "I'm still trying to figure him out, like when Dwyane Wade went to the Bulls and they had to figure him out," Larrañaga said. "Once they figured things out, D-Wade played great, and I think Lonnie will be the same."

- 3. Lykes may be 5-7, but he makes a big impact. Along with 10 points in 19 minutes, he had four assists, a steal and only

one turnover. "Bruce Lee was 5-7. Tom Cruise is 5-7. They're pretty good at what they do," Larrañaga said. "Chris is fast, quick, a nuisance on defense, can shoot the three, can blow by you. ... It's not about height. It's about heart. He's got a huge heart, and huge skills."

- 4. Larrañaga said Brown can play even better than he has so far. "Bruce is playing like Clark Kent, a little conservative, glasses, suit and tie. At some point, he'll remove the glasses and become Superman."

- 5. UM has struggled at the line but went 11-of-12 in the second half against UNF. "I told the guys there are only 351 teams in Division I, and we were ranked 350 in free-throw percentage. Our goal is to be the most improved team by February."

## Brown Paces No. 11 Miami in 86-65 Win Over North Florida

**Inside The U**  
**Christopher Stock**  
**Nov. 25, 2017**

CORAL GABLES, Fla. – Bruce Brown was aggressive from the start after struggling offensively last game against La Salle.

Brown scored 12 of his 14 points in the first half and grabbed seven rebounds to lead a balanced attack for the No. 11 Miami Hurricanes in an 86-65 win over North Florida on Saturday.

“They just told me to be more aggressive and play my game,” Brown said. “I think I was thinking too much last game so I had to slow myself, take shots I knew I could make, and it should be good. I had a quick, easy dunk so that’s always good.”

Brown was 2 for 9 with seven points in the win over La Salle, but got off to a quick start with a dunk in the opening minutes against North Florida.

“It gets me feeling good,” Brown said.

Brown, who was on a number of pre-season award watch lists, has gotten off to a somewhat slow start to the season despite his triple-double in the opener as he is averaging 9.8 points a game--third-best on the team.

“I think Bruce is playing like Clark Kent--a little conservative, got the glasses on, got his suit on and tie, and at some point, hopefully soon, he’ll remove the glasses and become Superman,” Miami head coach Jim Larranaga said.

Anthony Lawrence also scored 14, Dewan Huell scored 13, Ja’Quan Newton had 12, and Chris Lykes chipped in 10 for Miami.

“They really, really, really understand who they are and they really do a good

job of finding each other and they do not have guys, what I call ‘pigs’ and they’ve got guy guys that share the sugar,” North Florida head coach Matthew Driscoll said. “They’re not afraid to give it up.”

The Hurricanes (5-0) will have their first test of the season in their next game at No. 14 Minnesota on Nov. 29 as part of the ACC-Big Ten Challenge.

North Florida (1-7) has now played three top 15 teams falling 98-66 to No. 2 Michigan State and 108-68 to No. 8 Florida.

“I’m here to tell you that they’re really, really, really good,” Driscoll of the Hurricanes. “They’re one of the best teams in the country. They deserve to be in the top 20 and they have a chance to have a special year because you’ve got to have that solid guard play once you get to the (NCAA) Tournament.”

Miami shot 50.0 percent (33 of 66) from the floor while North Florida shot 39.0 percent (23 of 59).

“We’re not exactly right offensively yet,” Larranaga said. “I talked to my coaches--we might tweak some things, not now because we have a very short turnaround. But once we get a little bit of time in between the last days of class. We play Boston University (on Dec. 5) and then we don’t play again until GW (George Washington on Dec. 16) so we’ve got to figure out where we’ve got to be offensively because we can be a better offensive team. I say that and we scored 86 points, shot 50 percent from the field, and if DJ (Vasiljevic) made two or three 3s we would have shot a lot better from 3 and DJ usually makes those shots.”

Brown did most of his damage close to the basket with four dunks and two lay-ups as part of making 7 of 14 shot at-

tempts. Brown also had four assists and three steals.

UNF kept the score close in the opening minutes of the game before Miami went on a pivotal 16-2 run over a 5-minute, 47-second span to take a 26-9 lead. Brown sparked the run with a pair of dunks.

UNF cut the deficit to 30-23 on a 3 by JT Escobar, but Miami took a 38-25 lead into the break.

Miami led by double digits throughout the second half building a 30-point lead at one point.

# College basketball: Light shines on Walker again in Reading

**Reading Eagle**  
**Mike Drago**  
**Nov. 23, 2017**

READING, PA - Lonnie Walker IV spent the past week telling his Miami teammates they were in for something special during their visit to Reading.

Hurricanes senior guard Ja'Quan Newton was sold.

"I asked him, 'Is it gonna be lit?' " Newton said. "It definitely was."

A near sellout crowd was on hand at Santander Arena Wednesday to cheer for the former Reading High star during his appearance in Miami's 57-46 victory over La Salle and they did not hold back.

Thirty-five minutes before tipoff they erupted as the Hurricanes took the floor for warm-ups.

When Walker's smiling face appeared on the big screen above center court during pre-game introductions they roared again.

In fact every time he came off the Miami bench to enter the game, his hometown crowd erupted with joy.

"Inside, I was kind of like a little kid, when your parent tells you you're going to Disney," said Walker, who led the Red Knights to three straight county championships on the Santander Arena court.

"My stomach was turning up and down," he said. "Things like this don't really come too often."

Hurricanes coach Jim Larranaga set up the game to fulfill a promise made to Walker during his recruitment last year.

It turned out to be a win-win for the Hurricanes and the city as a crowd of 6,735 - less than 100 below capacity - turned out to honor their favorite son.

"We put this game together to show our

respect for him, and this community," Larranaga said. "Lonnie Walker's a very special young man.

"To see the respect the community has shown by basically selling out the Santander Arena is a tribute to him."

The good-will gesture almost turned out to be a disaster for the 11th-ranked Hurricanes (4-0).

They shot poorly, didn't run the floor well and didn't share the basketball.

They had only 19 points at halftime and led just 41-39 with 4:59 remaining.

The 'Canes used a 10-0 spurt to pull away - Walker providing a key assist to set up a 3 - but they came awfully close to a PR nightmare.

The Explorers (3-3) helped the 'Canes escape by going 0-for-15 from 3-point range.

"We were very fortunate that they missed some of those," Larranaga admitted.

"If we make two or three 3s," said La Salle coach John Giannini, "we have a chance to win the game."

Walker's highlights were few.

He made 2-of-8 shots, and had two rebounds, two assists, two steals and five points in 27 minutes.

He came up with a steal with eight seconds left in the first half and went the length of the court for a game-tying bucket to get the crowd on its feet.

Earlier, he knocked down a 3-pointer from the left wing but the shot was waved off due to an illegal screen.

His only other basket came with 1:19 left when he came off the wing to grab a rebound, then swooped in for a layup that made it 54-46.

Walker's night didn't live up to the hype: No dunks, no bombs from beyond the arc, no dazzling plays in transition.

"We didn't play well as a team," Newton said. "It was a little cold in the gym. We couldn't get warmed up. But we got the 'W' and that's all that matters."

Indeed, the stats and play-by-play details are secondary.

The point was to give Walker a chance to play at home again and his fans a chance to see him as a collegian.

It may not be the last visit, either. Larranaga said the 'Canes might return to Santander next season.

"Of course, we would need Lonnie back," he said with a smile, taking a poke at the one-and-done theorists.

As the final seconds began to wind down, the fans - many adorned in Miami's orange and green colors, others sporting RHS red - went into a familiar Red Knights chant, but with a twist.

"Lon-nie Wal-ker! Lon-nie Wal-ker!" they cheered in unison, punctuating his name with Reading High's infamous rhythmic clap-clap-clap.

Larranaga pulled him from the game with 5.4 seconds left so that the crowd could offer one more standing ovation.

"I knew what to expect out of my Reading crowd," Walker said appreciatively. "I'm thankful to be back."

## Walker not focused on his NBA future

### Reading Eagle

Mike Drago

Nov. 22, 2017

Lonnie Walker IV's appearance with the Miami Hurricanes tonight against La Salle at Santander Arena will certainly be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the former Reading High star, as well as Berks basketball fans.

The question many are asking: Is Walker's appearance with the 'Canes going to be one-and-done?

Months before he ever touched down at the Coral Gables campus, word began circulating that Walker was being sized up for the 2018 NBA draft. Miami coach Jim Larranaga acknowledged as much during his end-of-season press conference in April.

This fall, one NBA front office reached out to the Reading Eagle, seeking personal background information about the 18-year-old Walker.

Google "Lonnie Walker NBA draft" and you're hit immediately with breakdowns of his game and where he ranks among other potential draftees. Some projected the 6-4 guard as a lottery pick months before he played his first college game.

Pretty heady stuff for someone who just a few months ago was playing eight-minute quarters against a bunch of future teachers, construction workers and salesmen.

"People are gonna tell you you can be one-and-done," Walker said, "but you can't focus on that. That's the future. I'm not too pressed about it. I don't think about it at all."

Larranaga said he addressed the situation with Walker and his parents months

ago and said that at season's end, he'll gather information from his NBA contacts and share them with Walker and his family.

"That decision is one for Lonnie and his parents, to figure out what's best for him," Larranaga said. "I would never tell a young man what to do; I'll tell him what we've heard."

Asked for a gut feel as to whether Walker will have a second season with the Hurricanes, Larranaga passed.

"There are too many unknowns," he said. "Ask me in April, I'll give you a better idea."

Larranaga is concerned with the present, which means facing La Salle (2-3) tonight at 6 in what will be the first road trip for the 11th-ranked Hurricanes (3-0). They were due to fly into Reading late Tuesday afternoon.

Walker said his focus right now is on his academic progress and fitting in with the Hurricanes. The NBA is not on his radar.

"It's all about how I handle things and play my game," he said of the possibility.

And if he learns come spring that he's being projected as a lottery pick?

"If God thinks that it's my time to leave, then it's my time to leave," he said. "(But) I can't be focused on it. The NBA will be there for the rest of my life; it's not going to disappear."



# Why is UM playing in Reading, Pa.? Because coach promised this player he would.

**Miami Herald**  
**Michelle Kaufman**  
**Nov. 21, 2017**

It became very clear, as soon as University of Miami coaches began recruiting Lonnie Walker IV, that his connection to his hometown of Reading, Pennsylvania, was unusually deep.

Reading, best known for its pretzels and for its railroad being a space on the Monopoly board, is a city of 87,500 residents about an hour outside of Philadelphia. It is one of the poorest cities per capita in the nation, the kind of place where high school athletes give people hope.

Nobody embodies that more than Walker, which is why UM coaches promised that if he chose Miami over other finalists Villanova, Syracuse, Arizona and Kentucky, the Hurricanes would schedule a road game in Reading so that friends and family — especially his grandmother Eleanor “Mama El” Carter — could see him play.

They kept their promise. The 11th-ranked Hurricanes (3-0) face LaSalle (3-2) on Wednesday at 6 p.m. at Santander Arena in Reading, the 7,160-seat arena where Walker’s high school team competed in the conference playoffs on the way to the State 6A Championship. A sellout crowd is expected, including “Mama El.”

They kept their promise. The 11th-ranked Hurricanes (3-0) face LaSalle (3-2) on Wednesday at 6 p.m. at Santander Arena in Reading, the 7,160-seat arena where Walker’s high school team competed in the conference playoffs on the way to the State 6A Championship. A sellout crowd is expected, including “Mama El.” The Reading Eagle published a preview on the big event.

Fisher made it his personal mission to show Walker how much UM cared about him, not only for basketball, but also for his academic interests. Walker is an excellent student, and considered pre-med, but now says he plans to study business.

“I just got a really good feeling about Miami from the beginning,” Walker said. “I felt a connection with the coaches, and the campus is beautiful and it has very good academics, so it was the perfect fit.”

Walker can’t wait for his homecoming game. He twisted his ankle in the win over Florida A&M last Thursday, but is expected to play — maybe even start.

“I always brag about [our Reading fans],” Walker told the Reading Eagle. “I can’t wait, because now my teammates are going to realize what type of fans I have.”

Larrañaga agreed: “Lonnie’s a celebrity in the town. I think it will be electric, from start to finish.”

## Walker not focused on his NBA future

### Reading Eagle

Mike Drago

Nov. 21, 2017

READING, PA. - Lonnie Walker IV is counting the seconds until he's able to run back onto the court at Santander Arena, not only because it'll bring back a flood of memories, but because he'll be able to share the experience with his Miami teammates.

"It's going to be an amazing feeling for Ja'Quan (Newton) and Bruce (Brown Jr.) to see all our (Reading) fans," said Walker, a freshman who will be playing his fourth college game Wednesday with the Hurricanes at 6 against La Salle.

"I always brag about (our fans)," said Walker, who packed gyms and arenas near and far as he led Reading High to a PIAA Class 6A championship in March. "I can't wait, because now my teammates are going to realize what type of fans I have."

Walker knows the floor at Santander well. He played Berks Conference playoff games there in each of his four seasons with the Red Knights, once in front of nearly 7,000 fans; he brought a raucous crowd of 4,200 to its feet in a PIAA game against Perkiomen Valley.

The 11th-ranked Hurricanes (3-0) will be 1,200 miles from home while the Explorers (3-2) are the "local" team. Still, the 'Canes are sure to enjoy home court advantage because Walker will be wearing orange and green.

"I'm excited," said the Red Knights' all-time leading scorer, "but we're still there for a basketball game. It's not about me. We've still gotta get this win."

Once the ball goes up, it won't be all

about Walker. The 'Canes have a talented cast after coach Jim Larranaga was able to lure back-to-back top national recruiting classes to Coral Gables.

The fact that the game is being played in Reading - that is all about Walker.

'Canes assistant Adam Fisher, who spent months recruiting Pennsylvania's Player of the Year, saw during frequent visits to Reading how much family means to Walker. He listened when Walker talked about getting a chance to play in front of his grandmother, Eleanor Carter.

"I told him that one of my dreams was to have my grandmom watch me play live," said Walker. "She hasn't seen me like I am now, a different type of man. I'm older, stronger. Just to see her beautiful smile (courtside) will last me a lifetime."

The Lonnie Walker that "Mama El" sees will be quite different than the one Red Knights fans watched with such fervor.

For one thing he's bigger - 15 pounds heavier, the result, he says, of all the hard work he's done under the guidance of Miami trainer Javier Jimenez, who helped get him back in shape after July knee surgery.

For another, he's coming off the bench, not starting. No doubt the 31/2 months he spent off the court, rehabbing, cost him any chance to land a starting spot.

He's says he's still not 100 percent back; he wasn't cleared to return to practice until mid-October and fatigue has been an issue because he couldn't run coming off surgery.

The biggest difference is that Lonnie Walker is no longer "The Man."

At Reading High, he was counted on to set the tone, take the big shots, ignite the big rallies.

At Miami, he's just another talented player on a roster full of them.

"It's a completely different role for me," he said. "I'm not really the focal leader; that's Jaquan and Bruce Brown. I still lead, but it's not all about me, it's about the whole team."

Not a problem: Walker was always just as good, if not better, at setting up teammates as he was at creating or knocking down shots.

"It's a lot easier and simpler," he said of not having defensive game plans drawn up around him. "The difference between high school and college is that everyone in college can shoot, everyone's athletic, can do a little bit of everything."

The 'Canes have yet to face any top-flight competition, but Walker realizes he can no longer overwhelm everyone else on the court with his size, strength and speed.

"The physicality I have experienced has overexceeded my expectations, the speed and how strong people are," he said.

"These aren't 16-, 17-, 18-year-olds," he said. "These are 22-, 23 year-olds. You're playing against grown men and you have to understand that. It's definitely an incredible, but unique transition."



# Former Miami PG Shane Larkin Thinks Highly of the Hurricanes

**Inside The U**  
**Christopher Stock**  
**Nov. 20, 2017**

MIAMI, Fla. – The Miami Hurricanes opened the 2017-18 season with their highest preseason AP ranking in school history.

Miami, fresh off back-to-back NCAA Tournament appearances, opened 13th and have already climbed two spots to No. 11 after a 3-0 start.

Former Hurricane and current Boston Celtics point guard Shane Larkin engineered Miami's best team in school history winning the ACC regular season and tournament titles in 2013 on the way to a 29-7 record and Sweet 16 appearance.

Although Larkin credits this year's team for its talent, he would still take his squad in a game.

"I'm there every summer, I watched them work out, I watched them play, and they looked good," Larkin said. "The preseason rankings came out and they were the highest in school history, but they look talented. They look deep. They have a lot of guys who can score the ball. It's probably most talented individual team they've had in a while there. I wouldn't say it's the best team they've had in a while because I don't know if they can beat us.

"But definitely one of the most deep. (Chris) Lykes can score the ball. I think they might have two first-rounders this year in (Lonnie) Walker and (Bruce) Brown. (Anthony) Lawrence got better. The bigs got better so we'll see. There's a lot of excitement so we'll see how they do."

Bruce Brown, a 6-foot-5 sophomore

guard, figures to be the team's top player and Larkin believes he could be in store for a big season especially if he connects from long range. Brown is averaging 9.3 points, 8.3 rebounds, and 6.7 assists through the first three games of the season.

"I think his offensive game is better than everybody expected," Larkin said. "He's a big guard. He had to play a lot of point guard last year so I think if he can remain consistent from behind the arc and make people go over screens, with his size and athleticism he can get downhill and I think he will be really difficult to guard in the ACC because you don't have many guys in college that are 6-4 that can come off a screen and go up over the top or make the right play. His pick-and-roll play last year was pretty solid so I think with more maturity, with more growth, with more practices with Coach L (Jim Larranaga) knowing the reads and knowing the offense, he's going to be able to take that next step and if he can consistently knock down that trey ball and people try to go under that screen to keep him out of the lane, then he's going to be really good this year and really tough to stop, and then they're going to be really tough to stop if they spread the floor with all of the shooters that they have. I'm expecting big things out of him this year."

Senior point guard Ja'Quan Newton is the team's leading returning scorer from last season and has led the team averaging 14.0 points a game. Larkin is hoping to see Newton be a vocal leader this year.

"He's a very good player," Larkin said. "He's very skilled. He can score the ball. I think he just has to go out there this year and be the Davon Reed of the team. Davon last year was the vocal, defensive, get-everybody-going type guy. He

showed maturity past his years so I think if Ja'Quan can step up this year and kind of say whatever the team needs, I'm going to do whatever the team needs and I'm going to be the vocal guy on the team. He's an old guy on the team now so if he can take that step and really be that dog the team needs like a Durand Scott, Davon Reed, that guy, then I think they can be really good."

Larkin has been enjoying his first season with the Celtics, who are on a league-best 15-game winning streak and have the best record in the NBA at 15-2. Larkin is averaging 2.9 points in 14 games including a season-high 16 against Charlotte on Nov. 10.

Larkin and the Celtics will look to make it 16 straight at Dallas on Monday (8:30 p.m., NBCSB) before playing at Miami on Wednesday (7:30 p.m., FS-SUN/NBCSB). Larkin has played four games at Miami during his four-year NBA career and has had Larranaga, friends, and family members in attendance to see him play.

"It's always good to be able to come back to where you played college and have that support that you had when you were down here," Larkin said. "His son (Jay Larranaga) coaches on this team so there is definitely some family ties there. I've known Coach L since I was 14 years old so I've known him for more than 10 years now. Definitely a good feeling having someone in your corner that's accomplished so much in basketball that he has."

## Personal relationship led Lonnie Walker IV to Miami

**Reading Eagle**  
**Mike Drago**  
**Nov. 19, 2017**

READING, PA - Like the gang of other college coaches who flocked to see Lonnie Walker IV play during his high school days, Miami assistant coach Adam Fisher was struck by the elite basketball skills and athletic ability.

He saw the impressive wing span the 6-4 Reading High star used to shrink the court and the speed and ferocity with which he attacked the basket.

But he saw one other important ingredient: He saw Lonnie smile.

"He plays happy," said Fisher. "You can tell he's a kid who just loves playing."

That, Fisher said, was critical in Miami's decision to go all-in on Walker.

"It is an extra layer, something we look for," he said. "It's not just basketball (with us). Academics are important. We want our guys to be great in the community. We saw that with Lonnie, the way he would spend 45 minutes after a game signing autographs.

"He could have gone somewhere else (to finish his high school career), but his loyalty to Reading was great to see. He checked all the boxes."

Fisher latched onto the budding All-American early in the recruiting process. Just weeks after he was named a Hurricanes assistant, in June 2015, he went to head coach Jim Larranaga and said, "This kid's got a chance to be really good."

For the next 18 months, Fisher followed Walker everywhere. He crisscrossed the country to watch him play with Team Final on the AAU circuit. Geigle Complex became a regular stop. He made the trip from Coral Gables to Reading a dozen times, sometimes just to watch a practice or to have a chance to spend five minutes chatting up Walker.

"I became a groupie," said Fisher. "We wanted to make sure he knew we were there."

Even after the Red Knights all-time boys scoring leader announced his decision, Fisher and Larranaga continued to frequent

Reading, catching games at the Geigle or along the playoff trail.

Larranaga and Fisher flew to Philadelphia to see the Red Knights' state semifinal against Archbishop Ryan. A few days later, Fisher was among the throng jammed into Giant Center for the state final.

Walker's signing was a coup for Larranaga and considered a major upset on the national basketball stage.

Jay Wright was the first in on Walker and considered the hometown favorite. Villanova's 2016 NCAA championship gave its bid even more weight.

Later, heavyweights such as Arizona, Syracuse and Kentucky checked in.

Miami, viewed by many as a football school, wasn't given much of a chance. A few weeks before the three-time All-State pick announced his decision, one noted recruiting website gave the Hurricanes a 6 percent chance of landing him.

Fisher was undaunted.

"I always thought throughout (that) we have a good chance," he said.

From the beginning, Fisher sought to build a personal relationship; he didn't know it at the time but that turned out to be exactly what Walker was seeking.

"Talking about academics off the bat is something he liked," said Fisher, who spent months laying the all-important groundwork, then turned it over to Larranaga for the finishing touches.

Larranaga is 68 and looks more like a college professor than a coach. His grandfatherly charms struck a chord with Walker. The two bonded and found common interests outside of basketball.

"Coach L did an amazing job," Fisher said. "He connected with Lonnie in such a special way."

Fisher, just 34, has watched and learned from Larranaga's style and has adopted it as part of his own recruiting game.

"I told Lonnie: If it's a basketball-only decision, don't come here," he recalled. "That's not what we do here. We're gonna work on basketball, but we're also concerned about academics, about community, and we want to help you grow. It's what Coach L does."

Fisher had a bit of a home field advantage over much of his competition.

He grew up in Jamison, near Doylestown, and played basketball at Central Bucks East for Derek Wright, Jay's brother.

Fisher was a manager at Penn State, worked on Wright's Villanova's staff as an assistant recruiting coordinator, then followed Wildcats assistant Pat Chambers to Boston University and eventually back to Penn State.

"I don't know if (that connection) worked," Fisher said of his Keystone roots, "but I (felt I) could relate to him a little bit."

The days leading up to Walker's November announcement were nervous ones for Fisher; he admits he didn't sleep the night before Lonnie was to make his decision public. Landing Lonnie would be not only big for Miami's program, but huge for Fisher's coaching career.

The day before he heard through the grapevine that Kentucky and Syracuse had been eliminated from consideration.

He felt better.

"I felt he and I had developed a good relationship," Fisher said, "I was just hoping to coach him."

It wasn't until the phone call came that afternoon that he could finally breathe a sigh of relief.

Larranaga had been told that if the call came from Walker's father, Lonnie III, the news would not be good.

Lonnie IV's name showed up on the coach's phone.

"You could see Coach L's face light up," Fisher said. "Everyone on the bus erupted. Our whole team was excited. Lonnie was joining our family."

# Larranaga Disappointed in No. 11 Miami's 90-59 Win Over FAMU

**Inside The U**  
**Christopher Stock**  
**Nov. 16, 2017**

CORAL GABLES, Fla. – The outcome was never in doubt, but head coach Jim Larranaga was disappointed with the performance.

Bruce Brown, Dejan Vasiljevic and Ja'Quan Newton each scored 15 points to pace the 11th-ranked Miami Hurricanes in a 90-59 win over Florida A&M on Thursday night.

"I didn't think we were very good from start to finish," Larranaga said. "We need to play a whole lot harder and better defensively. We looked sluggish. We let them do some things that we planned on stopping. They caught the ball easily in scoring position. We spread our defense and let them drive to the basket. And I told the team afterwards, I was extremely disappointed in our effort. You look at the second half and we basically outscored them 44-37. We gave up 37 points in the half and we were very, very careless with the ball."

Florida A&M (0-3) head coach Robert McCullum understood Larranaga's disappointment.

"If that was his feeling, then I could understand--of course it's difficult, they're pretty good," McCullum said. "Of course we weren't a very good measuring stick. I think the point he's making is that you want your guys to play their best and not play to the level of the competition. Of course he knows there's a lot tougher opponents down the road and you want to get better. The goal is get better each game and not to win, and so I think that's probably the point that he was making."

The Hurricanes had 12 turnovers, far less than the 30 in the exhibition game against Newberry, but they weren't crisp at times throughout the game including back-to-back turnovers by Newton and Lykes in the second half.

"We were sloppy at times," Vasiljevic said. "We have things to improve on in practice on Saturday. Coach emphasized them so we just have to clear our minds right now and be prepared to come to practice on Saturday and work hard, work on the little things, and get better."

One of the disappointing areas in the game for Larranaga was free-throw shooting. The Hurricanes went 10 for 22 from the free-throw line and have been one of the nation's worst in the first week of the season making only 50.8 percent (30 of 59).

"Our free-throw shooting has been atrocious," Larranaga said. "We're going to try to figure out a way to correct that."

A number of players have struggled at the line including Brown, who is 2 for 9 on the season, Anthony Lawrence (1-6), Ebuka Izundu (4-9), and Rodney Miller (0-3).

"I would say it's all mental because when we do our free-throw shooting at the end of practice, they all make them, they shoot a high percentage," Larranaga said. The team will have a day off on Friday before resuming practice Saturday with consequences for missed free throws."On Saturday we're going to run them for every miss because I think it's a lack of maturity on our part," Larranaga said. "You go to the foul line. You should be excited. That's why they call them 'free throws.' You're by yourself, you're 15 feet away, and you've done it a million times in practice. And you get there and you miss them, and some of them we missed badly."

Chris Lykes (13), Lawrence (11), and Dewan Huell (10) also scored in double figures giving the Hurricanes six double-digit scorers.

Lonnie Walker, a freshman standout, injured his left ankle with 2:50 left in the first half and did not return. Walker shot

a 3-pointer on the baseline and then stepped on an opponent's foot. He had to be helped off by a trainer and a teammate unable to put much weight on hit. He eventually limped to the locker room before halftime and did not return to the bench in the second half.

"We won't know (how bad he is hurt) for a couple days," Larranaga said. "I think he is fine. He twisted his ankle. He stepped on someone's foot. I'm sure he'll be ready (for the next game)."

Miami's next game will be its first away from the Watsco Center in Walker's hometown of Reading, Pa. on Nov. 22 in a neutral site game against La Salle.

Brown bounced back after a 1-for-10 shooting effort Sunday against Navy scoring three points after posting a triple-double in the season opener with 10 points, 11 rebounds, and 10 assists. Brown made 6 of 10 shots from the floor including 2 of 3 from 3-point range. He also had four assists.

"I think I played well," Brown said. "I was more aggressive getting to spots I like to score at, rebounding the ball, and finding my teammates like DJ, Ebuka rolling. I just played my game tonight."

Miami made 12 of 26 of its 3-point attempts with three players--Vasiljevic, Lykes, and Lawrence--each making three.

Miami used an 11-0 run to build a 21-9 lead following a 3-pointer by Vasiljevic, Brown had a dunk, and Walker and Newton added layups during the run.

Miami led 46-22 at halftime and put together another big scoring run in the second half outscoring the Rattlers 13-0 over a 2-minute, 33-second stretch. Lykes, Brown, and Lawrence each hit 3-pointers during the run.

"We're talented," Brown said. "We just have to work on some things, clean up some things and we can be a really good team."

# Freshman SG Walker Injured, Expected to Play in Hometown Game

**Inside The U**  
**Christopher Stock**  
**Nov. 16, 2017**

CORAL GABLES, Fla. -- Miami Hurricanes freshman shooting guard Lonnie Walker suffered a left ankle injury in the first half of Thursday's 90-59 win over Florida A&M and did not return.

Walker hoisted a 3-pointer in front of the Florida A&M bench and then stepped on a opponent's foot. He had to be helped off the court by a trainer and a teammate with 2:50 left in the first half. He eventually limped to the locker room before halftime and did not return to the bench in the second half. Walker also sustained an injury in July forcing him to have surgery on his right knee to repair his meniscus.

"We won't know (how bad he is hurt) for a couple days," head coach Jim Larranaga said. "I think he is fine. He twisted his ankle. He stepped on someone's foot. I'm sure he'll be ready (for the next game)."

Miami's next game is in Walker's hometown of Reading, Pa. on Nov. 22 against La Salle.

"He's going to play in Reading," Larranaga said.

Walker tweeted: "I'm fine y'all now it's time to focus on COMING HOME!!!"

The game was discussed during Miami's recruitment of Walker, who was a five-star prospect.

"During the recruiting process it was very, very clear to us that Lonnie had a unique relationship with the people in Reading," Larranaga said. "Everybody knows him. During one of our visits, Lonnie asked us to meet his grandmother and grand-

mother so we went and met with them. It was very clear that they were not going to be able to travel to Miami if we got him or maybe even to Philadelphia so we told Lonnie that if he ends up deciding to come to the University of Miami, we will bring our program to Reading and play in front of his family, friends, and high school teammates because we thought that would be important to him and his family. So we're looking forward to going up there."

The game actually counts as a home game for Miami.

"We really appreciate La Salle being willing to play a game like that because we looked at a number of different opponents and it was hard for someone to look at their schedule and how do you play Wednesday night before Thanksgiving at a neutral site," Larranaga said. "We're excited about that opportunity."

It should be an exciting environment at the sold out 8,000-seat Santander Arena.

"I think it will be electric from start to finish," Larranaga said. "Lonnie is like a celebrity in the town. Everybody knows him. When he would leave practices there would be kids there wanting his autograph. There would be adults wanting to take their picture with him."

Walker, who is averaging 7.7 points, 2.0 rebounds, and 2.0 assists in three games for the 11th-ranked Hurricanes, has been coming off the bench. Larranaga was asked if he would consider starting him in the game.

"Well right now we'll consider him being healthy," Larranaga responded. "We'll worry about that first."

The team's next practice is on Saturday.

# The 11th-ranked UM basketball team won, Coach Larrañaga says free throws were ‘atrocious’

**Miami Herald**  
**Michelle Kaufman**  
**Nov. 16, 2017**

The 11th-ranked University of Miami men’s basketball team remained undefeated with a 90-59 victory over Florida A&M on Thursday night at the Watsco Center; but listening to coach Jim Larrañaga afterward, you would think the Hurricanes lost the game by 31.

“I told the team after that I was extremely disappointed in our effort,” Larrañaga said. “We were sluggish. We didn’t take care of the ball. And our free-throw shooting was atrocious. We need to play much harder and much better.”

Five takeaways from the game:

- The Hurricanes continue to struggle at the free-throw line. It has been a problem in all three games, and Thursday’s 10-of-22 shooting (46.2 percent) left Larrañaga livid. “It’s all mental because when we do our free-throw shooting at the end of practice, they shoot a high percentage. On Saturday, we’re going to run them for every miss because I think it’s a lack of maturity on our part. It’s about mental focus. You go to the foul line, you should be excited. That’s why they call them free throws. You’re by yourself, 15 feet away, and you’ve done it a million times in practice. You get there and miss them, and some we missed badly.”

- Freshman star Lonnie Walker twisted his left ankle late in the first half and hobbled off the court, but Coach Larrañaga expects him to be ready to play when the Hurricanes travel to Walker’s hometown of Reading, Pa., to play a neutral-site game next Wednesday against LaSalle. The game was a promise the UM coaching staff made to Walker, who is a local celebrity in Reading. “During the recruit-

ing process, we told Lonnie if he ends up at UM, we will bring our program to Reading and play in front of his family and friends and teammates ... It will be electric from start to finish.”

- Freshman guard Chris Lykes is the smallest Cane on the court at 5-7, but he has big game. He came off the bench and in 21 minutes scored 13 points on 4-of-7 shooting (three of them three-pointers) with four assists, a steal and only one turnover. Watch for him to provide a spark all season.

- Dewan Huell and DJ Vasiljevic are making a bigger impact this season. Vasiljevic was one of three Canes with 15 points on Thursday, but he is evolving into more than just a long-range shooter. He drove to the basket a few times, grabbed four rebounds and had two assists, a block and a steal. Huell has scored in double figures all three games, was 4-of-6 for 10 points with five rebounds, two steals and a block.

- Bruce Brown continues to prove he’s a complete player. He had 15 points on 60 percent shooting, eight rebounds (seven on defensive end), four assists and four steals. He rattled the Rattlers. “We were overwhelmed,” said FAMU coach Rober McCullum. “We can play better, but they’re a far superior team.”



# Miami Hurricanes basketball: Five quick hits from Week 1

**Palm Beach Post**  
**Matt Porter**  
**Nov. 16, 2017**

Running the floor before Miami's third game of the year, 7 p.m. Thursday against Florida A&M (ACC Network Extra/WatchESPN):

## **Dewan Huell looks good**

The former five-star big man had tons of athleticism, but not a great deal of skill, when he signed with UM. Jim Larranaga expected the sophomore to be one of the ACC's top players this year, averaging a double-double.

We're a long way from ACC play, but Huell looks confident offensively, putting up 14 points and 8 rebounds, then 14 and 10, in his first two games. The latter line, which came in Sunday's 89-55 win over Navy, was his first career double-double.

"He has certain major strengths, and he's always had those: Height, speed, quickness, jumping ability, ability to run the floor, block a shot, dunk the ball," Larranaga said. "Now he's got a bread-and-butter move he's been working on really hard, and it's proving to be effective."

It's a big leap in production for Huell, who averaged 5.8 and 3.1 last year in 17.4 minutes. He is only playing 2.6 minutes more this year.

Another bright spot: Center Ebuka Izundu, who averaged 4.2 and 3.0 last year in 13 minutes, has 13 and 7 through his first two games. He is playing 20.5 minutes a night. Miami has played him and Huell together, and the two have found each other for high-low passes.

## **Lykes what he sees**

Freshman Chris Lykes, listed at 5-foot-7 and 150 pounds, can get a little out of control, but his flashy passing, three-point shooting and general fearlessness has been fun to watch.

"I love him," Larranaga said. "Incredible athlete. Great shooter. But he's a freshman, and he has some things he can really get good at, but he's got to kind of learn how. ... He's got to understand his height is really an advantage. Those guys don't have the ability to get by you if you're working really hard."

Larranaga has seen several push-offs and knock-downs go uncalled. "I think he's going to find great success eventually. He could be someone who's like Muggsy Bogues. Tyler Ulis is a good comparison."

## **Brown not down**

Miami's best player, sophomore guard Bruce Brown, limped off against Navy. Larranaga said he sprained his (left) ankle but practice this week. It seems he will play Thursday.

Brown is averaging a team-high 31.9 minutes and began the year with a triple-double against Gardner Webb (10 points, 11 rebounds, 10 assists). His shooting fell off against Navy (1-for-10), and he finished with three points, six boards and six assists. He has yet to make a 3-pointer this year (0-for-5).

## **Not back yet**

Redshirt freshman Sam Waardenburg looked like a mobile, savvy stretch four in Miami's exhibition against Newberry, but the 6-10, 217-pound New Zealander missed the first two games of the year with a back injury. Larranaga called him

"better ... We have to be very cautious. We do not want this to be a lingering injury." Larranaga said Waardenburg reported back soreness in practice before the opener; a trainer checked him out and said, "he's super tight." He is unlikely to play against Florida A&M.

## **FAMU on deck**

Miami, which is ranked 13th in this week's Associated Press poll, shouldn't sweat much in this one. Florida A&M (0-2), which has traveled to Phoenix (Grand Canyon) and Las Vegas (UNLV) and lost, is 336th of 351 Division I teams in KenPom's ratings. Miami (2-0) is 16th.

Miami's first stiff challenge of the season comes Wednesday, Nov. 29 at Minnesota, as part of the ACC-Big Ten Challenge. Minnesota (3-0) is 14th in the AP poll and 28th in KenPom.

# Bruce Brown's Return To Miami Could Pay Off in NBA Draft

SI.com  
Chris Johnson  
Nov. 14, 2017

The upper crust of the 2018 NBA draft class skews large. In a stark reversal from the '17 class, which saw eight point guards or shooting guards fly off the board over the first 13 picks, only two guards are projected to be selected in the top 10 of Sports Illustrated's latest '18 mock draft, and four of the best five players on the big board we're releasing this week are forwards or centers. The absence of backcourt players in that range reflects a lack of star power at those positions, but that shouldn't be confused for a dearth of quality. There are PGs and SGs who should provide starter-at-minimum value in this draft, and one of them is Bruce Brown.

Brown didn't attract a lot of national attention as a freshman at Miami last season, mostly because the Hurricanes were just OK: They won only 21 games, finished tied for seventh place in the Atlantic Coast Conference and settled for a No. 8 seed in the NCAA tournament before being bounced by Michigan State in the opening round. When ESPN reported in early April that Brown would be back for his sophomore season, it barely registered on the college hoops news radar. The muted response felt appropriate given his relatively low profile at a football school overshadowed by hoops-first powerhouses in the same league.

Had Brown decided to enter the draft, there seems a decent shot some team would have nabbed him late in the first or early in the second round. But after talking to people close to him—including Leo Papile, the founder of Brown's grassroots program, Boston Amateur Basketball Club (BABC), and a former front office executive for the Boston Celtics with contacts around the NBA—Brown reached the conclusion that he wasn't ready to make the jump. During the one-and-done era, staying in school has increasingly become the disfavored option among players with even a small glimmer of pro potential, but it could pay off for Brown in a big way.

Brown is one of the few high-end prospects at a position of scarcity in this class. That's not totally accurate, because he's capable of lining up at both point guard and shooting guard, a malleability that raises his floor and increase his utility in different lineups. Brown, who turned 21 in August, is older than every other college sophomore who's currently considered a prospective candidate to be drafted next summer. Though age may limit his developmental upside, Brown can counteract that knock during a 2017-18 season that should see him evolve from a promising newcomer on a middling team to the alpha dog of a legit national championship contender.

When you watch Brown, the first thing that sticks out is his body. His musclebound 6'5," 190-pound

frame (6'9" wingspan) seems like a better fit for a free safety than a floor general, so it's no wonder that he played both football and basketball before transferring to a high school that dropped the former. Brown has the physical tools to check every perimeter position, and he can hold up physically if 4s or 5s try to bully him around the basket. "If a big guy tried to post him up, he wouldn't lose a pushing contest," Papile recalls of Brown's time with the BABC. "Because of that football savvy and strength."

It's not inconceivable that, depending on the matchup, Brown could be used in a similar manner to how the Boston Celtics sometimes stick 6'4" guard Marcus Smart on big men. Even if Brown will be spending almost all of his time guarding 1-3, his defensive range is a huge asset in a league that increasingly prizes the ability to switch assignments and that continues to push the boundaries of front court downsizing. (P.J. Tucker can play center now!) Brown is active when guarding on the ball, if somewhat inconsistent away from it, and he brings the added defensive benefit of limiting second-chance opportunities by snatching rebounds.

There were only three freshman guards who averaged at least 15 minutes per game last season that posted a higher Defensive Box Plus/Minus—a statistic that measures contributions on that end of the court, like blocks and steals—than Brown: Butler's Kamar Baldwin, Florida State's Trent Forrest and Southern California's De'Anthony Melton.

Brown has an opportunity to assert himself as Miami's go-to perimeter defender this season. The Hurricanes are stocked with capable backcourt scorers like senior Ja'Quan Newton and fellow freshmen Lonnie Walker and Chris Lykes, but they'll need a lockdown artist in bouts with ACC competitors like Duke and North Carolina. Miami is losing 6'6" wing Davon Reed, an all-league defensive honoree selected with the No. 32 pick in the '17 draft. "The guy who is most similar to Davon athletically—size, length, jumping ability—is Bruce," Miami head coach Jim Larrañaga says. "With that in mind, we're going to be pushing him to become a stopper."

One of the factors that drew Brown to Miami is its ball screen-heavy, pro-style offense. As a five-star recruit from Boston, he was known more as a physical slasher than a savvy offensive initiator, but Larrañaga didn't hesitate to put him in the driver's seat on pick and rolls last season. According to data from Synergy Sports Technology, serving as the ball handler in P&Rs was Brown's most frequent play type. He wasn't great in those situations, averaging only 0.74 points per possession and turning the ball over 21.2% of the time. But Brown says he spent part of the offseason working on different pick and roll actions, and as a sophomore he'll get more chances to show he's a better playmaker than his grassroots

rep implied.

Defenders can't leave Brown alone behind the three-point arc. He connected on 33 of his 95 long-range tries last season (34.7%); sank 26 of his 61 (42.6%) catch-and-shoot jumpers, per Synergy, and he can blow by weak closeouts. But Brown will need to develop as an off-the-dribble launcher to reach his ceiling as a pick-and-roll practitioner. If he doesn't, coaches will be all too eager to encourage going under screens on Brown, comforted by the fact that he won't pick up his dribble to let fly. On the 34 off-the-dribble Js Synergy logged for Brown in 2016-17, he scored only 11 total points.

Most coveted draft prospects, including Brown, need to work on their jumpers before they get to the league, but he can mitigate any early shooting woes with his ability to rush past defenders off the dribble. Brown is an armored sedan attacking the basket, rarely flinching at the point of contact and exploding through channels of space.

The trait that distinguishes Brown from other guards in this draft is not quantifiable. Before Brown blossomed into a top-30 high school recruit and a projected first-round pick, he needed to buy into Papile's ethos at the BABC. "We look for two things," Papile says. "Brains and balls." There's a doggedness to Brown's game that's seldom seen in players his age. He's a rugged, high-energy competitor who punishes players loafing through possessions and falls into the category of what Papile describes as "guys that don't fool around." You probably didn't need to read this entire sentence to identify the player Brown watches highlights of "non-stop": Russell Westbrook.

Brown is often listed as a shooting guard, but Larrañaga is convinced otherwise: "Bruce is going to be an NBA point guard," he says. Newton started at the 1 for Miami last season, but Brown will be charged with running the offense at times as a sophomore, on what Larrañaga describes as "very much a perimeter-oriented team" that'll also have another possible first-rounder threatening opposing defenses in Walker. Although media members voted Duke first in the ACC's preseason poll last month, Miami could be its prime challenger. (SI projects the Hurricanes as the conference's No. 3 team.) Against the Blue Devils, Brown will have an opportunity to upstage one of the only backcourt prospects showing up ahead of him in early '18 mocks: PG Trevon Duval.

Even that individual matchup, though, would get second billing in a game featuring a candidate for the No. 1 overall selection in the draft, Duke freshman Marvin Bagley III. NBA-inclined observers tuning in to catch a look at the next potential unicorn big should get familiar with the relentless guard on the other team.



## Basketball brotherhood fuels team chemistry

**The Miami Hurricane  
Austin Pert and Maxwell Trink  
Nov. 14, 2017**

Miami basketball has an opportunity to experience its best season in program history.

All the pieces are there: an experienced coach, one of the most talented backcourts in the country and the ability to be an explosive offense.

But as the No. 11 Hurricanes (2-0), who started their season Nov. 10 with a win against Gardner-Webb University, work toward a special year, there are still questions about how the team's level of experience will affect them.

Former captains Davon Reed and Kamari Murphy both graduated after last season, leaving guard Ja'Quan Newton as the only senior on the active roster. This is compared to three freshman, four sophomores and two juniors.

With expectations set high, much of the pressure will fall on the shoulders of the younger players.

"Our number-one priority has two parts: defense and rebounding," coach Jim Larrañaga said. "As talented as I think our young guys are, they're not used to playing against NBA-caliber players every single day at the defensive end."

In the past, successful UM teams thrived off intense defense and dominant rebounding, but player leadership played an important part.

It is still uncertain who will be the clear-cut leaders for the 2017 Hurricanes.

"Ja'Quan Newton has been the senior core for the team," highly-anticipated

freshman Lonnie Walker said. "You also have Bruce Brown and DJ Vasiljevic, who help you out. They tell you what you messed up on, and they pay close attention to detail. Everything is pinpoint."

Larrañaga, who is in his seventh year at Miami, named six different players as possible captains and said the team will be alternating from game to game. But regardless of which players wear the metaphorical "C" on their chests, the relationships the players have with each other, including the freshmen, are what separates this team from the pack.

"I feel like this is a brotherhood – it's a family," freshman guard Chris Lykes said. "We look out for each other. We are building a chemistry on and off the court at the same time."

Part of that chemistry has come from players making sure teammates are managing their time correctly to maximize potential.

Sophomore Bruce Brown recognizes the struggles of being a freshman in college and is trying to help the new guys adjust to their tight schedules.

"One day, we had a 6 a.m. lift, so we actually drove over to the dorm and woke them up to drive them to the gym," Brown said. "I missed one because I woke up late. You wake up at 7 a.m. and you're like, 'Oh man, I'm going to get a tough reminder.' We just didn't want that to happen to the freshmen."

Brown talked about how the players spent a lot of time together before the season to bond, whether through paintballing or just laughing in the locker room.

Walker said the freshmen gelled on the

first day.

"Usually when you go to certain places and meet new friends, it takes maybe a week to get adjusted – two weeks depending on the type of person you are," Walker said. "But this freshman class, it came together so fast."

"It makes everything a lot easier knowing that guys around you have the same schedule," Lykes said. "We got a lot of guys who are hungry for success. They're just making sure us freshmen are doing things the right way. I really think it's going to be a great year for us, and I'm excited."

# Vasiljevic Bounces Back for No. 13 Miami in 89-55 Win Over Navy

**Inside The U**  
**Christopher Stock**  
**Nov. 12, 2017**

CORAL GABLES, Fla. – Dejan Vasiljevic was disappointed with his 2-for-12 shooting performance in the season opener and stayed after the game to put up shots.

Vasiljevic responded with a team-high 16 points to help lead No. 13 Miami to an 89-55 win over Navy on Sunday.

“I didn’t do it many times last year, but I feel like the shots I should have made I stayed back on work on them--just the catch-and-shoot-type of shots,” Vasiljevic said. “I don’t really do it, but I just felt I needed to. I didn’t feel right after the game.”

Vasiljevic knocked down 5 of 10 shots from the floor including 4 of 8 from the 3-point line on his way to coming up two points shy of his career-high.

Miami’s Dewan Huell added 14 points and tied a career-high with 10 rebounds for his first career double-double.

“First of many,” Huell said.

Ja’Quan Newton also scored 14 points, Ebuka Izundu added 12, and Anthony Lawrence chipped in 10 giving the Hurricanes (2-0) five players in double figures.

“For us to have five guys in double figures and (Bruce Brown) to not be one of them, it says we’ve got good balance,” Miami head coach Jim Larranaga said.

Standout guard Bruce Brown, who had a triple-double in Friday’s 77-45 win over Gardner-Webb, was held to three points on 1-of-10 shooting although he did have six rebounds and six assists.

“He just missed the shot, missed a layup, we posted him up and he missed it right at the rim,” Larranaga said. “Some nights you miss.”

Brown exited the game with a left ankle injury, but after staying down momentarily he got up and limped off on his own power with 4:11 left in the game. The injury did not appear to be serious.

The Hurricanes wasted no time building a commanding lead over the upset-minded Midshipmen (1-1), who knocked off Pittsburgh in their opener, leading 9-0 out of the gate and 31-12 following an 11-2 run.

“I think for us we had a great win on Friday night versus Pittsburgh and obviously that gets everybody’s attention and we played very poorly here today,” Navy head coach Ed DeChellis said. “I give them a lot of credit. They’re a very good basketball team. They’ve got speed. They’ve got length. They got guys who can guard you and they made it very, very difficult for us this afternoon.”

Starting fast was a positive after a lackluster first half in the opener against Gardner-Webb taking a 27-23 lead into the break.

“That’s what we emphasized especially with the starting group to start off well and then let the younger guys come in and bring the same energy we had,” Vasiljevic said. “Just starting off, we need to get off to a good start.”

Miami led by as many as 35 late in the second half.

“I was very proud of how hard we played for all 40 minutes,” Larranaga said. “I thought our defense was very good, but

the effort was outstanding. I think we learned some things about ourselves.”

Miami returns to action on Thursday (7 p.m., ACC Network Extra) against Florida A&M for the final game of three straight home games to start the season. Reserve forward Sam Waardenburg (back) missed his second consecutive game, but Larranaga is hopeful he will make his Miami debut on Thursday.

# Brown's triple-double gets No. 13 Hurricanes off to right start in season opener

**Miami Herald**

**Walter Villa**

**Nov. 11, 2017**

Sophomore Bruce Brown and freshman Lonnie Walker are projected 2018 NBA first-round picks, big men on the University of Miami campus and a dynamic duo with personality to spare.

After Brown produced his second career triple-double and the third in UM history in the Hurricanes' 77-45 season-opening win over visiting Gardner-Webb on Friday night, Walker raved about his new teammate.

"That's Bruce Brown. He's one of the reasons why I came here, and it's evident on the court," Walker said after Brown posted 10 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists.

"He's going to do that almost any game without (people) really noticing. That's what he does. That's his name. Bruce Brown. Call him 'triple dub' if you want."

With 12 minutes left in the game, Brown said his teammates told him he was near the triple-double, and he went for the achievement.

"I'm happy I got it," he said, "and I'm happy we won."

Early on, though, the win was not at all assured. Miami started slowly, leading just 27-23 at halftime.

Walker, who did not start as coach Jim Larranaga went with a veteran lineup to open the game, produced 10 points and five assists in 25 minutes, making 4-of-5 shots, including 2-of-3 on three-pointers.

His first career basket provided instant energy when he took an alley-oop pass from Brown and dunked to cut Gardner-

Webb's early lead to 7-6.

And even though the play looked good, Walker said it wasn't quite perfect.

"I kind of fumbled the ball, and when it went in, I looked up and said, 'That's my first points,'" Walker said. "It was ironic because my first basket my freshman year in high school was an alley-oop dunk. It brought back flash-back memories."

Brown said his pass to Walker was something he was plotting since Walker arrived on campus in July.

"I knew he could jump," Brown said. "You're going to see a lot more of those."

Added Walker: "A lot more."

Brown, turning comedian, joked about an "almost" connection with Walker.

"I could have had him a second time," Brown said, "but I just didn't want to throw him the ball."

- Miami centers Dewan Huell and Ebuka Izundu combined for 28 points and 18 rebounds in just 40 minutes, which is outstanding production from that position.

- Larranaga said redshirt freshman Sam Waardenburg, who missed Friday's game due to a back injury, will be an important contributor this season.

- Miami guards DJ Vasiljevic (2-for-12) and freshman Chris Lykes (1-for-6) are much better shooters than what they showed, the coach said.

# Brown's Triple-Double Powers No. 13 Miami to Blowout Win

**Inside The U**  
**Christopher Stock**  
**Nov. 10, 2017**

CORAL GABLES, Fla. – Bruce Brown got his sophomore season started off on the right foot.

Brown recorded his second career triple double with 10 points, 11 rebounds, and 10 assists to help lead No. 13 Miami to a 77-45 win over Gardner-Webb in the season opener on Friday night.

“He plays so hard,” Gardner-Webb head coach Tim Craft said. “He’s physical. He’s athletic. He’s hard to keep out of the paint and I think he’s just a heck of a competitor. He looks like he loves to play out there. He was a hard matchup for us for sure.”

Brown also had a triple-double last season with 11 points, 11 rebounds, and 10 assists against South Carolina State. He has two of the three triple-doubles recorded in school history.

“Bruce is Bruce,” Miami head coach Jim Larranaga said. “He’s very good at everything. He’s athletic. He’s a very good offensive player, a good defensive player, and he rebounds.”

Brown was four points shy of the mark when he made back-to-back shots before exiting moments later.

“Kind of (a surprise),” Brown said of the triple-double. “My teammates let me know though; my stats with 12 minutes to go. I’m happy I got one and I’m happy we got the win.”

Ebuka Izundu added 14 points and grabbed 10 rebounds, and Dewan Huell also scored 14 points while grabbing eight rebounds to give the Hurricanes a strong inside presence.

“Ebuka and Dewan protected us and had a very nice combination at the five position,” Larranaga said. “Dewan had 14

points and eight rebounds, Ebuka had 14 points and 10 rebounds, that’s 28 and 18 between the two of them. If we get that kind of production, we’re going to be pretty good.”

Ja’Quan Newton chipped in 13 for the Hurricanes, who blew the game open in the second half after taking a 27-23 lead into the break.

Larranaga’s message to the team at half-time: “We need to play a whole lot better. We didn’t run fast enough. We didn’t play hard enough. They out-ran us. They out-hustled us. All of that was not a good half for us. We need to play much better in the second half.”

Miami shot 33.3 percent (9 of 27) from the field in the first including hitting just 1 of 11 from behind the arc.

“I don’t think the effort was there in the first half,” Brown said. “Our offense looked terrible so we just re-grouped, talked in the locker room, brought the energy back, and then we came back in the second half and played the way we know how to play.”

The Hurricanes responded with a 24-3 run to start the second half to take a commanding lead and finished shooting 50.0 percent (30 of 60) from the field.

“I thought in the second half, right away our defense very attentive and it led to a lot of transition baskets,” Larranaga said. “We scored 50 in the second half after only scoring 27 in the first half so a much better performance.”

Lonnie Walker made his highly-anticipated college debut scoring 10 points with five assists and two rebounds off the bench including a crowd-pleasing alley-oop dunk for his first basket.

“It’s definitely was what I expected,” Walker said. “The first half isn’t what I truly expected. We started off slow, but the second half once we got the ball go-

ing, flowing, doing what we do, we’re kind of unstoppable. I pictured this since July when I first got here because I’ve got faith in Bruce, Ja’Quan Newton, Ebuka, the list goes on and on. We’re a great team and that’s how we have to play in the second half.”

Walker, whose first basket came on a lob from Brown, was impressed with the rare feat.

“That’s Bruce Brown,” Walker said. “There’s really nothing else that I could honestly explain. He’s one of the reasons why I really came here. It’s evident on the court--10 points, 11 rebounds, 10 assists. He’s going to do that almost any game without really noticing what he can do. That’s what he does. That’s his name, Bruce Brown. Call him triple-dub if you want.”

The alley-oop connection is something the two hope to continue throughout the season.

“Since the first day he got on campus I knew he could jump,” Brown said. “It’s been in the works since open gym.”

Walker said: “We probably are going to have a lot of more of those.”

Brown interjected: “I could have had him the second time, I just didn’t want to throw the ball.”

Fellow freshman Chris Lykes also made his debut scoring three points, but Sam Waardenburg did not play due to a back injury and is considered doubtful to play on Sunday (4 p.m., ACC Network Extra) against Navy and Deng Gak is redshirting due to NCAA complications.

# Talented Hurricanes men's basketball team eager to live up to expectations-

**Sun Sentinel**  
**Christy Cabrera-Chirinos**  
**Nov. 9, 2017**

They have brought in some of the most talented recruits in program history, return one of the nation's top sophomores in Bruce Brown and their preseason ranking is the highest of any Hurricanes men's basketball team ever.

And still, for the better part of the past two months, most of the conversation surrounding Miami basketball hasn't been on the high expectations surrounding the Hurricanes, but their involvement with an ongoing Department of Justice Probe into corruption in college basketball.

The 13th-ranked Hurricanes know that investigation isn't going away. But the hope is that with Miami set to finally take the court with a game against Gardner-Webb on Friday night at the Watsco Center, that finally, some of the focus will move to the team's potential and the promise of the upcoming season.

"We can't wait to get this going. We're so talented and we're just hungry and ready to play," said senior point guard Ja'Quan Newton, who averaged 13.5 points, 3.5 rebounds and 3.4 assists last season. "It feels different when you know we've got the highest ranking we've ever had since we've been here and we know have the talent to do what everybody thinks we can do."

A season ago, the Hurricanes advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the second straight year. But there were ups and downs throughout the season as the squad moved on without the likes of Angel Rodriguez, Sheldon Mac and Tonye Jekiri, three of the players that helped fuel Miami's run to the Sweet 16 in 2016.

They put together wins against the likes of Duke, North Carolina State, North Carolina, Florida State and Syracuse during the regular season and saw Brown become a force. But there was inconsistency, particularly late in the year.

The Hurricanes lost two of their last three in the regular season and lasted just one game in the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament, with eventual national champion North Carolina handing Miami a humbling 78-53 loss.

The struggles continued into the NCAA Tournament, where Miami let an early lead slip away against Michigan State, which eventually dominated in a 78-58 win that ended the Hurricanes' season.

And although veterans Davon Reed and Kamari Murphy are gone, the Hurricanes return 10 players from that tournament team, including Newton and Brown, who recorded just the second triple-double in program history and averaged 11.8 points and 5.6 rebounds.

Back too are sophomore forward Dewan Huell (5.8 ppg, 3.1 rpg), Anthony Lawrence (6.8 ppg, 3.8 rpg) and sharpshooting sophomore DJ Vasiljevic (6.0 ppg, 1.3 rpg). And to that core, Miami has added the highest-regarded recruiting class in program history, including freshmen Chris Lykes and Lonnie Walker IV, who was both a McDonald's and Jordan Brand All-American and already projects as a potential lottery player in next year's NBA draft.

"Wow," Hurricanes coach Jim Larrañaga exclaimed when describing how he expects Miami fans will react when they see Lykes and Walker play. "I've watched a lot of basketball in my lifetime and these guys are fun to watch. ... It's a treat. They're fun to coach, they're fun to

be around, they're hard as heck to guard, they should play really hard defensively because they're very capable. I think the fans are in for a real treat."

All of that said, Larrañaga expects there will be — even with all the talent — some growing pains for his young team. And with Murphy and Reed gone, the Hurricanes will need to replace not only their leadership, but some of their defensive prowess.

Once that happens, though, the expectation is this has the potential to be a memorable season for Miami.

"I can't wait," Brown said. "I think we'll jell together perfectly and I think it'll be a good year. ... We're a really good team, a lot of talent. We just need to focus on little things, get those little things right and I think it'll be a good year for us."



## Lonnie Walker can shoot, dunk, and make a mean waffle

**Miami Herald**  
**Michelle Kaufman**  
**Nov. 9, 2017**

The University of Miami basketball season officially gets underway Friday with the women playing crosstown rival Florida International University at 6 p.m. at the WATSCO Center, followed by the UM men at 8 p.m. against Gardner-Webb.

Both Miami teams have had to replace key players, but coaches Katie Meier and Jim Larrañaga seem confident the returning players and freshmen will fill the gaps. The women open the season ranked No. 24 in the preseason poll, and the men's team is ranked No. 13 – its highest-ever preseason ranking – and was picked to finish fourth in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

The men's team returns three starters, sophomore Bruce Brown, senior Ja'Quan Newton and junior Anthony Lawrence. Brown, coming off a sensational freshman season, has been selected to many preseason watch teams. Newton, who has been suspended a couple of times, is said to have matured.

Sophomore sharpshooter DJ Vasiljevic of Australia is back, and showed in a 106-79 preseason win over Newberry College last week that he's improved his touch. He led UM with 30 points, 19 of them in the first five minutes of the game, including five three pointers.

Perhaps the biggest reason the Canes are ranked so high is the addition of freshman guards Chris Lykes, a 5-7 dynamo from Mitchellville, Md., and 6-5 Lonnie Walker IV, the most highly-touted UM recruit in recent history. Walker led Reading (Pa.) High to its first state title, averaged 18.4 points per game, was named Pennsylvania's Mr. Basketball, and McDonald's

All-American.

Walker was ranked No. 12 in the ESPN Top 100, and second at his position. He chose UM over Kentucky, Arizona, Syracuse and Villanova. Most experts are predicted he'll be one-and-done, and bolt for the NBA after this season, but he says his only focus right now is improving his game and getting the Hurricanes to the NCAA Tournament.

"Everyone's talking about one-and-done, but I'm here to win," Walker said.

Like all college freshmen, Walker has had to get accustomed to life away from home. Coral Gables is a long way from Reading, Pa., so he has been learning how to manage money, how to grocery shop, and how to manage his schedule.

The two areas in which he's doing just fine are in the classroom, where he's always been a standout student, and in the kitchen.

His father, Lonnie III, is a chef. He used to work at Olive Garden, and treated the family to leftover chicken alfredo and chicken parmigiana. "He'd make the most amazing breakfasts, huge omelettes, tower waffles, you name it," Walker said. "I learned how to cook from him, so I can definitely get by."

Walker said his game has already improved under the tutelage of Larrañaga.

"Coach L is the most fundamentally sound coach I have ever seen," Walker said. "He shows me the little things I need to do, the details, the things no other coach tells you."

For example, Walker said he had a habit of stepping out of bound in the corner when he's driving. Coach L gave him tips

to avoid making that mistake. Walker can't wait to get the season started.

"You know how when you ask a dog, 'Do you want to go outside for a walk?' he gets all happy. That's me with the court. I'm overjoyed. I'm happy. I'm ready to go out and play."

The women's team also expects big contributions from freshmen Mykea Gray, Taylor Mason, Kelsey Marshall, Rebecca Ripley and Endia Banks. With key veterans injured – including Dutch players Emese Hof and Lauren Cornelius – the young players will have to step in right away. Meier said she loves their energy, and though they will make mistakes early, she is encouraging them to be aggressive and take chances.

"We've got a whole new team, starting all over again," said sophomore Sarah Mortensen of Denmark. "Last year, I sat back and watched the older players, and now I have to teach the newbies what to do. But they're learning, and they have a lot of heart and energy, so we should be fine."

# PF Waardenburg More Confident Than Ever, Ready for Miami Debut

**Inside The U**  
**Christopher Stock**  
**Nov. 8, 2017**

CORAL GABLES, Fla. – Sam Waardenburg has made vast improvements since his arrival at Miami last December.

Although eligible to play when he arrived, Waardenburg redshirted and worked on improving physically as well as adapting to life in the United States after coming over from New Zealand.

“He came in weighing 190 and he’s 217 and we’re looking to maybe add on three more pounds about the start of the season, his body fat is still low so he’s packing on a lot of muscle,” strength and conditioning coach Steve Felde said. “He’s squatting close to 350, which to me is very impressive. I took it slow with him just because he was 17 when he came in. I wanted to make sure he was doing everything right. He’s been doing great. His confidence is up a lot higher with his body changing and getting stronger.”

Waardenburg’s added strength has him more confident than he has ever been heading into his collegiate debut for No. 13 Miami on Friday (8 p.m., ACC Network Extra) against Gardner-Webb.

“This is the most confidence I’ve had as a player at any point so far,” Waardenburg said. “I just believe in myself, the players around us, and I believe we can go far with this team. It’s exciting.”

Waardenburg will be a key rotation player off the bench for Miami, which will look to utilize his skills as a 6-foot-9 power forward with long-range shooting ability.

“That was a big part of my recruitment coming here, being able to stretch the

floor out shooting the 3 from the four-position,” Waardenburg said. “It’s something different we can add to the team. We have a lot of shooters this year. We have a drill, ‘five-minute 3s’ and we’ve got seven guys averaging over 50 makes so that’s huge for us. Stretching the floor like that opens up easy driving to the basket. It opens up the floor for a lot of guys.”

Waardenburg showed his 3-point ability making three 3-pointers in four games at the FIBA U19 World Cup in Egypt over the summer.

“Taking that guy out and knocking down that 3 is crucial especially with the game today with everyone stretching out the floor,” Waardenburg said. “Also hitting that 3 allows me to get a guy up on his feet and take it to the basket.”

Waardenburg got his first taste of game action at the Watsco Center scoring five points, including a 3-pointer, and grabbing three rebounds in 15 minutes in Miami’s lone exhibition game last week against Newberry.

However, Friday will be the real deal.

“I can’t wait,” Waardenburg said. “It’s been a long 10 months waiting. It’s exciting. The team, I’m feeling good about it.”



# PG Newton Vows to Put Suspensions Behind Him

**Inside The U**  
**Christopher Stock**  
**Nov. 8, 2017**

CORAL GABLES, Fla. – Ja’Quan Newton has been suspended twice in the past two years.

The senior point guard, who is Miami’s leading returning scorer at 13.5 points per game, says the suspensions for a violation of team rules without detailing the incidents, which each for three games late in the season, are in the past.

“I’ve handled it very well,” Newton said. “People make mistakes and I know that. I’ve handled it very well. I grew up over the summer. It’s my senior year. It’s time to grow up. It’s time to be a man. People don’t know what goes on in my life. People on the outside looking in so they don’t really know things or know what’s going on. They just like to talk. But as long as I’ve got my coaches, as long as I’ve got my teammates, I don’t really care what nobody else thinks. This year it won’t be that situation. Things will be different. I’m just going to lead my team as best that I can and get a lot of wins.”

Jim Larranaga and his staff have been supportive of Newton issuing suspensions as a disciplinary measure as opposed to dismissing him from the team like they did last year with Rashad Muhammad and Michael Gilmore.

“Ja’Quan, quite frankly, I think has done a good job in part, but he’s also had to deal with some health issues in his life that are challenging,” Larranaga said.

Newton was suspended for the final three games of the regular season during his sophomore season and last year he was suspended for three games in February before returning having lost his starting

job, which he regained after struggling off the bench for two games.

On the court, Newton is looking to increase his assist-to-turnover ratio, which plagued him last season with 101 assists and 98 turnovers despite being an effective scorer shooting 45.2 percent from the field.

“That’s going great,” Newton said. “I’ve been doing a good job in practices just getting people the ball, doing the right reads, hitting guys for open shots, getting to the lane and kicking out, and while also scoring—hitting 3s, making floaters. I feel like I’ve improved so much over the summer and I can’t wait for everybody to see.”

Newton is excited about the upcoming season with Miami ranked 13th in the preseason AP Poll. The Hurricanes’ season opener is Friday (8 p.m., ACC Network Extra) against Gardner-Webb at the Watsco Center.

“Last year our chemistry wasn’t there all the way,” Newton said. “It was kind of hard at times last year, but I feel like this year we’re the type of team that we are able to talk to each other more without anyone getting defensive or getting mad or anything like that.”

With Newton and sophomore guard Bruce Brown returning in addition to other key players mixed in with an impressive group of newcomers led by Lonnie Walker, the Hurricanes will be looking for a third consecutive trip to the NCAA Tournament.

“In practice I’m just seeing how talented we are,” Newton said. “I’m just seeing how good we really can be. I’ve been here four years now so I’ve seen the types of teams we’ve had and I’ve seen the potential in teams, and this is a spe-

cial team.”

Newton is confident in the team because, “The talent. We’re so deep on talent. Even off the bench you’ve got Chris Lykes. He’s very talented and he could start somewhere else. You’ve got DJ (Dejan Vasiljevic) and he could start at any ACC school. You’ve got Ebuka (Izundu) and he could start somewhere else. We’re just so talented and so deep. We’ve never been this talented before. It looks good on paper, but we still have to go out there and play defense—that’s the main thing because we can score.

“We’ve got enough fire power. We’ve just got to defend, defend, defend, and we’ll be good.”

## PF Huell Lists Individual Goals for Sophomore Season

**Inside The U**  
**Christopher Stock**  
**Nov. 7, 2017**

CORAL GABLES, Fla. – Dewan Huell has goals of being a more productive player for the 13th-ranked Miami Hurricanes during his sophomore season.

Huell, who is coming off a year averaging 5.8 points and 3.1 rebounds in 17.4 minutes a game, lists rebounding as a high priority for him this season and he is happy with the results during preseason practices ahead of the opener on Friday (8 p.m., ACC Network Extra) against Gardner-Webb.

“It’s going real well,” Huell said. “I’m going to put up some good numbers at rebounding this year. It’s my goal. I want to lead the ACC in rebounding.”

Huell is aiming to average at least 10 rebounds a game with four offensive boards, two blocks a game, and wants to earn a spot on the league’s All-Defensive Team.

Offensive rebounds will lead to more possessions for the offense and scoring opportunities for Huell.

“Most of the time you can just catch it and dunk it right back in or tip it in or catch it and kick it out to DJ (Dejan Vasiljevic) and knock down the 3 or anybody on the team because everybody is shooting pretty well right now,” Huell said.

Huell’s scoring goal is to average at least 12 points a game--six from just “running the floor real hard beating my man down the court.”

If he can accomplish his goals of 12 points, 10 rebounds, and two blocks a game, then, “It would open it up for the team.

We would be a great rebounding team. When we rebound, it means we’re playing well on defense with just one possession. If I’m doing what I’ve got to do down low defensively and finishing layups and we put up points, that’s great for the team. Coach (Jim Larranaga) tells us he wants each position to average 15 points a game so that’s what I’m trying to do.”

Looking back on his freshman season, the biggest thing he learned was:

“Work. Put in work and it will show.”

And Huell has been putting in work on the floor and in the weight room where he has added nearly 15 pounds to his 6-foot-11 frame and is now up to 233 pounds. He put in plenty of extra time during the offseason before and after team workouts, and his additional time on the court has continued during preseason practices. After school started he would often go to the gym at 6 a.m. before class or 10 p.m. after finishing study hall. Although, he has been monitoring his time.

“It depends how I’m feeling because I want to stay healthy at the same time,” Huell said. “I don’t want to go to where I’m damaged or I can’t be on the court because I’m working out too much. I’m pacing myself real well. I’m trying to go at least twice a week on my own either in the morning or night. I like the morning workouts because with me sleeping at night, that’s what gets me up in the morning. I go to sleep after practice and study hall, eat, and go to sleep and I’ll be ready to go at 5:30 in the morning.”

The coaching staff has been looking into various lineup combinations throughout preseason practices especially with the frontcourt with junior Anthony Law-

rence, junior Ebuka Izundu, and Huell. Redshirt freshman Sam Waardenburg and sophomore Rodney Miller are also in the mix for playing time.

“It’s different lineups depending on what day,” Huell said. “Coach is trying to test out and see. Some days he might have Amp at the three and that puts me at the four and Ebuka at the five, or sometimes he puts Amp at the four and that puts me at the five.”

With Huell, Lawrence, and Izundu on the floor together gives the team added length and athleticism.

“We’ve rebounded real well and we’ve contested a lot of shots,” Huell said. “A lot of the times the four gets a lot of perimeter time and you get to space the floor and spot up. And then the bigs screen and roll and post up, and rebound.”

Huell started the exhibition game at the five, scoring 12 points on 6-of-8 shooting and grabbing five rebounds in 18 minutes. It is a position that is active within the offense as opposed to just staying in the low block.

“Most of the time the five is the one ball-screening and rolling or popping if it’s open or positioning ourselves down there in the ‘A’ area to catch the ball and finish, and rebound well,” Huell said.

Regardless of what position he is playing, Huell just wants to produce.

## 5-foot-7 freshman guard continues to shatter expectations

**The Miami Hurricane**  
**Isaiah Kim-Martinez**  
**Nov. 6, 2017**

Heart over height.

It's a message that 5-foot-7, 160-pound Chris Lykes has tattooed across his chest and a motto he has lived by his entire life.

Lykes, a freshman at the University of Miami, was ranked No. 48 as a recruit on the ESPN Top-100 list. Described as an explosive point guard with the ability to attack the basket and shoot from long distances, he was a highly-coveted prospect.

But that wasn't always the case.

"There was always doubt," Lykes said. "In middle school, it was like, 'Okay, well can he do it in high school?' And in high school, it's like, 'Well can he do that in college?' I just gotta keep proving people wrong."

Lykes, a native of Mitchellville, Maryland, averaged 22 points and more than four assists per game while shooting 47 percent from the three-point line in his junior season at Gonzaga College High School. He was named Washington D.C.'s Gatorade Player of the Year that season.

That's when he started getting calls from some of the best basketball programs in the country.

In November 2016, he decided to go with the major school that gave him his first offer, UM – a place where undersized guards, such as Shane Larkin and Angel Rodriguez, excelled.

"It's one of the main reasons why I came here," Lykes said. "Coach tells me that we run a lot of ball screens, and that really

helps for me to be able to make plays. I can maybe get the big to switch off, and then I'm pretty much faster than the big, so I can attack or kick it."

Lykes has carried a chip on his shoulder since he was young. Whenever he gets on the court, his motivation is to show people not only that he belongs, but that size doesn't always matter in basketball.

He has never looked at his size as a weakness, choosing to be thankful for his talents and embracing the challenge.

"He's never let that be a determinant to who he is and what he's capable of being," his high school coach Stephen Turner said. "He's always been that little monster on the court. Some assume just because he's this little guy that they can take advantage of him, but he has never let that stop him."

Lykes, a high energy player whom Miami coach Jim Larrañaga has compared to 5-foot-9 NBA All-Star Isaiah Thomas, has translated this mindset into an attacking mentality on the court, which helps him succeed no matter who he is playing against.

"When I was younger, my parents used to always tell me 'No fear,'" Lykes said. "That was my nickname for a while because I would do things on the court without necessarily thinking about the consequences. I don't fear anybody on the court – I don't fear anyone in general."

The Miami coaching staff and players look at Lykes' size as an advantage. Because he stays low to the ground with the ball in his hands, he's that much harder to guard when he uses his speed and agility to get past the defender.

No one can attest to this more than fellow freshman guard Lonnie Walker, a five-star recruit out of Reading, Pennsylvania. During a span of just a few months, Walker and Lykes have become best friends. They even refer to themselves as "twin brothers" because of their similar personalities.

Walker calls himself Lykes' biggest fan.

"You don't see anyone like Chris," Walker said. "Name another 5-foot-7 guard who can dominate almost anywhere at any type of level. I gave him his own definition. If you do something that's crazy, that's just Chris."

Lykes' attitude doesn't change off the court. Turner said he has always been a natural leader – "the guy that people follow."

"Most guys walk around the big, buff quarterback – the pretty boy," Turner said. "Lykes kind of changed that perception. He's not just a vocal leader, he leads by example."

Lykes is also changing the academic narrative for collegiate athletes. He wants to study mechanical engineering while at Miami and has talked about his passion to build.

"It's a tough degree to chase, but he doesn't settle for average," Turner said. "Teachers love him because he works so hard. He's a true testament to what it means to be a student-athlete."

Lykes is expected to be the "energy guy," to push the pace, make plays and score as soon as he comes off the bench this season. Miami's 2017 opener against Gardner-Webb University is set for an 8 p.m. tipoff Nov. 10 at the Watsco Center.

# NBA Scouts Flocking to Miami Practices to See Brown, Walker

**Inside The U**  
**Christopher Stock**  
**Nov. 6, 2017**

CORAL GABLES, Fla. – The 13th-ranked Miami Hurricanes will have two first-round draft picks in the 2018 NBA Draft according to the latest mock draft by NBADraft.net.

The buzz surrounding freshman shooting guard Lonnie Walker, projected as the seventh pick, and sophomore guard Bruce Brown, pegged 20th, has led NBA scouts to flock to Miami practices leading up to the season opener on Friday (8 p.m., ACC Network Extra) against Gardner-Webb at the Watsco Center

“Teams have definitely been coming in every practice,” Brown said. “I’ve just took it like college recruitment when colleges came and watched me play.”

Walker has been used to the attention coming out of Reading, Pa. as a local hero on his way to becoming a five-star recruit and McDonald’s All-American.

And he has taken the NBA scouts watching him in stride heading into his first season.

“It kind of didn’t really change anything,” Walker said. “If they’re here, they’re here, but I can’t force anything.”

Both Walker (6-4, 192) and Brown (6-5, 190) have similar strengths as athletic guards who can score and are both expecting to be top scorers for the Hurricanes this season.

“Damage,” Walker said of the duo. “Something scary. It’s hard to really describe what we can be together, but not only what we can do, but as a team with what we can do.”

The two shared the court together for a total of 8 minutes and 12 seconds during the exhibition game last week against Newberry with Brown starting and Walker coming off the bench. Their first interaction on the offensive end of the court came when Brown attempted to swing the ball to Walker at the top of the perimeter, but his pass was intercepted. The two did not connect on a basket together during their three stints and there might be some growing pains for the two playing together, but they are looking forward to it.

“I definitely can’t wait,” Brown said. “I think we’ll gel together perfectly. I think it will be a good year for us.”

Brown finished with 19 points on 8-of-11 shooting from the field, eight assists, and five rebounds in 31 minutes while Walker scored eight points on 4-of-7 shooting from the floor to go with four rebounds, and four assists in 17 minutes.

Walker had knee surgery in mid-July, but has regained his athletic ability.

“He’s got more bounce (now than before the injury), I don’t know how, but he jumps out the roof still,” Brown said. “I don’t know how he did that, but everything is good now. He’s the player he was when he first came, a lot stronger and you can’t just bump him off anymore, so I think he’s back to 100 percent.”

So who has more bounce?

“I don’t know what his vert is, but he definitely has more one-foot bounce, but not two,” Brown said. “He looks effortless when he jumps, I don’t know what it is. Two feet, I’ve got him, but one foot, he’s got me.”

Brown has a year of experience under his belt averaging 11.8 points, 5.6 rebounds, and 2.5 assists as a freshman and has been able to help Walker prepare for his freshman campaign.

“He has definitely helped me a lot,” Walker said. “He’s a great shooter, he can pass the ball, he can run, he can jump, he can do everything that I can do so the fact that when I was sitting down (with my knee injury) I can watch someone like him who is similar to me play definitely has helped me out. Watching the little things that he does, just being patient on screens and doing certain things defensively has helped me out. As I transitioned back on the court, just remembering the certain things that he does definitely helps.”

Head coach Jim Larranaga has already stated there is a “strong likelihood” both players will enter the draft after the season.

With them both going the process together, they will be able to lean on each other for advice.

“He’s a humble guy so watching how humble he is, how he doesn’t stress about it, he just goes with the flow and dominates day by day,” Walker said. “I’m definitely thankful for him.”



## Basketball Buzz: 11/3

### Inside The U Christopher Stock Nov. 3, 2017

CORAL GABLES, Fla. – The 13th-ranked Miami Hurricanes played their lone exhibition game on Wednesday in preparation for the season opener on Nov. 10 against Gardner-Webb.

Miami defeated Division II Newberry College 106-79 behind 30 points from Dejan Vasiljevic and withstood 30 turnovers in the game in front of a few hundred fans.

“It’s an exhibition game,” head coach Jim Larranaga said. “There’s no way to judge in a game like this because the way that team plays is very different than anyone else we play. But we wanted to play a game like that because of their style, because they were going to trap us and pressure us. Ballhandling was a big key. We had 32 assists, which is great, but 30 turnovers, our freshmen are going to have to learn and our upperclassmen are going to have to play a little better.”

Bruce Brown added 19 points, eight assists, and five rebounds in addition to five turnovers.

“It was pretty good, but we turned the ball over a little too much, but it felt great,” Brown said of the game. “DJ led us tonight and had a great game.”

The NCAA allowed teams to have an extra exhibition game to raise money for charity such as for hurricane relief. However, Miami elected not to take advantage of the exception.

“We discussed it, we talked to a team, but one of the things about that is you’re trying to raise money so you’ve got to have somebody that has some attention-grabbing that fans in a very short period of time would turn out to watch, but we just couldn’t find that kind of opponent because it’s expensive,” Larranaga said.

Miami was picked fourth in the preseason ACC poll and are ranked in the preseason top 25 AP Poll for the first time since before the 2008-09 season after going 21-12 with a second consecutive NCAA Tournament appearance last season.

When asked what Larranaga believes this team can be in the spring if all goes well, he replied:

“I think we’re physically capable, but it’s far more challenging to do it on a consistent basis, to be in the top 25 in the country and top two or three in the league in defensive efficiency and offensive efficiency. We think we have a chance to do that.”

In comparison, Miami was 76th in offensive efficiency last season and 25th in defensive efficiency.

#### News & Notes

- PG Ja’Quan Newton, SG Dejan Vasiljevic, SG Bruce Brown, SF Anthony Lawrence, and PF Dewan Huell started in the exhibition game on Wednesday. “At this point in time we’re in the progression stage,” Larranaga said. “We’re trying to make progress in a lot of different elements and so the easiest thing for me to do is to play the most experienced guys to start the game.” Larranaga added: “They play very well together.”

- Miami opens the season with 10 scholarship players available as freshman PF Deng Gak will redshirt due to complications with the NCAA. SG Miles Wilson will also redshirt after transferring from Mount St. Mary’s.

- In discussing Gak, Larranaga said he views Gak behind Huell, C Ebuka Izundu, and C Rodney Miller while saying he does not view him in the same category as PF Sam Waardenburg, which gives a little insight into how the frontcourt will play out in terms of minutes, at least in the early going, with Lawrence and Waardenburg rotating in for another, and Huell and Izundu also rotating at the five. During practices, the frontcourt players have been rotating on the court together with Huell sometimes at the four and Izundu at the five.

- Larranaga entered the exhibition game hoping to see his team defend the 3-point ball as Newberry started five guards, none taller than 6-foot-4. Newberry was able to hit 14 of its 38 attempts from long range, not a good performance coming off a season where the Hurricanes held teams to 33-percent shooting from 3, fourth-best in the ACC.

- Turnovers have been evident in practice and they showed up in a big way against Newberry finishing with a total of 30. Miami had 81 possessions in the game as they turned it over 37 percent of the time. “We’re a team that has some carry over from last year in terms of high-risk and low-reward,” Larranaga said, “but I think we can be very good at playing fast and not turning the ball over. I think we can, but that will be the challenge.”

- SG Dejan Vasiljevic is showing more confidence than he did a year ago, which was evident in Wednesday’s game. Vasiljevic didn’t hesitate in shooting 3s, particularly from the corners, which SF Anthony Lawrence has said is important for the offense to convert from those spots on the floor to open up driving lanes for the other guards. Vasiljevic also showed a nice pump fake from the perimeter and stepping up to hit a long jumper, which is something he wants to do more of this year after 80 percent of his field goal attempts came from 3 last season.

- The coaching staff is looking for balance in the offense with a goal of having each position average 15 points a game for a total of 75 points a game. The three guard positions should be fine in achieving this goal with Ja’Quan Newton, Bruce Brown, Dejan Vasiljevic, Lonnie Walker, and Chris Lykes having the ability to score. However, the frontcourt scoring could be an issue as Dewan Huell, Anthony Lawrence, Ebuka Izundu, Sam Waardenburg, and Rodney Miller had 20 double-digit scoring games between them last season in a total of 112 individual games played. The five combined for 34 points on Wednesday with Huell leading the way with 12. “One of the things about defensive strategies is if you only have to concern yourself about one thing, then you can probably do a good job of executing,” Larranaga said, “but if you have to worry about multiple things it’s a lot more challenging.”

- SG Bruce Brown is poised for a big sophomore season after impressing in his first season. The coaching staff wanted him to increase his effectiveness in making tough layups in traffic and his 3-point shooting. By all accounts Brown has improved his long-range ability. For example, last year before the season he was making about 35 3-points in a five-minute drill compared to 58 this

## Basketball Buzz: 11/3

year. Brown is confident he can be a 40-percent 3-point shooter and he showed signs of improvement throughout the season shooting 29.0 percent through December before shooting 37.5 percent over the final three months including making at least one 3 in the last eight games. "We don't want him to become a one-dimensional 3-point shooter, but we do want to encourage him that if he's open not to hesitate because he's pretty darn good at it now."

- PG Ja'Quan Newton is making a conscience effort to improve his assist-to-turnover ratio after having 101 assists and 98 turnovers last season. "His on-the-court, assist-to-turnover ratio is one of our primary priorities because when he's really good handling the ball, Bruce Brown is really good at handling the ball, and DJ, Lonnie Walker, and Chris Lykes are really good at handling the ball, we're going to be very good," Larranaga said. "And if we're turning the ball over and giving the other team an opportunity to score before we can defend them and we're not going to be as good as we would like to be."
- Freshmen SG Lonnie Walker, PG Chris Lykes, and PF Sam Waardenburg are expected to fill key roles this season. "I've watched a lot of basketball in my lifetime, but these guys are fun to watch," Larranaga said. "It's a treat. They're fun to coach. They're fun to be around. They're hard as heck to guard. They play really hard defensively or they should play really hard defensively because they're very capable, but I think the fans are in for a real treat."
- PF Sam Waardenburg had six turnovers in 15 minutes on Wednesday, which has been an issue for him. Waardenburg racked up 21 in seven games—a high number for a non-guard—at the FIBA World Cup with New Zealand in the summer. His most egregious error on Wednesday came when inbound-ing the ball and not making good decisions, which is important for players in that role.
- C Rodney Miller only played in 57 minutes last season (18 in ACC games) over 15 games thus burning a redshirt. Miller was the ninth man off the bench and Larranaga wanted to at least have him as an option while preserving a redshirt for Waardenburg, who joined the team in late December.
- Freshman PG Chris Lykes has impressed since his arrival. Walk-on PG Mike Robinson, known for his speed and athleticism, has been going against Lykes often in practice. "He's someone that I have never guarded before," Robinson said. "He is extremely fast. He can shoot the ball. He passes. His vision is out of this world. His vertical leap is out of this world. The way he plays, I believe if he was just 6-feet, he'll be the number one draft pick—that's how I see it because he's just spectacular. He's able to see any and every-body even if they don't think they're open."
- The staff added new elements to the de-fense during Monday's practice, which could take some time to perfect. "It will probably be one step forward and three steps back so we'll see how it impacts us," Larranaga said.
- Former Hurricanes Davon Reed and Kamari Murphy, who both graduated last season, continue to receive praise from Larranaga with their leadership ability: "Their defense in practice, games, drills, and everything was at the highest level I have ever coached. Davon was all-league defense and I thought Kamari Murphy was the best defensive player in the league. We don't have anybody who has stepped up to that level quite yet, but I see some signs indicating that we will. And sometimes leadership comes from just setting the right example. Right now we have six guys on our team who I consider leaders—Ja'Quan Newton, who is a senior; Chris Stowell, a senior who is the smartest guy in the room whenever he's in the room so we rely on him a lot and I think the guys on the team really like him, admire him, and respect him because of that intelligence and willingness to sacrifice for the team so you listen to a guy like that. We want and hope Anthony Lawrence will start to take on more of a leadership role because if he does it will probably help him on the court as well talking on defense, handling the ball more and better, being more aggressive and more confident, but the three sophomores Bruce Brown, Dejan Vasiljevic, and Dewan Huell I've asked to take on more of a lead-ership role so you might notice the captains at mid-court we'll be alternating because I think for us to be successful those person-alities, there's not just one guy who can do everything and we've always looked at it if you can get a team captain with a couple of co-captains to help him, then you've got a

chance to have great leadership."

- Miami currently has 12 players on scholar-ship of a maximum of 13. Newton is the lone senior leaving Miami with at least two schol-arships open for the 2018 class although Brown and Walker could jet for the NBA after the season giving UM four openings. Miami does not have a 2018 currently committed with the fall signing period just around the corner on Nov. 8-15.

- Former Hurricane Shane Larkin discussed the latest with how he is fitting in with the Boston Celtics and head coach Brad Stevens discussed his impact on the team.

- Former Hurricane Trey McKinney-Jones was briefly with the Indiana Pacers in the preseason, but did not appear in a game while sustaining a shoulder injury. McKin-ney-Jones was eventually released and is currently in the G League with Fort Wayne after averaging 16.6 points a game there last season. "I'm super excited to coach Trey again," Fort Wayne head coach said. "It's a different circumstance because he's going through rehab right now, but to have Trey around our guys and be a complete pro is going to be huge. I'm really looking forward to his return and I'm looking for him to be-ing ready to go here in about a month or so." When completely healthy, McKinney-Jones will be looking to push for a spot in the NBA as an efficient 3-point shooter.

# DJ Vasiljevic scores 30 to lead Miami past Newberry College 106-79 in exhibition

**Miami Herald**  
**Isaiah Kim-Martinez**  
**Nov. 1, 2017**

Last week, University of Miami coach Jim Larrañaga revealed that sophomore guard Dejan “DJ” Vasiljevic had scored 159 points in a three-minute shooting drill.

Vasiljevic showed that the drill was no fluke in Miami’s exhibition matchup against Newberry College, tallying a game-high 30 points to lead the Hurricanes to a 106-79 win over the Wolves Wednesday night at the Watsco Center.

The sharpshooter scored 19 of his points in the game’s first four-and-a-half minutes, shooting a perfect 7-7 from the field while hitting five three-pointers. UM sophomore guard Bruce Brown added 19 points and eight assists.

“It was the game we needed,” Vasiljevic said. “I was just happy to see them go through the net.”

UM scored the game’s first 15 points and never looked back from there, stretching the lead to as many as 32 points in the second half.

Despite the blowout, Miami gave up 30 turnovers — one of its biggest areas of concern on the night. Newberry College’s full-court press forced UM into a handful of ill-advised passes.

“It’s a new team with a lot of new players, such as myself,” said freshman Lonnie Walker, who scored eight points. “We just gotta understand that we can’t really rush the ball.”

The Canes are ranked No. 13 in the AP Top 25 preseason poll that came out Wednesday afternoon — the highest AP

preseason ranking in program history.

Miami will open the regular season at home against Gardner-Webb University at 8 p.m. Nov. 10 at the Watsco Center.



# Scouting the 10 best college SG draft prospects for 2018

ESPN.com  
Mike Schmitz  
Oct. 31, 2017

Who are the top shooting guards in the 2018 NBA draft?

After Malik Monk, Donovan Mitchell and Luke Kennard headlined the off-guard group last season, this year's crop has similar allure, with arguably even more depth. Depending on how you define positions, up to seven or eight shooting guards could be selected in the first round of this year's draft, a slight uptick from what we've seen over the course of the last decade or so.

Sleepers always emerge and highly touted prospects sometimes disappoint, but this appears to be a position of strength heading into the 2017-18 NCAA season.

1. Bruce Brown  
Miami  
Age: 21.1  
SG/PG

Height: 6-foot-5 | Wingspan: 6-8½

The 21-year-old Miami sophomore headlines this crop of shooting guards, thanks to his physical tools, killer mentality, defensive versatility, intangibles and improved offensive game. An RSCI top-30 recruit out of high school, Brown had an excellent freshman season under Jim Larranaga, starting 29 of 33 games with signature performances against North Carolina (30 points on 13 shots) and Duke (25 points on 18 shots). Brown's two-way impact, willingness to do the little things and ability to score or make plays when called upon made him a very valuable piece of a Miami team that finished near the middle of the ACC.

An unskilled energy athlete early in his high school career, Brown looked like every bit of a lottery pick this summer at Adidas Nations, defending up to three positions, making shots off the dribble and the catch and showing the ability to play on the ball for brief stretches. With the addition of explosive freshman guard Lonnie Walker, Miami will be one of the more dynamic teams in the ACC. The mature Boston product figures to take on more of a leadership role, likely becoming one of the more touted guards in the 2018 draft in the process.

DraftExpress Database stat: 12-of-26 (46.2 percent) from 3 at Adidas Nations

2. Lonnie Walker  
Miami  
Age: 18.8  
SG

Height: 6-foot-4 | Wingspan: 6-10½

The Miami freshman is one of the most physically gifted 2-guards in the draft at 6-foot-4, with a wingspan of 6-foot-10½, a tremendous 206-pound frame and explosive leaping ability. From a tools perspective, he has similarities to Toronto Raptors guard Norman Powell at the same age.

Walker's skill level and overall feel for the game are still a work in progress. He suffered a torn meniscus in mid-July but has been cleared to play and should be at full strength to start the season. Walker's immediate impact will likely be felt on the defensive end, as he has the ability to check at least three positions at the collegiate level when fully engaged. His offensive game is fairly basic, predicated on transition runouts, catch-and-shoot 3s, one dribble pullups and straight-line drives. He can stand to improve as a decision-maker, and he also has a tendency to blend in for long stretches on both ends, with a very quiet demeanor on the floor. If Walker can stay healthy all season, shoot it with consistency and find a way to play with regular intensity, he has all the ingredients to be a lottery pick come June.

DraftExpress Database stat: Career 38.4 percent from 3 on 250 attempts

3. Hamidou Diallo  
Kentucky  
Age: 19.2  
SG

Height: 6-foot-5½ | Wingspan: 7-0

After enrolling at Kentucky in January and practicing through the end of last season, Diallo tested the NBA draft waters. Despite murmurs of a first-round promise, the raw wing opted to return to school and improve his stock on a young, athletic Wildcats team. At 6-foot-5½ with a 7-foot wingspan and a 44½-inch max vertical, the 19-year-old guard resembles a young Jason Richardson from a dimensions and explosiveness perspective. Diallo glides in the open floor and finishes above the rim with ease and force. His skill level and feel for the game, however, remain a work in progress.

Diallo had his struggles this summer on the John Calipari-coached under-19 World Championship team that lost to Canada in the semifinals. The New York native is arguably the most explosive athlete in all of college basketball, but he's still searching for ways to use that athleticism in the half-court game. Where Diallo can really impact the game is on the defensive end, with the elite tools and twitch to guard up to three positions when fully engaged. Kentucky severely lacks floor spacing this season, so it will be interesting to see how the slash-first Diallo adjusts. On sheer physical potential alone, Diallo is the prototype wing that NBA scouts covet.

DraftExpress Database stat: 10 for 33 FGs against Italy, Spain, Canada and Germany at U19s

4. Shake Milton  
SMU  
Age: 21.0  
SG/PG

Height: 6-foot-6 | Wingspan: 7-0

An unheralded high school recruit, Milton caught our eye early in his freshman season, thanks to his impressive combination of size, length, shooting ability and court vision. The 21-year-old SMU junior now stands 6-foot-6 in shoes, with a strong 207-pound frame and

a 7-foot wingspan, comparing favorably to Nick Young at the same age. The small-town Owasso, Oklahoma, native stepped into a lead guard role last season, starting all 35 games for the 30-win Mustangs, while shooting 42.3 percent from 3 and averaging 5.1 assists per-40 minutes.

Milton likely is best suited on the wing in the NBA, as he's not a great athlete or an overly dynamic as a slasher or pull-up shooter. He's at his best in catch-and-shoot situations and will be able to make plays off of closeouts, while also serving as a secondary ball handler. He has the tools to guard either 2s or 3s, although he can stand to up his intensity and get quicker defensively. Stepping into more of a leadership role for an SMU team that lost Semi Ojeleye, Sterling Brown and Ben Moore will be key for Milton, who is quiet by nature.

DraftExpress Database stat: 2.6 free-throw attempts per 40 minutes in career 65 NCAA games

5. Grayson Allen  
Duke  
Age: 22.0  
SG

Height: 6-foot-4 | Wingspan: 6-6½

Our top-rated senior prospect, Allen is in line for a monster season and should be considered a legitimate ACC Player of the Year front-runner. The top-ranked Blue Devils are in dire need of perimeter scoring, and Allen will likely be hungry to avenge an underwhelming junior season that was marred by distractions. While Marvin Bagley III and Wendell Carter Jr. are the main attractions for NBA scouts, the 22-year-old Allen should be able to recapture the prolific and efficient scoring acumen that he showed as a sophomore.

From an NBA perspective, Allen projects as a shot-making off guard. He's improved as a playmaker throughout his career and should be able to operate as a secondary ball handler in a pinch. Physically, Allen resembles fellow shot-maker Jamal Murray, at 6-foot-4, 210 pounds with a 6-foot-6½-inch wingspan. Allen, who was an energy defender in a limited role as a freshman, will have to prove to NBA scouts that he can hold his own defensively, finish at the rim and make the right reads while on the move, especially going to his left. Ultraproductive seniors on winning teams often slide into the back end of the first round, and Allen is in a great position to do exactly that.

DraftExpress Database stat: Blocks plus steals per 40 minutes < 1.0

## UM's Lonnie Walker cleared to play following surgery

**Inside The U**  
**Christopher Stock**  
**Oct. 30, 2017**

CORAL GABLES, Fla. – Miami Hurricanes freshman power forward Deng Gak was hopeful his status with the NCAA would be sorted out and he would be able to play this season.

Instead, Gak, a former four-star recruit out of Blair (N.J.) Academy ranked as the 125th-best prospect, will redshirt.

"It was an NCAA decision," Gak said. "It was something to do with my first couple of years of high school being in Australia. The NCAA was having problems making sure because you're supposed to be done with all of your credits by a certain amount of time—eight semesters or something like that—because when I came here and I repeated a year something got messed up. They were working on it the entire summer up until about a month-and-a-half ago and then they came back and was like, 'We couldn't figure it out. You've got to sit out one year.' It was something I didn't expect. I knew it was a possibility because I can't control what the NCAA decides obviously. It sucks, but there's nothing I could do about it."

Gak enrolled at Miami in July and was involved in the process before learning of his status in the fall.

"They were working on it every day," Gak said. "I was writing letters and stuff to the NCAA."

Gak will spend the next year practicing and have four years of eligibility remaining beginning with the 2018-19 season.

"We feel like Deng has potential to be a much-improved player a year from now

if he just has a chance to concentrate on his skill level and his strength because he came in at nearly 7-feet tall and 194 pounds," head coach Jim Larranaga said. "If we can get him up to 215 or 220 by next year, he could be a fantastic rookie."

Gak is one of two players on the team redshirting joining former Mount St. Mary's guard Miles Wilson, who is sitting out per NCAA rules for transferring.

"Right now the only thing I can do is work on my own game and make myself better for next year," Gak said. "I want to put myself in position to help the team next year often, right off the bat."

Gak has been pleased with how pre-season practices have gone since the team started in late September before the Nov. 10 opener.

"Practices have been good," Gak said. "All of the freshmen are starting to feel comfortable, I think. We've been playing good in practice, everyone is playing hard."

His goal for the next year is to: "Definitely putting weight on and just be more confident in myself. The first month or two I was here I was real possible. I wasn't aggressive much. I would defer to the older guys, but the assistant coaches and some of the GAs worked with me and instilled confidence in me ever since then and I feel I'm starting to feel confident."

Despite his disappointment for not playing this season, Gak has enjoyed his time in South Florida.

"It's been crazy," Gak said. "It's been good. Miami's cool. Obviously, it's Miami. School is great. All of the players are cool. It's a good environment around the school. I feel the community around

school is lively. It's fun."

# Miami Hurricanes 2017-18 Basketball Team Preview and Prediction

## Athlon Sports

Oct. 25, 2017

The expectations have changed for the Hurricanes. Now the question is: How high can they fly? Is this a program that can compete for ACC championships every year? Will Miami start outslugging Duke and Carolina and Kentucky and Kansas for the nation's top recruits? Maybe that's asking too much, but Jim Larranaga has brought it to the point where top-20 recruiting classes and NCAA Tournament appearances are the standard.

The Hurricanes have a seat at the table with the rest of the ACC heavyweights, and this could be a season they eat more than their share.

### At a Glance

HEAD COACH: Jim Larranaga

2016-17 RECORD (ACC): 21-12 (10-8)

2016-17 POSTSEASON: NCAA: Lost to Michigan State 78-58 in the first round

### KEY LOSSES:

F Kamari Murphy (7.1 ppg, 7.3 rpg)

G Davon Reed (14.9 ppg, 2.4 apg)

### Frontcourt

Of the three former five-star recruits on the Canes' roster, two are guards. The forward is Dewan Huell, and this could be his breakout year. After playing in an unheralded prep league in South Florida, Huell was slow to adjust to ACC play as a freshman, but he has the size (6'11", 220) and skill to average a double-double.

UM is excited about two more projects, junior Ebuka Izundu and sophomore Rodney Miller, both of whom are more offensively oriented. A key piece is 4-man Anthony Lawrence Jr., a decent shooter (35.4 percent from 3) who can bang a little. Losing rugged defender

Kamari Murphy means defense will be a team effort. Izundu has proven he can protect the rim, and Huell's athleticism and improving strength could make him a factor.

Redshirt freshman Sam Waardenburg, a 6'9" shooter, could help stretch the floor. Freshman Deng Gak could contribute meaningful minutes off the bench.

### Backcourt

Larranaga is overjoyed about the prospect of teaming sophomore Bruce Brown and freshman Lonnie Walker — two of the most gifted players ever to sign with Miami — in the same backcourt. That's still the plan, though the Canes might have to wait a bit on Walker, who tore a meniscus in his right knee in a July practice. The hope is that the Pennsylvania native will be ready for the opener in November.

Walker, a 6'4" high flyer who played in the McDonald's All-American Game, and Brown are projected to be 2018 first-round picks. They will join Ja'Quan Newton, Miami's only senior, and electric freshman Chris Lykes in a free-flowing backcourt that will attack defenses with athleticism. Newton was second on the team in scoring last year, averaging 13.5 points with a team-high 3.4 assists per game.

All four bring toughness, awareness and leadership, and Brown, Walker and Newton are good rebounding guards — especially Brown, who averaged 5.6 boards per game as a freshman. What they don't bring: Proven 3-point shooting. That's why it's critical for Australian sharpshooter D.J. Vasiljevic to build on his freshman campaign. He made (51) and attempted (146) more 3s than any UM freshman since 2004-05, though his accuracy (.349) could improve.

### Final Analysis

Two factors should determine if Miami can emerge as a legit threat to win the ACC: how far the defense drops off and how dynamic Walker is post-surgery. Larranaga joked in July that UM was top 25 in defensive efficiency last year, "and right now, we're 250th." That's to be expected with the loss of Murphy and Davon Reed, two versatile, intelligent, athletic defenders who will be in NBA camps this fall.

This isn't Larranaga's 2012-13 team, which won the first ACC title in school history with a host of 22- and 23-year-olds and star sophomore Shane Larkin. This a more talented, much younger group — but will it be ready to win before Brown, Huell and Walker turn pro? Simply asking that question shows you how far this program has come.

# UM's Lonnie Walker cleared to play following surgery

**Miami Herald**  
**Michelle Kaufman**  
**Oct. 17, 2017**

University of Miami's highly-touted freshman Lonnie Walker, who had surgery for a torn right meniscus in July, was cleared for competition and will be eased into practice this week, Coach Jim Larrañaga confirmed. The season opener is Nov. 10 at home against Gardner-Webb.

Walker is a 6-5 incoming five-star recruit from Reading, Pa. He has been projected by some experts to be a first-round pick in the 2018 NBA Draft. On Tuesday, he was one of 20 players named to the Jerry West Award Watch List, given to the nation's top shooting guard. KeVaughn Allen of the University of Florida and MJ Walker of Florida State also made the list.

Walker was a McDonald's All-American last season, won Mr. Pennsylvania Basketball and was co-winner of the Jordan Brand Classic MVP. Larrañaga has described him as "a high-octane open court player."

Walker is part of UM's Top 10 recruiting class for 2017. Other freshmen to watch are point guard Chris Lykes, center Deng Gak, and Sam Waardenburg from New Zealand.

When Walker injured his knee, UM coaches were pleased with his response.

"He's handled it like a real professional," Larrañaga said at the time. "He's upbeat. Obviously, when he got hurt, he was very, very disappointed. But his willingness to do whatever he's been asked to do has been tremendous. Our trainer and physical therapist are very, very excited about how he appears after the surgery. Sometimes, strength is a real problem for guys after surgery, but his strength seems to

be very good."

Miami is coming off a 21-12 season, and lost in the first round of the NCAA Tournament to Michigan State.