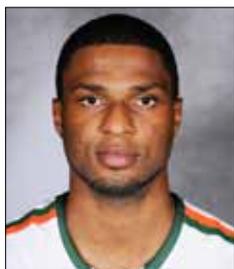


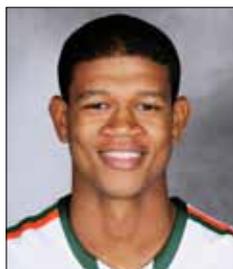
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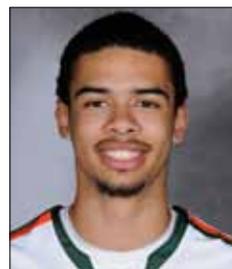
25
Garrius Adams
Jr. | G | 6-6 | 193
Apex, N.C.
Middle Creek



10
Raphael Akpejori
So. | F | 6-10 | 230
Lagos, Nigeria
Sunrise Christian Academy (Kan.)



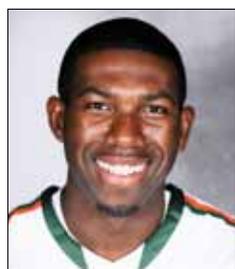
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Rion Brown
So. | G | 6-6 | 194
Hinesville, Ga.
Liberty County



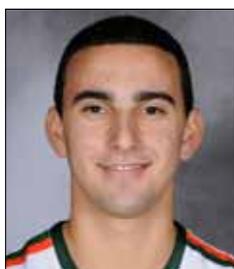
2
Bishop Daniels
Fr. | G | 6-3 | 175
Raleigh, N.C.
Word of God Christian Academy



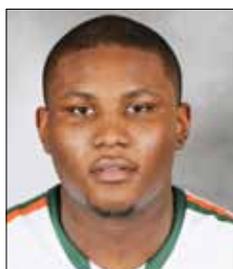
45
Julian Gamble
Sr. | F/C | 6-10 | 265
Durham, N.C.
Southern Durham



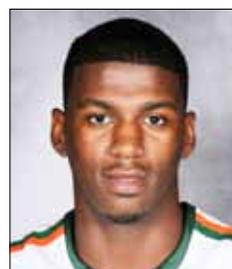
3
Malcolm Grant
Sr. | G | 6-1 | 188
Brooklyn, N.Y.
Robeson/Winchendon/Villanova



12
Justin Heller
So. | G | 6-2 | 185
Boca Raton, Fla.
West Boca Raton Community



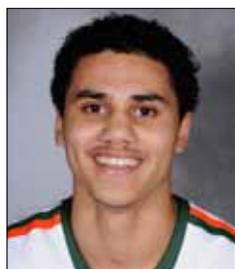
42
Reggie Johnson
Jr. | C | 6-10 | 284
Winston-Salem, N.C.
Winston-Salem Prep



5
DeQuan Jones
Sr. | G/F | 6-8 | 221
Stone Mountain, Ga.
Wheeler



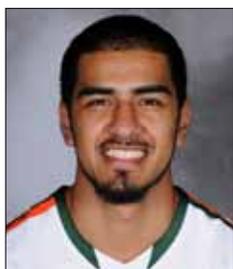
35
Kenny Kadji
Jr. | F/C | 6-11 | 251
Douala, Cameroon
Pentleton/IMG/Florida



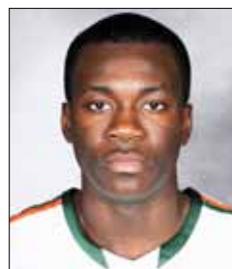
0
Shane Larkin
Fr. | G | 5-11 | 160
Orlando, Fla.
Dr. Phillips (Fla.)



4
Trey McKinney Jones
R-Jr. | G | 6-5 | 216
Milwaukee, Wis.
South Milwaukee/UMKC



11
Ryan Quiglar
Sr. | G | 5-11 | 180
Skyway, Wash.
Renton



1
Durand Scott
Jr. | G | 6-5 | 202
The Bronx, N.Y.
Rice High



21
Erik Swoope
So. | F | 6-6 | 230
Lake Elsinore, Calif.
Harvard-Westlake



Jim Larranaga



Eric Konkol



Michael Huger



Chris Caputo



Mike Summey

Fast Breaks: Garrius Adams

They are stories of perseverance. Stories about growing up, becoming men and being a part of a family. One-by-one, we hear from them. These are the Miami Hurricanes...

I was raised in Raleigh, NC. I was born and raised there. I was the only child and I had a lot of family to support me. When I was growing up I played basketball and soccer. Soccer was actually my first love. I played soccer until I was 13 or 14. It got way too hot in North Carolina, it's like a dry heat, so I just stuck with an indoor sport.

I started playing basketball when I was five or six. Probably because that's when those Fisher Price goals started coming out and I was dunking and all of your friends were talking about how high you could dunk on your Fisher Price goal.

I secretly wish I was five inches taller. I wish I was 7 feet. I feel like everything in basketball would be so much better if I was 7 feet.

I'm a Miami Hurricane because of my teammates, because of how they treated me so well on my visit. Also because I have a grandmother here and she always wanted me to visit more and it was awkward because I did not know I would be going here. Since I was an only child and really close to my family I thought I would stay in the state of North Carolina. But after taking a visit, I met my grandmother and just seeing her again here, I knew I would have another time here outside of school. She comes to games and tries to be the loudest one in the stands.

When I played basketball as a kid, I pretended to be Kobe Bryant, that was my favorite player. He still is, hands down. There was nobody else I imitated. I always watched Michael Jordan but Kobe was more of my time and he was doing all of the dunks and he was athletic and I stuck with him.

Playing basketball has given me something to do to keep me occupied and it is what I've been doing since I was a little kid. It's one of the best things I know how to do. It's kept me out of a lot of trouble.

My family is mostly from the East Coast. I probably have a family member in every state on the East Coast which is good because I always have support. My family is really strong and really close so my family is really big to me.

Competition is hard work and fun. Being born and raised in North Carolina, the ACC is everything. Competition is the most fun I've had, just being in this conference every night in and out.

The U is very family orientated and a really nice community. It's pretty much a small community and city and I really like it. I've been here for three years now. I haven't had any problems.

When I was introduced to Coach L I was very nervous and excited. I was excited to see what he had to say. When we first met him it was right when he had his conference and his excitement to me was just incredible. It was something you just had to be there to see it and you could tell he took his job very seriously from the first day. Ever since then we've had a good time.

The hardest part about being away from home probably family, especially when I have five little nephews and to not see them grow up

and they're growing up with all women. I don't really like that too much. I always wanted to be that male figure since I never had one. I had my father but I never had a brother. You miss a lot of events and stuff like that.

One thing everybody should know about Miami Basketball is it's a different team this year. Coach L is really doing a good job of setting down a great foundation of fundamentals. He's doing a really great job of just building character around the whole program and I think by the end of this year you'll definitely see the change and when you watch us play it's a big change.

I'm closest on the team with Durand and Reggie. Durand and I are in the same year. We're the only two left of our class. Because we're in the same year we're usually in the same housing. For example last year Durand and I were neighbors and we were the only two who were always together and had a lot of time together. Reggie and I are both from North Carolina. I knew him before I came here so we go home, we plan trips together to go home. I go stay with him and he stays with me so we're always together.

I'll never forget my visit to the University of Miami when I was in high school. I took a lot of visits before I committed here. The thing I won't forget is the family atmosphere. I felt coming down here, especially with my team, is kind of like I just fit in which is exactly what I was looking for. In basketball you're always getting better but sometimes with people it doesn't always work or it's just different from you. With this group here, we all fit together and I just felt at home.

Fast Breaks: Raphael Akpejori

They are stories of perseverance. Stories about growing up, becoming men and being a part of a family. One-by-one, we hear from them. These are the Miami Hurricanes...

Playing basketball has given me the chance to travel to a lot of countries and meet a lot of people. Just have fun in general and get an education. Be in Miami, make a lot of friends.

I was recruited when I was in high school in Kansas by a bunch of different schools. Miami was a good place, I liked the coaches and the school. I liked that it was a small school. It's generally a nice place and they play in the ACC so that's really what drew me closer. I get to play against a pro every night and a good team or a good Hall of Fame coach or Hall of Fame coach in the making.

When I was introduced to Coach L he was a different breed I would say. He's just like my dad, a very straightforward person, a guy who looks you in the eye and tells you how it is. He's not going to be rude to you, but he's going to tell you. He is more fun than his age tells. He's 61 and he sounds like he's really old but he's like a 30 year old.

When I played basketball as a kid I pretended to be Shaq because I was the biggest person on the court and at that time and Shaq was winning all the rings with the Lakers. So I pretended to be Shaq for a while, then I pretended to be Tim Duncan. After that, I pretended to be LeBron James.

Lagos is full of too many people and traffic. That's the first thing that comes to my mind. You wake up in the morning and say you want to go from here to a distance of like South Beach, it would take you like two hours to get there because of the traffic. First thing that comes to mind is the traffic and the second thing is there are a lot of crazy people out there and a lot of fun people. I was back for a while to visit before I came back here for high school. My family still lives in Nigeria, all of them.

I just wanted something new. I had a scholarship to go to high school and I was good at basketball so I figured I would go [to the United States] and experience another world. It wasn't really tough, it was more fun and more of an adventure until I dislocated my ankle. That was really tough. That was in 2008 when I first got here. I couldn't play basketball for a whole year. I was basically useless to a lot of people, but some people were still kind to me until I got back to playing.

I'll never forget what my father told me when I was going to school in Nigeria and he was dropping me off. He told me "never cheat anyone and never allow myself to be cheated by anyone," so that's something I will never forget.

I secretly wish I played football. I see Calvin Johnson and Jimmy Graham and sometimes I think I could do that. On Sundays, everyone is wearing your jersey and you see old people going crazy. I think I can put on a tight end's jersey or a wide receiver's jersey.

My personal goals are to graduate with a mechanical engineering degree, to play in the NBA for a long time, to raise a family, and maybe be a lawyer some day.

When I was growing up I had a lot of fun with my sister. She was like my first best friend. We were together for a long time. Now she's grown and she's about to get married and it's just weird.

In mechanical engineering you just think about everything that works. Every single thing from the design of your spoons that you eat with, your house, your cars, your bridges and everything. Just anything that works. There's a process that makes it work. There's someone who designs it. There's a calculation.

To be an engineer you have to be perfect. Every little thing is in detail. The end of the bottle cap of a bottle is in detail. So in basketball, every little screen set, every angle of the screen, every turn, the way you stand to get a rebound, everything is in detail. There's a place you have to be for that to work. The spin behind the ball, the arc, when you shoot the ball, the form. So that's how mechanical engineering transitions to the court on every play. Everything is in detail.

My dad got married twice. We have six kids in my family and growing up was very fun because there was never a dull moment and there was always something going on. There's always a fight, and after a fight there's always laughter so it was fun. We went to church like three times a day so we grew up being Christians and tried to live life the best way we could and be nice to other people, hoping that people would be nice to us.

At the U I've learned so much from my professors, especially Dr. Rahm. He's a pain in the rear but he's a good guy. He really knows what he's saying. He's someone who is really good at what he does. I also learned a lot from Coach Haith when he was here. He was a nice person and he always took interest in what you did, how your life was. Also from Coach Larranaga. He has a winner's mentality. He knows how to do things the right way from the smallest things to the hardest things. He tells you to try to have class and attitude and be a good person overall.

My favorite thing about being a part of the U family is that everyone knows everyone. I know all the football players, they all know who we are. I know all the swimmers, names and last names. All the rowers, all the athletes. It's like a little family. The U is like a little cult where you go outside and you represent and someone throws the U up and you go hyper.

I am a competitive person. I hate losing. I learned to suck it up when you lose. Sometimes you play really well and you still lose, but being a competitive person gives you an edge to keep going and you know that you can win more than you lose. Everything I do, I do it hard and I try to do it well to the best of my abilities. Competition at the U is good. We have teammates who don't like to lose either so it makes it more fierce while you're competing against each other.

Fast Breaks: Rion Brown

They are stories of perseverance. Stories about growing up, becoming men and being a part of a family. One-by-one, we hear from them. These are the Miami Hurricanes...

The U means great tradition and pride, lots of pride.

My family means the world to me. Everything I do is for them.

Playing basketball has given me great opportunities and a chance to see places I never thought I'd ever see like Arkansas and Vegas, I had never been to Vegas. I went my senior year in high school to an AE tournament. So just basketball has allowed me to see amazing places that I never thought I would ever see in my life. It also allowed me to come to college to get a free education, travel the world. It's just a great experience.

I like to swim. That's the first thing that came to my head. My dad taught me how to swim when I was two years old. So I have always loved water. I love going to the pool and swimming, diving, actually, if I wasn't playing basketball that's probably what I'd be doing. I didn't swim in high school, we didn't have a team in high school, but in middle school I did. My best race was just a regular freestyle.

When I was introduced to Coach L we all met him in the conference room. He came in with a big smile, shook everybody's hand. The look in his eyes was just funny, I could just tell that he was like, 'Okay, this is going to be good.'

I started playing basketball when I was in sixth grade, it was rec basketball, my first time playing organized basketball. The most I remember was, I actually shot one in the wrong goal my very first game. I'll never forget that.

The hardest part of being away from home is not being able to see my son. I have a four-month-old son. So that's probably the hardest part about not being home. I'm always thinking about what he's doing, he might be doing something new today. So that's probably the hardest part.

I've learned from Coach L, that patience is a virtue on the court. Slowing everything down, that's the best thing that I've learned. I was always in a hurry, everything I did. Basically, if I have the ball in a pass or a shot situation, I see it, I look at everybody around me and think 'Okay, is this the right thing to do right now,' instead of just rushing into it. It's like "is this the best shot or is this the best pass, is there somebody else open?" So just slowing everything down in my head and just knowing that I don't have to do everything right away. I can take my time and make the right play.

I was raised in Savannah, Ga., for about four or five years then I moved to Hinesville, Ga., and played high school basketball there, and then here at Miami. We had the southern hospitality down there so everything was real respectful with 'Yes ma'am, No ma'am'. You never talked back. Everything that they said that's what happened.

When I was growing up I would actually say that I had a great childhood. My parents were always there. I was their only child, and my parents were always there. My dad was basically like a brother to me, also. We did everything together; football, basketball, everything. We had a real great family and they were always there for me. They did everything for me. They are still there, every step of the way.

When I played basketball as a kid, I pretended to be Tracy McGrady. That was always my favorite player. I just liked his style, just everything about him. He always looked so sleepy, like he wasn't going to do anything and then he has the ball and he's going at you, so it kind of throws you off. And a lot of people say I played like him when I was younger because my face never changed. I had no emotion, so that's probably who I looked up to the most.

I'll never forget when I got chased by a dog and I had to jump on top of a car and my knee went through the windshield. My whole body ended up in-

side the car. My knee just broke and shattered the windshield. I had to get nine staples in my right knee. That's probably why the reason I have tendinitis in both my knees too. I'm sure that didn't help.

I am a Hurricane because I wanted to play in the ACC. I grew up watching my dad play at Georgia Tech and all the ACC teams. I just felt like this would be a great place to live. They had a great coaching staff before and they have a great coaching staff now, so it felt like this is where I belong.

Some of my personal goals include just being successful in life whether that be playing basketball or doing other things. I want to own my own restaurant, so just doing that and just being successful and able to take care of my family. I want to have an Italian restaurant. I just always had it in my mind because the way my name is spelled everybody would call me 'Rion' (Ree-on). And I just thought it sounded Italian. So I could have a restaurant called Rion. I just always had that in my head. But it might not work out like that. My favorite Italian meal is just regular pasta. I like chicken Alfredo and pasta with the meat marinara sauce, basically spaghetti. Those are my two favorites.

At the U, I've learned so much from Reggie Johnson. He was one of those people that when I first got here he was always in my head. I got tired of him, he got on my nerves, but when I really think about it, he was always trying to help me and guide me through the little things. Even off the court stuff that I was going through, like problems with school or personal stuff from home I was letting get to me. He would always talk to me, and tell me 'Hey, you've got to leave that outside for right now, you've got other work to do. If you do this, everything else will take care of itself.' I learned a lot from him.

My favorite thing about the U family is that we are very close knit. We do everything together. We go out to eat, everybody goes. We go hang out and play video games, everybody is there. It is just a great family atmosphere. Everyone is laughing and joking, I love these dudes, it's just funny.

In high school I tried to score 40 on this one kid I didn't like. He was just one of those kids that ever since we were little, playing rec ball together, we just always grew up going at each other. So in high school we met one time, and I really wanted to score 40 on him, and I actually scored 42, it was my career high in high school.

I didn't think I would be playing college basketball at around ninth or 10th grade. It got a little frustrating for me. Things weren't working out. In my mind I wasn't the player that I needed to be to get to college. But, of course my dad stayed on me, we worked hard, I worked hard from the 10th to 11th grade - it basically felt like I was in college already. Waking up at six in the morning, I woke up shooting in the gym at the YMCA before I would even go to school, and after school I had to meet my dad over there. He stayed on me, so that's what I have to say about that.

We have great competition in the ACC. The games we play every day. Everything is in the margin of two to three points, so the plays you make at the end determine whether you lose by two or three or win by two or three. And with Pitt and Syracuse coming into it, it's about to be even better.

I secretly wish that I was about 7'2". I just always had it in my head that I was going to be seven feet tall since I was little. My dad is 6'6 and I'm 6'6, too, so it's just my imagination, but I thought was going to be seven feet.

Georgia is home. That's where my family is. That's my love. That's what I do it for, Georgia.

Fast Breaks: Bishop Daniels

They are stories of perseverance. Stories about growing up, becoming men and being a part of a family. One-by-one, we hear from them. These are the Miami Hurricanes...

Playing basketball has given me the opportunity to do many things that my family has never done before. I'm the first in my family to actually go to college and do something better with my life, rather than being on the streets or something like that.

When I was introduced to Coach L, I was at my house. I didn't know too much about him. He came down to try and convince me to stay with my commitment to Miami. I didn't know too much about his background, but he explained a lot, about what he's been through, who he knows, all of that. It made me realize that he's a good man all-around and coaching-wise.

When I played basketball as a kid, I never really pretended to be anybody else. As I was growing up, mostly I was into Michael Jordan. Everybody will say he's the best, if you watched his games and saw what he was doing, so I tried to be like him but I want to be one of the greatest.

The hardest part of being away from home is the food. Being so far away, the food is just not the same down here. I'm not used to eating fast food or any of that. I'm used to home-cooked meals, which I don't have here.

The U is about legacy. The swagger about it, the toughness, the simple fact that it intimidates people when they step on the field or the court, that's what the U is about.

At the U, I've learned so much from everybody. I've learned the same amount from every individual I've encountered. I don't think I've been here long enough to say one person more than another.

Some of my personal goals are to graduate from college and make it past just college basketball. Maybe become a professional, either overseas or in the NBA.

Dunking is in my genes. When he was younger, my dad could do basically the same things I can do and probably even more. Athleticism is in my genes. The reason why it stands out is because it's entertainment. More people like to see a dunk than a jump-shot or lay-up. The more you dunk, the more entertaining it is, and that's just how the hype comes.

I don't think people realize how fast I am until they actually see me on the court or see me play themselves. When Coach L came to me he told me he was looking for a running team, and that's the type of system he liked. To get as many basket attempts as possible, I think it should help a lot, getting up and down the floor as fast as we can.

My pull-up jumper and decision-making are two of the stronger assets of my game. If you've never seen me play and only seen highlights, you wouldn't know that.

Everybody on the team is equally close. We all hang out, go out together, whether it's to the movies or going out to eat, we're all equal. There are no cliques or anything, we're just one big group.

Word of God was a great experience. I was there for three years, and was there for John Wall's senior year. It was me and Dez Wells (Xavier) carrying on the legacy. There were ups and downs. We were tired from traveling and all that, but at the same time, we got to experience a lot of things kids don't experience. The things we got to do, and the people we played with, are remarkable. There's nothing better than to do something at your best, and that's what we did.

We went hard every day at Word of God, even with each other, just fouling hard and playing physical. We did whatever it took for us to get better. Going out there and doing it on the court, it was a great experience for all of us.

I have everything I want. I'm satisfied with what God gave me. He gave me what He gave me for a reason, so I can't say I wish I had something else. If anything, I wish that, even though I work hard, that I work even harder. There are no physical attributes I wish I could have or anything like that, it happened for a reason.

Family is first. Whatever I do, I always have in my mind that I'm doing it for my family. I haven't always had the best of anything, so I do it for my family back home, my friends, my circle. I don't have a big circle, but I do it for them. I'm just trying to make it like everyone else.

I was raised to never quit. That's one thing my mom and dad instilled in me growing up. Through tough times, when certain situations didn't go my way, they told me to never quit. No matter what it was either. It could be to the point where I'm in the worst situation possible, but they never wanted me to quit. I always take situations like that, put the blame on myself, and see what I can do to make it better.

Fast Breaks: Julian Gamble

They are stories of perseverance. Stories about growing up, becoming men and being a part of a family. One-by-one, we hear from them. These are the Miami Hurricanes...

I was raised in many different places. I moved around a lot as a child and met a lot of different people so that makes me very social, very easy to get along with and very outgoing. It helps me very easily adapt to different situations.

I started playing basketball when I was young. I grew up in North Carolina. It's a basketball state. I grew up around the ACC. I grew up watching North Carolina play. The Tar Heels were my favorite team, obviously not anymore since we play them, but where I grew up definitely influenced me to play basketball. I started young, probably around five.

My favorite holiday is Christmas, not necessarily because of getting gifts and giving gifts but because of the theme of the holiday and being with family and being able to give people gifts. Not necessarily things they can see, like material things, but things they'll remember for a long time and things that will change people's lives.

Nobody knows that I can cook. I've never even cooked for anybody but I can cook for myself. I have to eat, I eat a lot. I learned how to cook at a young age because my mom would travel a lot. I'm really good at making French toast. I lived one week straight off of just French toast.

To be a Miami Hurricane means a lot. I take a lot of pride in it. When I go home that's how people identify me as I'm the guy who went to Miami. Especially where I'm from, not a lot of people made it out. It's definitely a pride thing and I represent it everywhere I go with that in the back of my mind I know that I have to carry myself in the correct manner at all times.

Right now I'm listening to J. Cole. He's from North Carolina so it's like a sense of pride thing and when I listen to music I like lyricists and people who talk about different things in a song. Not something you can just listen to once and get it or just a catchy beat. I like a lot of music with content in it so it's definitely on repeat right now.

If I wasn't playing basketball I would be coaching somewhere or broadcasting or doing something with video. I'm very articulate and it's easy for me to talk to people. I don't get nervous in front of large crowds. I like teaching and I love basketball so all of that helps me to do some stuff now, especially since I started doing it at such a young age.

When I was younger I wanted to be a professional basketball player. I never thought I would make it to this level or have the opportunity to be able to play pro after college. Just to be here is a dream come true but I know I still have a long way to go.

My family is probably the most important thing in my life. My family is my motivation. I do everything for my family. I talk to my mom all the time. I have my mother, my sister and my grandmother's names all tattooed on my arm, I see it every day. Family is definitely a very important part of my life.

Legacy it is what you make it. I think some people put more of a premium on it than others, but I really feel like when it comes to legacy,

most of your legacy is made off the court than on the court within your career here. Of course you can make great moments on the court and people will remember that, but I think people remember more so who you were than how you played.

My favorite UM athlete is Jacory just because of the type of person he is. I know him and he's very humble, he's very intelligent and with the type of scrutiny he's under every game, one mistake people turn on him and he's still the same person, he doesn't change. I definitely look up to him in a sense of adversity and I hope our team can do the same.

The U is a special place. I committed to come here before I even saw the campus. I just had a good feeling about the coaching staff and the people here. Once I met the team, it's a real family atmosphere and everyone is so close-knit you can walk around and all of the athletes know each other and speak to each other when we see each other and it's just a very unique place. It's definitely one of a kind.

At The U, I've learned so much from Adrian Thomas. He just left and it's crazy because I'm in a similar situation. He was here for six years because he had two season-ending injuries and now that I have a season-ending injury. I kind of get to go down that same path and I just hope I can be half the person he was because he definitely dealt with adversity and still kept his head high and came out on top.

Before every game I try not to think about the game as much as I try to stay focused on the team and my teammates and go out and do anything possible to help them win. Not go out and score 20 points but if I need to get a block to win the game or a couple rebounds, I'm fine scoring no points and getting two rebounds and a block to win the game. I don't really care about stats.

My favorite movie is I'd have to say Friday After Next. I watch so many movies I don't have one favorite but that's just the one I'm watching the most on Netflix all the time.

Fast Breaks: Malcolm Grant

They are stories of perseverance. Stories about growing up, becoming men and being a part of a family. One-by-one, we hear from them. These are the Miami Hurricanes...

I started playing basketball at the age of four. When I was young and my parents wanted me to stop crying they would put on Michael Jordan "Come Fly with Me" and I would sit on the end of the couch and watch the whole tape.

My family is my whole life. I love them. They've been with me through thick and thin and I don't know where I would be without them.

The U is a family-oriented place. I'm so glad I came here and I'm always going to be a part of the U.

Playing basketball has given me so many experiences. It has shown me that I have truly been blessed and I'm just thankful every day that I'm able to play the game. I've been able to travel around the world. I've been to France because of basketball. I've played in the world's most famous arena in Madison Square Garden, so the game means everything to me. Basketball has given me so much joy. When I'm having problems off the court, those problems go away when I step on the court because it's something I love doing. It's my life. Hopefully, one day when I have kids, I can pass it on to them.

I like to play video games, watch movies, and sing in the house, stuff like that. I play NBA2k the latest one, Uncharted, things like that. When I get my vocals warmed up, I think I can compete at a high level.

When I was introduced to Coach L I started smiling. I was happy to see him. I remember playing against him when I was at Villanova. So I wanted to see if he would remember me and surely he did. He said "I hope you're going to hit as many threes for us as you did against us."

The hardest part of being away from home is missing my family every day, especially my niece and my nephews. I love them so much and I don't get a chance to see them a lot, so when I go home I try to make sure I'm around them and show them how much I miss them.

I can't lie I'm addicted to my phone. Everybody always gets on me. I'm always texting. Always on the phone. I'm just talking to family members and friends or sometimes I'm just on Google looking up stuff. My best Google search is looking at Beyonce's photos.

I've learned how to be a respectful young man, how to carry myself with class and treat others with respect. My family, my mother and my father taught me those things.

I was raised in Brooklyn, N.Y. I love Brooklyn. It's everything that I am because I was born there. It's just fun to be there and I miss all my friends and just the environment.

In my house growing up on Saturdays, early in the morning, like eight o'clock I was bouncing the ball, throwing the ball on the walls. My brothers and my mother would be yelling saying "Sit down, stop dribbling!" But my father would be like "Hey, this is your dream, keep doing it." So that was my house every day, especially on the weekends.

When I was growing up I thought I was a Power Ranger, especially the green one, Tommy. When the show came on and Tommy wasn't on there I was mad because that's who I wanted to see. I used to mimic him in class and at home sometimes.

When I played basketball as a kid, I pretended to be Michael Jordan. I was at the house with my Fisher Price rim dunking with my tongue out, trying all kinds of dunks, breaking plants in the house. I was doing all types of stuff. Then I also thought I was Kenny Anderson. I thought I was my brother Lavar Grant. Every other day I was somebody different. I had everything that Mike had, including the shoes.

I'll never forget the first time I met Michael Jordan. It was after his game, we all took a picture and I was just staring at him because I couldn't believe the man I looked up to for so long was right in front of me. I took a picture with him then I spoke with him and asked him how he used to make those unbelievable shots. He told me he used to practice them all the time, and that's one thing I remembered.

I'm a Hurricane because I wouldn't have it any other way in the world. I bleed the green, the white and the orange so that's where I want to be for life. Some of my personal goals especially this year, I want to be Player of the Year, I want to be first team All-ACC. Hopefully, God-willing, I'll be able to make it to the NBA and take care of my family and my neighborhood. I want to be able to come back and give tournaments and show my face and show that just because I made it, I haven't changed. I'm still the same person everyone knew when I was growing up and I appreciate what they all have done for me. The whole neighborhood knew me because they knew my father. Everyone knew my father. Every time I walk around they said "that's pops"; they called my father pops. Just growing up, whatever park I went to, everyone knew me and made sure I stayed in line and didn't get in trouble. If I make it, I'll let those people know I remember that.

At the U I've learned so much from my teammates and my peers. Just interacting with them and they're always with me when I'm going through things. Lance Hurdle really took me under his wing. He's a former player on the basketball team. That's my brother and my right hand man. When I got here he definitely took me under his wing and to this day we're still close.

My favorite thing about the U family is how loving it is. When we're playing, you see other sports in the arena cheering us on and vice versa. When those guys are playing football or women's basketball, we're in the stands cheering for them. So I like that and appreciate that.

One thing people need to know about UM hoops is that we're going to be really good this year and we're going to get to the tournament. From this year on, we're going to be an elite basketball team.

I didn't think I would make it this far in basketball. You know I was just playing the game and you never know what happens in life. It just shows that if you work hard and believe in God and just let him take care of it, then anything is possible.

Competition is everything to me. If you ask Durand or Reggie, when I'm in the room playing a game and I'm losing, I've broken plenty of things, punch walls. I can't lose. I can't control it so sometimes I get beside myself and I have to control myself a little bit.

I like to compete against North Carolina and Duke. Everybody looks at them as the standard of success and they're the best team. So anytime I get a chance to compete against them I always want to come out on top.

I'm looking forward to playing against every player. Whoever steps in front of me, I want to make sure they remember that name.

I secretly wish I could fly. I don't know why but sometimes I find myself in the room and I just wish I could get up and fly to this place or that place. I guess it's because I watched Superman when I was younger.

New York is a place where dreams come true. (big smile) The Big Apple. If you can make it there, you can make it anywhere.

Fast Breaks: Justin Heller

They are stories of perseverance. Stories about growing up, becoming men and being a part of a family. One-by-one, we hear from them. These are the Miami Hurricanes...

I was raised in Boca Raton by my mom and dad. I was always brought up to set goals that I wanted to achieve and to try my hardest in everything I do.

Oldest nickname I've ever had is J. Bird from Taurean Green, who was someone I looked up to as a kid and he went on to win two championships at the University of Florida.

Right now I'm listening to J. Cole's first album The Sideline Story because in his music he talks a lot about overcoming obstacles and things that I can relate to.

After college I want to get a law degree to use in the business world.

One thing everyone should know about Miami Basketball is that inside the locker room there are some of the craziest guys you've ever met but outside you wouldn't know it.

At The U, I've learned so much from Malcolm who, as a junior last year when I was a freshman, really taught me a lot about life and always made sure I was okay.

Before every game I'm usually with Durand and we go to the mall or something.

Coach Larranaga is a really old school guy. He knows a lot about basketball and his main thing is he likes to do things the right way and he's a great guy for the program.

Fast Breaks: Reggie Johnson

They are stories of perseverance. Stories about growing up, becoming men and being a part of a family. One-by-one, we hear from them. These are the Miami Hurricanes...

I was raised in Winston-Salem, N.C.

I started playing basketball my sophomore year of high school.

My favorite holiday is Christmas because I think it's time to be with your family and give. I love giving.

Nobody knows that I can sing. Nobody besides my roommates. I sing in the shower.

To be a Miami Hurricane means is a great honor because of the legacy here so I am very proud to be a Hurricane.

The oddest nickname I've ever had is Big Johnson. That's what my teammates made up.

If I wasn't playing basketball I would be I would be in the World-wide Federation of Wrestling. I would be wrestling right now. I'm like The Rock a little bit mixed with a little bit of Rock Legend.

When I was younger I wanted to be a firefighter. I had a thing for being a firefighter and saving lives.

My family is crazy! They're my biggest fans. They always support me no matter what. They're always going to help me out in my tough times, Winning a game is everything. That's why I play the game of basketball. It means a lot to me.

I secretly wish that Jay-Z didn't have Beyonce and I could marry her.

Legacy something that is important to you as far as what do you want to be known as when you leave. When I leave Miami I want to be known as a guy who worked hard, played hard and brought excitement to the fans.

My favorite current UM athlete is Mike James on the football team. I love the way he plays. He plays with a passion. Mike James is a good dude overall so I'm pulling for him.

Blocking is what I do! I block shots. I swat them. When you go in that lane, expect to go into the stands because I'm blocking that shot!

Becoming a man is something I had to do coming to college. I could have gone to Wake Forest which is a closer school to where I'm from, but I felt like I needed to go away and veer off a little bit. In high school my mother still washed my clothes and cooked for me so I had to learn how to do things in school and now I feel like I'm more prepared for life.

The U is one of the best colleges in America, if not the best. There's a lot of history in the program and it's a well-known institution.

I'm afraid of two things: snakes and spiders. You can put snakes and spiders around me and I'll tell you any type of secret.

After college I want to play in the NBA. Career-wise, I want to do something with kids. I want a Big Brother type of program with kids and get them going in the right direction and get them on the right path to do good things in life.

One thing everybody should know about Miami Basketball is this year the team will be on the rise. Everyone is returning and I really can't wait to get out there and start competing.

At The U I've learned so much from my former coach, Coach Haith, who obviously is not here now. He taught me a lot about on and off the court things. That's the guy I really learned a lot from coming down here and first being away from home.

The most influential person in my life is my mother and grandmother. They're the two I always turn to when I need advice for most things. They always work hard for everything, they were never given anything. My mother supported me and my little sister by herself and sometimes she didn't eat and that right there showed me what type of hunger you need just to survive in life.

In March I want to be dancing. I want to be out of class, dancing. I want to be in the tournament, just making the Hurricane family see excitement for the basketball tournament in March.

I never thought that I could be gone from my mother this long. I've been gone for four years and I'm always calling every day, but I'm adjusting.

Before every game I pray, always to the man above. I go through the same ritual doing the same thing over and over. I get the team going. My favorite quote is "he who works the hardest reaps the greatest rewards." That's from my high school coach. He always used to say that.

Fast Breaks: DeQuan Jones

They are stories of perseverance. Stories about growing up, becoming men and being a part of a family. One-by-one, we hear from them. These are the Miami Hurricanes...

I was raised on the east side of Atlanta, Stone Mountain to be particular. I grew up very involved in sports.

I started playing basketball when I was a kid, like six or seven years old. I always liked the sport but I didn't get serious about basketball until I was 15.

My favorite holiday is Halloween, because you get free candy.

Nobody knows that I can cook. I'm very skilled in the culinary arts. I can make a number of things, like baked chicken, spaghetti, just the usual. Then I can go into steak, depending on how you want it cooked. I just recently learned how to sauté and marinate steak. For Memorial Day, I marinated steak for like three days and baked it, then put it on the grill to give it that smokey taste.

To be a Miami Hurricane means it's always you against the world.

The oddest nickname I've ever had is G-Money. My uncle gave me that nickname.

Right now I'm listening to old Southern blues. I'm a big fan of Sam Cook, Otis Redding, Johnny Taylor. Old school stuff.

If I wasn't playing basketball I would be an entrepreneur. I would be in the beginning stages of starting my own business.

When I was younger I wanted to be either a Power Ranger or an NBA player, so it was pretty cut and dry for me.

My favorite UM athlete is Sean Spence. The kid is phenomenal. He's a beast.

The U is very family-oriented. It's a close-knit community. Everyone is in-tune and close with each other.

I'm afraid of the little lizards you see running around when you're walking to class.

After college I want to start my own business. I'm not really sure in what field or what my expertise would be, but I want to start my own business.

One thing everyone should know about Miami basketball is we work extremely hard and we're extremely dedicated to bringing positive results to the school.

In March I want to still be playing.

I never thought college would be this hard. When I was a kid, I always watched A Different World. I always thought college would be like two or three hours of class and the rest was casual or leisure time.

My favorite quote is "the harder you work during peace, the less you bleed during war." My high school coach used to always tell us that, but he was known for always taking other people's words, so I don't really know where it originated from.

Before every game I like to relax and unwind. Usually I'll go to a movie or do something relaxing to get my mind and my focus off of the game.

My favorite midnight snack is eating cereal. I feel like cereal is the perfect balance of food and hydration (laughs).

Coach Larranaga is probably one of the most upbeat and energetic coaches I've ever played for. He knows exactly how to get the best out of all of his players.

My favorite movie is Antwone Fisher, because it moves you on so many different levels. It really taught me how that you never really know what type of person you are dealing with or other people's experiences until you know what type of obstacles they've overcome to get to where they are now.

The actor I would want to play me in a movie is Soulja Boy (laughs). Just kidding. I would say Denzel Washington probably because he's the greatest actor of my lifetime.

Fast Breaks: Kenny Kadji

They are stories of perseverance. Stories about growing up, becoming men and being a part of a family. One-by-one, we hear from them. These are the Miami Hurricanes...

My family is my number one fan. They always come to the games. They always talk to me when I'm down or if I need advice or something like that. So yeah, number one fans. They live pretty much everywhere: Cameroon, France, Tampa and now West Palm Beach. My mom is here staying in West Palm, and my dad comes back and forth.

Playing basketball has given me an opportunity to travel everywhere. I've been to France, Russia, L.A, and all over America. I feel like I've been on vacation my whole life just traveling everywhere.

I came to the United States from Cameroon after stopping in France first. We came here for a vacation and we actually met Alonzo Mourning on the street in Coconut Grove. I was about 13 years old when I met Alonzo. I was so scared. He was so tall and big. It was funny. He was like "This kid has got to play basketball". So my parents started thinking about it and when we went back home, they put me in a camp in France and I guess the coach liked me. So they were like "All right you have to stay". I went to school there for a year. I went to Russia for a tournament and I did pretty good. There were high school and college scouts and they said I should come to America and play.

The U is a family too. A family away from home. The students, everyone. Everywhere you go you hear about the U. Everybody wants to be a part of this and I'm happy that I am.

I like to play video games and people don't know but I like to read books. I like science fiction, action, Sherlock Holmes books. Intriguing stuff. I like NBA2K12 right now. Still trying to figure it out.

When I was introduced to Coach L I was surprised. He has a lot of energy. I didn't know what to expect when he came here. The guy knows what he is talking about, and he really wants everyone to get better every single day.

The hardest part of being away from home is home food. Especially coming from overseas, the culture is different. I miss my mom's food even though I get it once a week. It's just different. We eat like frog legs. They don't have it here, or I haven't found it yet. I like pasta, chicken carbonara, stuff like that.

I was raised in Africa for half my life, France for another half, and then here. I was raised to be the best kid, the most polite. I have three brothers, all here in Miami. One goes to school here. My littlest brother is going to school in Broward, playing basketball. He's pretty good too.

When I played basketball growing up I pretended to be Magic Johnson. Even though I'm pretty tall, I always liked to handle the ball and give nice passes. I like Magic.

I'll never forget the first time I met Alonzo Mourning. That's really what pushed me to play basketball. He came to me, shook my hand, and said "This kid has to play basketball. He's going to be pretty good". After that, I never stopped watching him. He's just a great player. I'll never forget that. What did he see in me? I think it was my hands. I had the big-

gest hands for a 13-year-old. So it was like "he has to play basketball. He's going to be tall." And he was right. I don't even know if he remembers it. We were just walking around. It was here at the Grove. I got a picture and an autograph. I still have those in a little book in West Palm.

As soon as I came to Florida, I knew I was coming to Miami. Just knowing that the Heat were here, a city with basketball players. I knew I was coming here.

I'm a Hurricane because the family, the atmosphere, just the city of Miami. The students here take a lot of pride in the school and the basketball team. Even though sometimes we have bad seasons and good seasons, they're always here. So that's something I like about the students, they really take pride in the U.

Some of my personal goals are to play professional and just help this team and play well this year for the team.

At the University I've learned so much from Coach L. Everything from being a basketball player to taking care of business off the court and how to approach stuff. Just growing up as a man.

Once thing everyone should know about UM hoops is we are going to be tough minded. We're going to play hard. It's going to be different on defense. We're going to run, it's going to be fun for people. They're going to see a lot of running, layups, dunks, it's going to be fun.

I never thought I would be here. Like I said, basketball took me a lot of places and I would have never thought I would be here

Competition is great. I love it. You have to be competitive in life. From video games to who finishes a meal first, I love competition with anybody.

If I could play against any team, it would be Kentucky because they have a great team and great hype. You always want to play the best. I would have said North Carolina but we're playing them.

I secretly wish that I could dance. I can't. I tried to many times. I got the video and I think I can dance, but I can't. Sometimes, I try to have Malcolm help me, but he moves too fast for me. I tried to Dougie, I tried moonwalking, it's too hard. I'm good with the two steps, but after that I don't really do anything.

Cameroon is a great country. It's my home country, I love it. When I was there, there were really no worries. You know everybody because the country and city is so small. I just love it. The whole city knew me. I was one of the tallest kids. We were always outside with our friends, too, so everyone knew. My parents are from Cameroon. My mom grew up in France. My dad was born in France but raised in Cameroon. I was born in France too, but we're all Cameroonian.

Fast Breaks: Shane Larkin

They are stories of perseverance. Stories about growing up, becoming men and being a part of a family. One-by-one, we hear from them. These are the Miami Hurricanes...

My family is supportive. They've always been behind me with everything that I have done. Even though my dad wasn't always there due to baseball, my mom was always there for me, taking me to all of my games. My dad would talk to me after every game to see how I did and provide information on how I can improve. I have two sisters. My little sister is a young diva. She likes to sing and she's trying to do well in that so I support her with everything she does. My older sister played lacrosse in high school. Now she's at a cosmetology school doing make-up. I have a little brother. He's not my blood brother but he lives with us because he wasn't in such a good situation at home. We became friends my junior year of high school and he just moved in, his senior year and my freshman year of college. We just became best friends. We talk about everything, he's just like my little brother.

I like to joke around and have fun. I like playing video games and listening to music. I like having fun, playing around and having fun with everyone. My favorite videogame is 2k12. Everyone on the team is playing it but I would say I'm the best. I haven't played anybody but they're scared to play me.

I was raised to be humble. My dad played Major League Baseball and always told me people were going to criticize me because of who he was and say "you're spoiled, you're a rich kid" and he told me not to listen to it. I was really good at playing football and one time I scored a touchdown and there was no one within 20 yards of me so I started show-boating and doing my best Deion Sanders impersonation. After the game he pulled me to the side and I thought he was going to be excited but he just yelled at me. He said "don't ever do that again. Be humble. Don't show-boat. Do your best and let that do the talking." In basketball, you'll see me get hyped with the team for a little bit but if I hit a three, you won't see me running down the court with my hand up. I try to stay humble. You can enjoy what you're doing without doing it in a boasting way.

I started playing basketball at five years old. I got a Fisher Price hoop as a kid and I was pretty athletic so I would dunk on it. I started playing basketball at the YMCA. I've never really been a big scorer, always a passer. I was a rebounder and passer, really athletic just like Shawn Marion.

The hardest part about being away from home is being away from my mom simply because my dad wasn't there because he was playing baseball. My mom was there for me. She's been down here to see me a couple of times. We're really close so it's a good thing I'm close to home.

I can't lie I watch Jersey Shore and X-Factor. Those are my two favorite shows. The girl from down here, Melanie Amoro, she can sing. On Jersey Shore, I could see myself hanging out with Pauly D and Vinny because they're crazy.

I've learned how to be more responsible and how to assess a situation before I need to jump into something. I'm living on my own, in my own apartment right now so I can't wake up and ask my mom to wash something for me before school. It's not like when I was at home and can ask her to do something for me. I'm down here on my own, living on my own so there are a lot of responsibilities on me. I have to go to practice, keep my house clean, get groceries when I need them, and not to mention school work.

When I was younger I pretended to be Allen Iverson as best as I could. He was my favorite player, number 3 all the way. I just tried to be A.I. with all of the tricks. I had everything A.I. I had the wrist bands, the headbands, even with the curly hair I tried to braid my hair.

I'll never forget at the Championship game in Lakeland we were down two with 6.7 seconds left and they had the ball. We called a timeout and the coach was looking around trying to figure out who he was going to put in the game. I was already in the game and he said "Shane you need to get a steal". I was young so there was a lot of pressure on me already being in a national champi-

onship game so I was nervous and said I would try. The team tried to throw it over the top and I caught it at half court. Coach calls timeout and we went back to the huddle. I'm not a shooter at all, I'm just a driver who gets to the basket and he says "Shane we need you shoot this three". Coach stressed it was win or go home right now. There were four seconds left, I did my little A.I. move, took a step back and shot a three from three steps behind the line. I hit it and the fans went crazy. My Uncle Joe ran on the court and picked me up. My mom and cousins came out too.

I'm a Miami Hurricane because I love the city of Miami and I think this team can do something special. Coach L is a great coach with a lot of experience but coming from a mid-major school he hasn't had a lot of talent like he can get at this level. I think with him coming here and with his coaching abilities, we'll do great things.

Playing basketball has made me take advantage of plenty of opportunities that have been presented to me. I've been able to travel to different states. It's made me into the person I am. Everyone wanted me to play baseball because of my dad but I never really found baseball exciting. The reason why basketball has been my sport is because it motivates me to succeed in this sport. My dad played baseball and made it in baseball so they say I should have done the same. With me playing basketball I have to work for everything I get and I'm not going to be given anything, so it is my motivation to do better as an athlete.

I've visited about 30 of the 50 states and Hawaii was my favorite. We went to a holiday tournament in Hawaii my senior year of high school. We lost to Oak Hill in the semi-finals but it was a great experience.

The U is very family oriented. All of the athletes know each other. No matter where you are on campus, everyone knows who you are. Everyone is very supportive of the teams and it's just a great environment and in the city of Miami so you can't go wrong.

When I was first introduced to Coach Larranaga this was while he was at George Mason and he told me he really liked my game. He had a lot of energy and passion for the game of basketball. He's very experienced and you could tell he knows his stuff. It's been great playing for him, because I've always wanted to. With the situation going on with my family, he was very supportive. He's been with the same staff for a while now so they're like a family so he told me if I came to Miami it would have been the same for me and they would welcome me and treat me like their son. It's been everything he has said it would be so far.

At The U I've learned so much from Coach L and the rest of the coaching staff. They all have kids and they're always there for me and I love being able to grow up around them. When I first got here I was very structured but once I got comfortable I showed my true colors. They showed me it's time to grow up and this is more than just a game. In practice the other day I got a steal up front and I thought the play was over, so I took the ball to the other end and tossed up a silly shot. Coach got on me about never stopping the play and finishing the shot. I've learned a lot.

One thing everyone should know about UM hoops is we're really athletic and we're going to be a very good defensive team this year. Everyone who plays us should know we're going to be high in defensive stats and we'll make you earn every bucket.

I secretly wish I could sing better. I sing in the car and around my teammates. I'm always dancing but Malcolm, Durand, Bishop, and Julian are the biggest dancers on the team.

Fast Breaks: Trey McKinney Jones

They are stories of perseverance. Stories about growing up, becoming men and being a part of a family. One-by-one, we hear from them. These are the Miami Hurricanes...

I was raised in Milwaukee, Wis.

I started playing basketball in the third grade.

My favorite holiday is Christmas because I get to see my family, all of my family.

Nobody knows that I can cut hair. I cut or line up a few guys on the team when they need it. I cut my own hair.

To be a Miami Hurricane means that you need to put it all on the table for The U.

Oddest nickname I've ever had is Virge, because of what my name was when I was born.

Right now I'm listening to the J. Cole album.

If I wasn't playing basketball I would be I would be playing football somewhere.

When I was younger I wanted to be a professional basketball player, just like my uncle.

I secretly wish I didn't have to take classes and could just be an athlete.

Legacy is the road to the top or the climax of your career.

My favorite current UM athlete is Julian Gamble because I'm probably the closest with him. He's my roommate and after my visit he was the main one who texted me and called me to make sure everything was all right.

Becoming a man is necessary in order to become a college basketball player.

The U is different than any other school.

I'm afraid of sharks. My family came to visit this summer and we rented a boat and we're out in the middle of the ocean and I jumped in. That was probably the scariest thing I've ever done.

After college I want to play professional basketball.

One thing everyone should know about Miami Basketball is that we're all brothers and we like to have fun.

At The U, I've learned so much from my teammates as a whole. I couldn't pick just one person because you learn different things from everyone.

In March I want to still be playing basketball in the tournament.

I never thought I would actually be going here. Growing up I always liked Miami because of the jerseys, I'm not going to lie, but I never thought I would actually be here right now when I was really young.

Before every game I need to pray.

My favorite song lyric is ... I honestly have a problem remembering song lyrics so I can't come up with one on the top of my head. I get that from my mom. She's the same way (laughs.)

My favorite midnight snack is Cheez-Itz

Coach Larranaga is a great coach who I believe is going to take us to that next level.

My favorite movie is The Dark Knight.

The actor I would want to play me in a movie is someone who semi-looks like me to play me. I would have to pick someone who's light-skinned so either Terrence Howard or Will Smith. Maybe Terrence Howard since he has light eyes.

Fast Breaks: Ryan Quigtar

They are stories of perseverance. Stories about growing up, becoming men and being a part of a family. One-by-one, we hear from them. These are the Miami Hurricanes...

I was raised in Seattle, Wash., particularly in Skyway, Wash. It's a smaller city right outside of the city.

I started playing basketball when I was five years old. I started out rec league and just playing in the backyard with my cousin Josh. We would always watch Michael Jordan in the playoffs and go right outside and try to imitate what he did in the games.

My favorite holiday is Christmas. It's right after my birthday and I just like the feeling of everybody giving presents and getting presents. It's good to see everyone smiling.

Nobody knows that I can barbeque. It's something that I've been working on. I'm learning from my dad, he's a great cook and I just love barbeque, too.

To be a Miami Hurricane means to walk around with pride knowing that The U has so much tradition; so many great players have come through this university, not only players but individuals in society as well.

The oddest nickname I've ever had is Ry Guy 3000. It was made up in seventh grade. I don't remember how it came to be but it stuck for the rest of the school year.

Right now I'm listening to Kendrick Lamar. He's a new up-and-coming artist out of LA and he's trying to bring West Coast music back and I'm from the West Coast so I'm excited about that.

If I wasn't playing basketball I would be still at the University of Miami. I was a walk-on but I would be trying to do more as far as with my degree since I had more time on my hands. Probably different internships.

When I was younger I wanted to be a congressman. My grandpa always used to ask me that and I always gave him the same answer. Now I'm nowhere near interested in being one.

My family is really close, from immediate family even to extended family my aunts and uncles on both sides have big families. I always talk to my aunts and uncles all the time and they really support me with everything I do.

My favorite current UM athlete is Jacory Harris because he's been under a lot of scrutiny but he still does what he's supposed to do on and off the field. He's very resilient and carries himself like a young man.

After college I want to hopefully get a good paying job but ultimately I want to open up a youth community center back home and help out all of the youth.

One thing everyone should know about Miami basketball is that we're here to stay. Coach L has created a strong foundation so far and I believe that it will carry on into the future and we'll be a great basketball program as well.

My favorite midnight snack is peanut butter and jelly, strawberry jelly to be exact. I don't just make a regular sandwich, I have to make it double decker because I always end up making two sandwiches in one at the same.

My favorite movie is Apocolyto. It's a great movie its about the Mayans back before pre-Columbus. It's just really captivating to me.

The actor I would want to play me in a movie is Al Pacino. I've grown to like Al Pacino and I've been watching a lot of his movies and I think he's one of the greatest actors ever so I think that would be great.

Fast Breaks: Durand Scott

They are stories of perseverance. Stories about growing up, becoming men and being a part of a family. One-by-one, we hear from them. These are the Miami Hurricanes...

I was raised in the borough of the Bronx with my mother and father and two brothers and two sisters until they got older and left me alone to be the baby.

I started playing basketball when I was nine years old. I was the worst basketball player ever and the only reason I got picked to be on the team was because I was pretty tall.

To be a Miami Hurricane means a lot because it stands for family unity and all of the right things that I've been preached since I was growing up so it was a perfect fit for me.

Nobody knows that I can dance. I dance a lot, all the time.

If I wasn't playing basketball I would be playing football because that was my first sport but then I hurt somebody so my mom believed the same thing could happen to me so I had to pick a new sport.

My favorite holiday is Christmas because you get presents from everybody other than family, family friends, whoever.

Right now I'm listening to a lot of Meek Mills

When I was younger I wanted to be like my father. He meant a lot to me and he paved the road for the man I am today.

My family is the most important thing to me in the world because they're always there for me and supporting me.

Winning a game is very important because I hate to lose. Even though I may not show it as much, I'm a great competitor and I've never lost a lot throughout my life.

My favorite current UM athlete is Sean Spence on the football team because he's always hyped on the football field and I know him personally.

Becoming a man was an easy step for me because of the help I got from my father.

The U is a great school which I don't regret attending and I enjoy my

stay here. I believe it was a perfect fit for me.

After college I want to finish my education and hopefully continue my basketball. Hopefully the NBA, if not, wherever it takes me.

One thing everybody should know about Miami Basketball is we're a great group of guys to be around and we try our hardest every day to do what we have to do.

At The U, I've learned so much from my old coach, Coach Fernandez. He took me under his wing and he's the one who recruited me. He showed me a lot and taught me the focus I need to have during the game, practice and off the court.

In March I want to be playing, which I know I will be playing because I'm going to make sure we'll still be playing.

I never thought I would have a new coach but it's a great experience but he's a great guy and a great coach. I think he's going to do great things for us this year.

Before every game I listen to music and go shoot and buy a new pair of sneakers.

My favorite movie is 'Crybaby' with Johnny Depp, which is a musical, and 'Friday After Next' starring Ice Cube.

My favorite quote is it's not my favorite, but one that just popped into my mind is 'Go Hard or Go Home' because once I step on the court I know I have to leave everything on the court because if not, I'll be disappointed.

My favorite midnight snack is cereal, Cinnamon Toast Crunch and Crunch Berries.

My teammate that would win Dancing With the Stars is me (laughs). I danced when I was younger and still do now to the hip stuff that these little kids call the Dougie and stuff like that. I'm pretty good at that.

Fast Breaks: Erik Swoope

They are stories of perseverance. Stories about growing up, becoming men and being a part of a family. One-by-one, we hear from them. These are the Miami Hurricanes...

I started playing basketball when I was about two years old. I first started playing soccer and kind of mixed the two, but I found my love in about middle school.

My favorite holiday is Christmas, especially because nowadays I don't get to see my family a lot. It's nice because I know everyone that's when everyone takes vacation.

Nobody knows that I can play the guitar. I just started about two months ago, so that's my new hidden talent.

When I was younger I wanted to be a professor. I also wanted to play professional soccer.

I secretly wish I could have a school year abroad.

Legacy represents your family name. I've always had that philosophy, which I think is old school. Everywhere you go you're representing you're family, which is why hopefully this year we have our names on the back of our jerseys.

The U is internationally known. It's something that, no matter where you are, people will respect you or ask about you or how you're affiliated. Either they have an interest, have heard of us or want to be a part of The U.

I'm afraid of spiders (laughs).

After college I want to play professionally. My two other dreams would be to do marketing for Nike or be a doctor.

My favorite quote is from my favorite movie Idlewild, "God don't make no mistakes." I know it's a double negative, but I still like it.

My favorite midnight snack is probably oatmeal raisin cookies.

Coach Larranaga is really influential in my life so far. His new philosophy towards how to approach the game in general is just a new twist compared to last year. His whole general outlook and philosophy that the whole coaching staff follows, I'm buying into it faster and just can't wait for the season to start.

The actor I would want to play me in a movie is Dave Chappelle. Since he just recently got buff I think he could do it (laughs).